

Glossary

Agency A sense of agency is a belief that one is capable of exerting influence upon one's self and environment.

The availability heuristic A mental process whereby familiar or more common stimuli are processed more quickly than unfamiliar or less common stimuli.

Availability cascade The process by which a high-profile case leads to a succession of political discussions and legislative changes, typically brought about by lobbying from powerful stakeholders.

The representativeness heuristic A mental process whereby stimuli are intuitively categorised based on their closeness to stereotypes.

The affect heuristic A mental process whereby decisions are made on the basis of automatic positive or negative feelings about a given object or issue.

Community notification laws Legislation that allows or requires the public to have access to information about those who are registered as sexual offenders. The specific enactment of these procedures varies between states.

Criminogenic needs Criminogenic needs are dynamic risk factors that are empirically related to recidivism. These risk factors are amenable to treatment and include deviant sexual interests, distorted attitudes and beliefs, anti-social lifestyle and problems with self-regulation.

Narrative humanisation The process of overcoming dehumanised stereotypes by humanising a target group through the presentation of personal life stories.

- Protective factors** Protective factors are social, interpersonal, and environmental factors, as well as psychological and behavioural features that are empirically linked to sexual offending. They differ from risk factors/criminogenic needs in that they are based on positive aspects of the individual and/or existing social capital.
- Core Member** An individual who has been convicted of a sexual offence receiving support through the Circles of Support and Accountability initiative to successfully reintegrate back into society post-release from prison.
- Transference** The process whereby a client experiences their therapist as similar to, or exactly like a significant caregiver from their childhood. For example they may experience their therapist as overly critical or withholding.
- Countertransference** This is where the therapist experiences transference towards their client. This may be based on the therapist's own history (as per the definition of transference), or it may be the therapist reacting to the transference within the client.

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