

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Holt, Thomas J. (2016). *Crime Online* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.).  
Carolina academic press: Durham, NC.

Chapter 5: Cybercrime Trajectories  
Chapter 6: Internet Child Pornography  
Chapter 7: The Erotic Highway

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CHAPTER 5: CYBERCRIME  
TRAJECTORIES: AN INTEGRATED  
THEORY OF INITIATION,  
MAINTENANCE, AND DESISTANCE

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CYBERCRIME THEORIES

- There are multiple criminological theories that may inform our understanding of cybercrime offending
  - Mertonian strain
  - Differential association
  - Techniques of neutralization
  - Rational choice theory

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DATA FOR THIS STUDY

- This study utilized three qualitative data sources to examine how well these theories account for offending:
  - Court documents
  - Interviews with offenders
  - Interviews with law enforcement

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CYBERCRIME OFFENDING

- It is important to differentiate between technical and general cybercrime offending
  - Technical offenses require unique and specialized skills
  - General offenses do not depend on technical prowess to be effective
- Creates different trajectories and paths to offend

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INITIATION OF OFFENDING

- General offenders begin to engage in cybercrime due to opportunities presented
  - Mertonian strain
- Technical offenders begin based on peer associations that facilitate information sharing
  - Differential associations

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### MAINTENANCE OF OFFENDING

- Both technical and general offenders continue to engage in cybercrime because of two factors
  - Economic incentives
  - Low risk of identification

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### MODEL OF OFFENDING PATHWAYS

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graph TD; subgraph "General Offense"; G1[Skills] --> G2[Applied skills to offense]; end; subgraph "Technical Offense"; T1[Applications to offense] --> T2[Skills and general knowledge]; end; G2 --> PO[Perceived opportunity]; T2 --> PO; PO --> LLD[Low likelihood of detection]; PO --> RCT[Rapidly changing technology]; LLD --> CBA[Cost/benefit analysis]; RCT --> CBA;
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### CONCLUSIONS

- This integrated model requires greater research to assess its validity
- What factors account for the gender differences observed?
- What is the rate of maturation out of cybercrime like?

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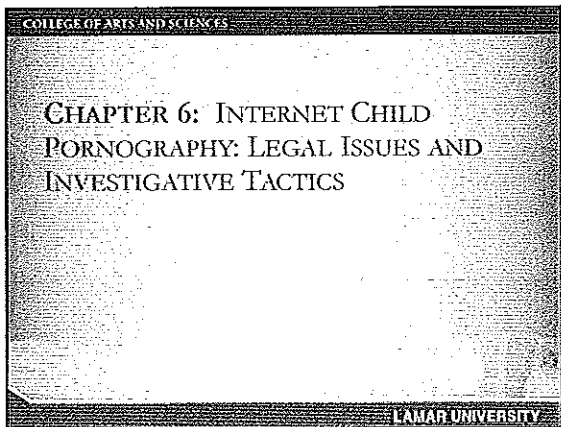
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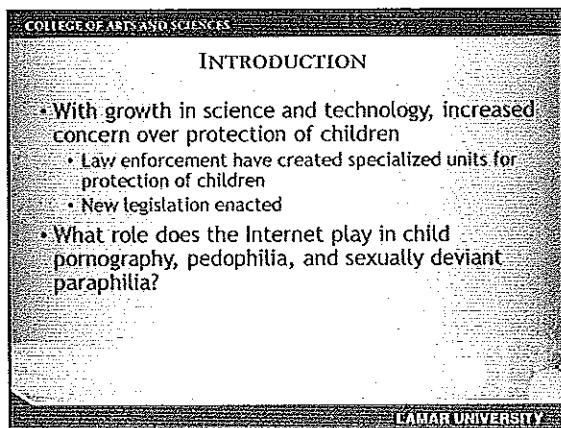
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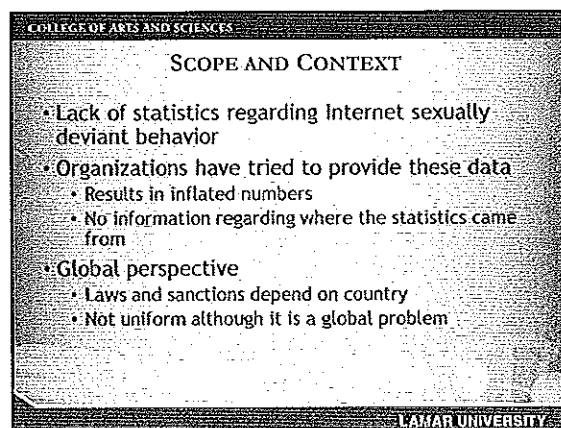
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### THE COPINE PROJECT

Combating Pedophile Information Networks in Europe (1997)

- Research and explore the Internet and victimization of children

Ten levels of child pornography images depending severity of victimization

- Indicative, nudist, erotica, posing, erotic posing, explicit erotic posing, explicit sexual activity, assault, gross assault, sadistic/bestiality

For most legislatures, illegal to possess 7, 8, 9, or 10

- Direct interaction with victim

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### CONTINUUM

- Continuum is the best way to think of child pornography offenses
  - Not all types are the same as far as level of victimization
- Classification involves images which are not criminally sanctioned
- This approach allows for better understanding of those collectors
  - Psychological traits and characteristic
- Each level should be assessed using size, novelty, and age of victim

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### THE COURTS AND COPINE

- COPINE has influences research as well as legislation
  - Sentencing of pornography offenders
- Some countries have adopted this scale
- United States has not utilized COPE scale or anything similar in federal courts
  - Developed sentencing guidelines for sexual exploitation of a minor
  - Harsher sentences depending on type of pornography
  - Focus on violent offenses and size of collections

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### HYPOTHETICAL CASE STUDY

- Used doll images and created a hypothetical collection of images
- Consisted of non-child-pornography images and images taken from law enforcement
- Reader is to assume the collection taken from suspect accused of child pornography
- Discussion of photographs

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### CRITICISMS OF COURT IMAGE CLASSIFICATIONS

- Sentencing guideline in U.S., England, Wales, and Canada based on quantity and content of images
- COPINE was developed as a way of discriminating between images in a collection
  - Lack of empirical validation of sentencing guidelines
  - Reflect political agendas and moral panic over Internet predators
- United States is in need of a classification system based on COPINE

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### MODELS

- Lanning Model
  - Situational vs. preferential
- Krone Model
- Rogers and Seigfried-Spellar Hybrid Model
  - Case study

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CONCLUSIONS

- Need to better understand the technology and those who use it
- Need to harmonize international law
- Need to identify root causes of behavior
- Utilize typologies

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CHAPTER 7: ON THE EROTIC HIGHWAY: A PARTICIPANT-OBSERVER APPROACH TO RESEARCHING USERS OF A PROSTITUTE REVIEW WEBSITE

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PROSTITUTION REVIEW WEBSITES

- There are a range of websites that exist where individuals can post about and review the experiences of sex workers
  - TER is a main site in this community
  - Author became a participant and moderator because of her clinical experience
- Posters utilize a unique vernacular to describe experiences and communicate
  - Hobbyist, YMMV

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### THE GFE

- The girlfriend experience (GFE) is a critical experience for customers of prostitutes
  - Makes the experience transcend the paid encounter
  - Makes it feel like a consensual relationship
- The experience of the researcher led her to try to find ways to better understand the impact of the GFE on the experience of posters

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### THE TER STUDY

- The research implemented a survey to better assess the experiences of posters, particularly regarding emotional attachment to all-time favorite providers
  - Found most were white, heterosexual, married males with college degrees
  - Many had vaginal sex or oral sex with condoms
  - Many identified providers via the website
  - The experience of GFEs and the attitude of workers were significant factors in their preference for providers
  - Sought mostly white providers
  - More than half of divorced or separated clients fell in love with providers

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### THE TER STUDY

- The forum community banned the researcher after the study was conducted
- Why and how do people conduct research on this community?

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