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A Comprehensive Legal and Clinical Examination of Incestuous Behavior in Male Individuals".

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Abstract

The contentious topic of incest by males is discussed in this piece. Our goal was to draw attention to the fact that borderline or other personality characteristics, as well as early maladaptive cognitive schemas, do not directly define a man's incestuous predisposition, which develops into a sexual preference. The researchers chose 48 men who had a history of incestuous behavior. The students exhibited borderline personality characteristics and maladaptive cognitive schemas related to abandonment in 49% of the cases. The median age was 38.17 with a standard deviation of 9.24, and the mean educational level was 13.11 with a standard deviation of 1.71. Methods for data collection included administering the Millon Multiaxial Clinical Inventory-III, the YSQ-L3a, and the PDQ, or Paraphilic Disorders Questionnaire. In most instances, there was an interaction between borderline personality characteristics and the abandonment cognitive schema, which was accompanied by significant correlations. The cognitive model of abandonment was not linked to the significant correlation that was found between incestuous inclinations and borderline symptoms. Neither the abandoning cognitive schema nor borderline qualities were shown to have predictive power in the factor analysis, nor was the interaction between the two. Sexual preferences that are out of the ordinary for a person's species may explain incestuous tendencies in males, rather than paraphilic or personality problems.

Keywords: Borderline, Cognitive schemas, Incest, Sexual orientation, Men

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INTRODUCTION



Despite being an accepted aspect of society, incest is still considered taboo in the scientific community. When it comes to sexual attraction, inclination, or preference that results in the maintenance of sexual encounters between parents and children, DSM-5 identifies incest as a subtype of pedophilia [1]. Consensual sexual intercourse between immediate family members or siblings is considered a crime according to the socio-legal perspective, which characterizes incestuous conduct as a paraphilic pedophilia-type disease [2]. Incest is a unique legal phenomena with features that could run counter to the moral standards upheld by society. Despite widespread condemnation of incest as a pathological form of relationships—a practice discouraged by both Christian and criminal law enforcement—the systemic approach to couples and families maintains that it can develop in humans with a history of porous boundaries between family subsystems [3]. It is possible to examine this occurrence from a variety of angles. The acceptance of incestuous relationships by groupthink is nothing new; it has long been a part of social reality in some cultures [4] and religious confessions [5]. [6] Various factors come together to form incest, according to specialized literature and research cited by DiPlacidi [7]: sexual preferences for children, emotional or sexual immaturity, vulnerability to assault, belief in one's own sexual rights, and the inability to acknowledge the significance of the deed [8] Research suggests that incestuous sexual attraction is often rooted in erroneous ideas, attitudes, or cognitive distortions, which may lead to a distorted understanding of sexual drives and a possible propensity.

Many researchers have contended that the general ban against incest between siblings is the finest (or at least one of the best) instances of a moral rule with an evolutionary basis. In order to prevent inbreeding, individuals have evolved to perceive sexual aversion to childhood co-residents, according to Westermarck's idea [9]. Incest is prohibited because of this repulsion, which leads us to reject it as immoral. Having said that, morality and representation society's norms and standards demonstrate that a person's moral stance on sibling sex has nothing to do with their level of sexual repulsion for their childhood roommates [10]. There may be a connection between the substance of human instincts and moral standards, which might explain why, despite the universality of fundamental instincts, there is hardly any meaningful global moral standard [11]. Even the ban on incest within families does not apply to every single person. But there is a limited amount of moral diversity. Cultures are inclined to argue over the categories of conduct pertaining to cooperation, as pointed out by Zanarini et al. [12] and "norms tend to cluster under certain general themes" by Maier. Emergence of overarching moral themes does not prove that instincts decide moral standards. The desires, difficulties, and selection pressures experienced by persons in every culture who are able to use normative reasoning are remarkably consistent. Although a greater variety is theoretically conceivable due to the

limitations imposed by human biology, it is not unexpected that commonalities would arise independently in many moral systems [13].

inding it hard to believe that all of our moral convictions are a direct result of evolution is a major challenge. Almost everyone agrees that societal variables are just as essential, if not more so, than psychological ones. On the other hand, there are academics who acknowledge that certain universally accepted moral standards are really just a more or less direct manifestation of adaptations rooted in the biological toolbox [14]. Our sexual preferences and our "basic evaluative tendencies" have been shaped by natural selection, according to Carr and Francis [15]. These tendencies have a significant impact on the evaluations we make. This competent role could be very demanding. One of our most "rudimentary" moral tendencies is to see incest as wrong. However, there are arguments that suggest natural selection could not have influenced our stance against incest via an instinct with a different substance [16]. There is a difference between incest and sexual attraction in minors, as Delcea et al. [17] pointed out in their research of 837 participants. Hence, a new approach is required to examine the elements associated with the propensity for incestuous sexual desires. The prognostic relevance of sexual psychopathy for incestuous sexual inclinations is not highlighted in the specialist literature. At the societal level, the most prevalent kind of incest is between siblings.

Within the framework of the phallic development stage, which is characterized by the emergence of the Oedipal complex in boys and the Electra complex in girls, Freud's psychoanalytic theory of psychosexual development examines the issue of incest. Incest serves as a barrier because, according to Freud's idea, adolescent incest must be reined in in order for the child to establish his own identity apart from his parents. societal norms and values to which a person is born and raised [18].

For many borderline women in hospitals, incest is a harbinger of borderline personality disorder (BPD), according to Delcea [19]. A meta-analysis study reveals that borderline personality disorder is associated with incestuous abuse of women [20]. When it comes to guys who have incestuous sexual relations, we don't have any hard evidence on what causes it. The predictor of incestuous conduct in males has been the subject of very few research, namely case studies. Incest and non-incestual pedophilia have not been the subject of any randomized controlled trials. Research on incest, pedophilia and pedophilic orientation is lacking in discriminatory investigations.



This study aims to focus on psychosexual aspects related to the nature and specificity of incestuous sexual preference in men, since most studies on the phenomenon of incest have focused on victims of incestuous abuses, explaining the multiple implications that this phenomenon has on them. A large vacuum exists when it comes to research involving male populations; the majority of these studies have focused on female groups. The male participants' incestuous sexual preference was proven through the case knowledge; the primary goal was to demonstrate that incestuous sexual preference is not solely influenced by personality disorders or past abuse. Without drawing any direct connection to sexual psychopathology, it is important to examine the origins of sexual preferences. As a result, the specialist literature discusses both hereditary and environmental variables that contribute to the development of certain sexual behavior patterns, including brain architecture, the learning phenomena (neural changes brought about by experience) [21]. This study aims to fill gaps in our understanding of incestuous sexual preference in men by highlighting the fact that incestuous behavior is not directly and specifically predicted by personality disorders or the maladaptive cognitive schemas that are indirectly linked to them; rather, incestuous sexual preference exists independently of these factors.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Instruments

The data was collected electronically (Millon Multi-axial Clinical Inventory - III (MCMI-III), Young Cognitive Schema Questionnaire (YSQ-L3a), and Paraphilic Disorders Questionnaire (PDQ)).

Procedure and Methods

Considering the very delicate topic of our study, such as incestuous sexual preference, the selection of eligible cases

concerning ethical aspects was carried out in the period 2015- 2022.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the sample

Variable	N	Mean	Std. Dev.
Age	48	38.17	9.24
Educational level	48	13.11	1.71

Thus, the selection of study participants was carried out voluntarily. Participants were subjected to psychological assessment at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Cluj-Napoca (6 participants), at the Institute of Sexology in Cluj-Napoca (19 participants), and at the Penitentiary Gherla, Cluj County (23 participants)

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

The participants included in this research met the eligibility criteria as follows: they were all male, over 18 years of age, suffering from a borderline personality disorder with confirmed incestuous sexual orientation, but without neurodevelopmental, neurocognitive, or other associated disorders, education level being of 10 classes minimum.

Ethical Aspects

The eligible participants for this research have given their consent electronically in the consent form regarding the purpose of the research and their participation in the testing as well as the aspects related to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons about the processing of personal data and regarding the free circulation of this data and the repeal of Directive 95/46/CE (General Data Protection Regulation) and Law no. 506/2004 regarding the processing of personal data and the protection of private life, and regarding the research team which should administer in safe conditions and only for the specified purposes, the data it will provide: e-mail address (optional), socio-demographic data and subjective responses to the assessment tools.

Methods

Each participant completed the assessment and testing instruments. Afterward, the collected data was uploaded to the cloud system for storage. Subsequently, all data were analyzed in SPSS 26 and processed in tabular form using correlation tests and factorial ANOVA. The preliminary results of the statistical data indicated that the answers given by the participants were free from material errors and that all the items were fully completed.

Participants

The sample group consisted of 48 male participants registered at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Cluj-Napoca, the Institute of Sexology in Cluj-Napoca, and the Gherla Prison in Cluj County, Romania. They were assessed for borderline personality disorders, early maladaptive schema (Abandonment), and incestuous sexual preferences. The mean age is $m=38.17$ and $SD \pm 9.24$. In terms of educational attainment, the mean is $m=13.11$ and $SD \pm 1.71$. All descriptive indices are centralized in **Table 1**.

Statistics

Based on the assumption that most studies in this area have used male samples, we set out to examine the possible connections between incestuous sexual preferences, borderline psychopathological vulnerability, and the maladaptive cognitive schema of abandonment. This schema states that a person's significant other will not be able to provide the patient with emotional support, connection, strength, or



practical protection if they are emotionally unstable, erratic, die soon, or leave for someone they think is better.

This study set out to examine the cognitive schema of abandonment in relation to incestuous sexual inclinations, borderline personality disorders, and other related topics. Once the descriptive analysis was completed (Table 2), the following results were obtained for the following variables: borderline personality disorders ($m=81.72$ and $SD=\pm 13.19$), incestuous sexual orientation ($m=92.47$ and $SD=\pm 5.32$), and abandonment cognitive schema ($m=81.61$ and $SD=\pm 14.67$).

Table 2. Descriptive statistic indicators

Variable	N	Mean	Std. Dev.
Borderline personality disorders	48	81.72	13.19
Incestuous sexual preference	48	92.47	5.32
Abandonment cognitive schema	48	81.61	14.67

The results achieved for the variables under analysis are within ranges corresponding to the clinical level. Thus, the borderline personality disorder and abandonment cognitive schema scores were divided into clinical and subclinical ranges.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Borderline Personality Disorders and A

Numerous studies have demonstrated the existence of a link between borderline personality disorders and the abandonment of cognitive schemas. Therefore, the existing relationships between Borderline Personality Disorder vulnerability and abandonment cognitive schema (Table 2) were analyzed starting with the premise that people who developed abandonment cognitive schema perceive unpredictability and instability of any close relationships, exhibiting strong negative reactions such as anger in many cases of borderline personality disorders.

The correlation coefficients identified between the variables under analysis indicate significant relationships. Thus, concerning the sample group of men proposed in the present research, significant positive correlations ($r=0.844$ / Sig.=0.000) were identified between borderline personality disorders and abandonment cognitive schemas.

Incestuous Sexual Preferences, Personality Disorders, and

Maladaptive Cognitive Schemas The statistical analysis sought to identify the association relationships that could exist regarding incestuous sexual preferences.

The studies that were considered to be a theoretical foundation claim that incestuous sexual preferences would be largely influenced by the existence of a vulnerability to borderline personality disorders, as well as an abandonment cognitive schema. Following the statistical analysis, significant positive correlations were obtained between incestuous sexual preferences and borderline personality disorders ($r=0.178$ / Sig.0.045). No significant correlations were identified between incestuous sexual preferences and abandonment cognitive schema.

Factors Influencing Incestuous Sexual Preferences

To highlight the degree of influence of the factors in this research, factorial variance analysis was chosen. Thus, ANOVA sought to evaluate the global effect of the factors altogether, the main effects of each factor included in the analysis, and the effect of the interaction of the proposed factors. The eligibility conditions for the factorial ANOVA test were analyzed beforehand. We considered that the dependent variable, incestuous sexual preferences, should be measured quantitatively and that the collected data should not be affected by errors.

Also, the shared groups were of equal volume and the scores for incestuous sexual preferences presented a normal distribution across the population, the skewness and kurtosis indices falling within the range of ± 1.96 (skewness=- 0.317/ ± 0.218 ; kurtosis=-0.801/ ± 0.433). The group's homogeneity of variance was tested using Levene's test ($F=0.999$ / Sig. 0.521). Table 3 summarizes the main indicators of the analysis.

Table 3. Between Subjects Effects

Source	F	Sig.	Partial eta squared
Global effect	1.408	.108	.707
Abandonment cognitive schema	.994	.475	.236
Borderline personality disorders	1.594	.090	.449
Interaction Abandonment cognitive schema* Borderline personality disorders	1.269	.218	.530

In terms of the global effect, we obtained an insignificant index ($F=1.408$ /Sig.=.108). By analyzing the factors separately, a statistically insignificant index was also obtained for the abandonment cognitive schema factor ($F=.994$ /Sig.475), and so was the borderline personality disorder factor ($F= 1.594$ /Sig.090). None of the factors proposed in the analyzed model has a significant influence on the variation in incestuous sexual preferences.



Although the borderline personality disorder factor tends to have a slightly greater impact on incestuous sexual preferences (partial eta squared=.236) compared to the abandonment cognitive schema factor (partial eta squared=.449), none of them has shown such statistically significant values as to be considered to have a considerable influence on incestuous sexual preferences. By analyzing the effect of the interaction of the two proposed factors, we obtained an insignificant index ($F=1.269/\text{Sig}.218$), the impact (partial eta squared=.530) being statistically insignificant as well.

By distinguishing between early maladaptive cognitive schemas, psychopathological preferences on the spectrum of paraphilic illnesses, and personality difficulties, this paper aimed to detect incestuous sexual orientations in males. The data mentioned above support the aim of this study, which is to show that paraphilic illnesses and personality difficulties do not always manifest as incestuous inclination in males. When compared to incestuous sexual orientations, which do not show strong correlations, the existence of the strong correlation ($r=0.844/\text{Sig}.=0.000$) between abandonment cognitive schemas and borderline personality disorders suggests a significant association between the two [12]. This correlation is also present in the specialist literature, which has been the focus of many investigations [15, 22, 23].

One of the most prevalent mental disorders, borderline personality disorder can present with either acute symptoms, such as recklessness and self-injury, or temperamental symptoms, like impulsivity and symptoms like low self-esteem, fear of destructive abandonment, and suppressed or expressed anger [17]. A number of research have looked at the correlation between BPD and abandonment cognitive schema, showing that the two disorders interact directly via the presence of maladaptive schemas [19, 25]. Young proposed that one of the four core schema modes of borderline personality disorder (BPD) is the Abandoned Child (or, alternatively, the Abused and Abandoned Child), and the Angry/Impulsive Child, building on the work of Carr and Francis [15] to suggest that the psychopathological features of BPD reflect a recurrence to intense emotional states experienced during childhood. The patient's possible desperation is symbolized by the Abused and Abandoned Child mode in Young's model. It all starts with the patient's history of (attempted) childhood trauma, including abandonment and abuse. People who exhibit borderline personality traits and incestuous sexual inclinations are the ones we use for our study. These people are thought to have formed maladaptive cognitive schemas throughout their formative years. Sexual orientation and incestuous inclinations may be indirectly and indeterminately impacted by these variables. An investigation conducted by Mishawhighlights the fact that studies in the area tend to place too much

emphasis on internal personality traits as the driving force behind sexual pattern formation, while downplaying the significance of external contextual elements and circumstances [26, 27].

The purpose of this correlational study was to investigate the possibility of links between incest, abandonment cognitive model, personality disorders, and incestuous sexual preferences. Since we did not find any statistically significant relationships in our sample group between the first two, we shall ignore the role of abandonment cognitive schema in men's incestuous tendencies in this scenario. There is a strong correlation between incest and borderline personality disorder; hence, a predisposition to the former may impact sexual proclivities toward incest. We don't know how much of an effect this influence has on this incestuous tendency, but a substantial connection implies that there is an influence. To rephrase, it is unclear if this impact directly determines the incestuous inclination or not. Variation in incestuous sexual preferences according to abandonment cognitive schema and the presence of certain borderline personality characteristics are shown by the Fisher index that is derived after doing ANOVA. None of the covariates, including the interaction between abandonment cognitive schema and borderline personality disorders, were shown to influence the dependent variable (incestuous sexual preferences). These findings may suggest that incestuous tendencies are not directly related to the presence of the abandonment cognitive paradigm. Because borderline personality characteristics are not a direct predictor of incestuous tendencies, the Fisher index that emerges from variance analysis has a statistically insignificant threshold. The Fisher index goes a step further by demonstrating that incestuous tendencies are not directly determined by borderline qualities in conjunction with the Abandonment cognitive schema at a statistically insignificant threshold. Because of this, additional variables must be considered in order to account for the incestuous inclination, rather than cognitive schema abandonment or borderline personality traits/disorder [28-30].

We conducted a factorial analysis to determine the effects of each factor on incestuous tendencies, the presence of the abandonment maladaptive schema on incestuous tendencies, and the interaction between borderline personality traits and the abandonment cognitive schema on incest tendencies. Our goal was to identify the factors that influence borderline personality traits and the incestuous tendency. Borderline personality disorder, abandonment cognitive schema, and, by extension, their interaction, are not among the factors that have been suggested in this study to explain the observed differences in incestuous sexual preferences. This suggests that the relationship between incestuous sexual preferences and borderline personality disorders is not statistically significant, even if it was found. Put simply, sexual preferences that include incest are not



borderline personality disorders dictate. There were no statistically significant associations found between incestuous sexual inclinations and the abandonment cognitive paradigm. But it was considered that incestuous sexual preferences might be determined by borderline personality disorders and abandonment cognitive schema interacting with one another. However, there seems to have been no discernible effect based on the statistical data collected from the sample. Based on these findings, it should be possible to argue that incestuous sexual inclinations among the males in the sample are not due to cognitive schema abandonment or borderline personality disorder, but rather to completely distinct reasons [31–35].

CONCLUSION

Sexual preferences are not directly influenced by personality disorders or unique cognitive schemas seen in clinical presentations, according to the detailed investigation of the sample group of males with verified incestuous sexual inclinations. This study attempts to highlight the necessity to examine this highly disputed area, as recent studies do not include male samples.

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