Brown PhD 2022 Psychoanalytical View Why People Use #CSAM #IIOC

https://theknock.club/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2022-Brown-PhD-UCD-The-VIRTUAL-Child-The-Unconscious.pdf

Detailed Summary

The thesis identifies several key unconscious and psychological factors that contribute to offending:

1. **Variability in Paedophilic Attraction**:

   o Paedophilia is not a strict dichotomy; offenders exhibit varying degrees of attraction to children. Some engage in fantasy-driven offenses with no reported offline attraction to children.

2. **Projection and Identification**:

   o Offenders unconsciously project aspects of themselves into the child, engaging in fluid cycles of shifting identification. This psychological process distorts their perception of the victim and reduces their recognition of harm.

3. **Objectification of Children**:

   o Many offenders treat children as "part-objects," viewing them as functions to fulfill their needs rather than recognizing them as individuals. This dehumanization helps rationalize their behavior.

4. **Online Environment and Feelings of Invulnerability**:

   o The Internet fosters a sense of detachment, making offenders feel shielded from consequences. The anonymity and vast accessibility of material contribute to the disinhibition of previously latent impulses.

5. **Escalation of Pornography Use**:

   o Many offenders experience a progression from legal adult pornography to more extreme content, including CSEM. This escalation may reinforce and shape deviant fantasies.

6. **Compulsive Behavior and Cognitive Distortions**:

   o Some offenders describe the Internet as an environment that amplifies compulsive pornography use, blurring the lines between fantasy and reality. Others engage in cognitive distortions to rationalize their behavior, such as believing that the children in the material are not real.

7. **Emotional Triggers**:

   o Feelings of anger, depression, and frustration often serve as catalysts for offending. For some, breaking societal taboos provides a sense of control, arousal, or power.

8. **The Role of Group Dynamics**:

- o Offenders who engage in online communities may experience reinforcement from others, further normalizing their actions. Some use these interactions to validate their beliefs, while others become increasingly desensitized to the harm caused.

9. **Intervention and Reality Check**:
    - o Many offenders report that law enforcement intervention served as a wake-up call, reinstating their sense of reality and interrupting their compulsive behavior.

Conclusion

The thesis highlights the multifaceted nature of offending, emphasizing the importance of understanding the psychological and unconscious factors that drive individuals to engage with CSEM. It suggests that addressing cognitive distortions, compulsive behaviors, and emotional triggers in treatment programs may help reduce the risk of recidivism.