

PAEDOPHILES, GOODNESS AND HOPE

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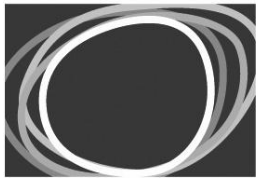
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OVERVIEW OF TALK

- ◉ The Minor-Attracted Adults (MAA) Daily Lives Project
- ◉ What we know about adult sexual attraction to children
- ◉ Keeping children safe
- ◉ Goodness and hope: the untold story of ‘non-contact’ paedophiles
- ◉ Celebrating the work of Stop It Now

'MAA DAILY LIVES' STUDY, 2006-08

RESEARCH FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY
RESEARCH COUNCIL AND MY UNIVERSITY



Arts & Humanities
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THE UNIVERSITY OF
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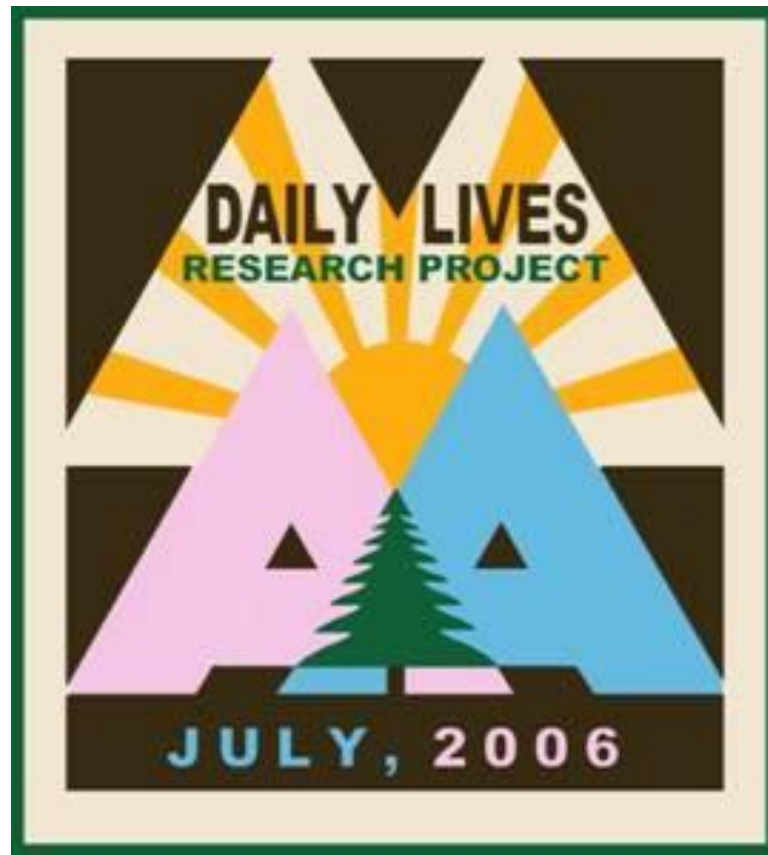
THE MAA DAILY LIVES PROJECT

- ⦿ MAA = ‘Minor-attracted adults’
- ⦿ Study of online self-defined paedophiles living ordinary lives in the community
- ⦿ I worked closely with a small group of people within the international English-language ‘online paedophile community’ (involving websites such as BoyChat and GirlChat / Annabelleigh)

HOW THE MAA DAILY LIVES PROJECT WORKED

- ◉ Self-defined paedophile activists formed a 'Participant Coordinators' Group'
- ◉ Because they trusted me, therefore other people within this community trusted me and gave me information
- ◉ I also obtained information from people online but outside this community, who found the study by chance and chose to respond
- ◉ Since then, other people have also contacted me to tell me about their experiences

MAA DAILY LIVES LOGO

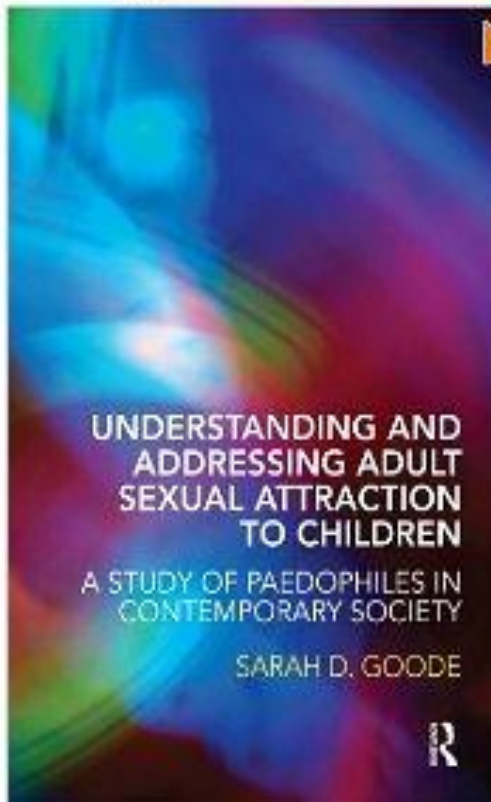


FINDINGS

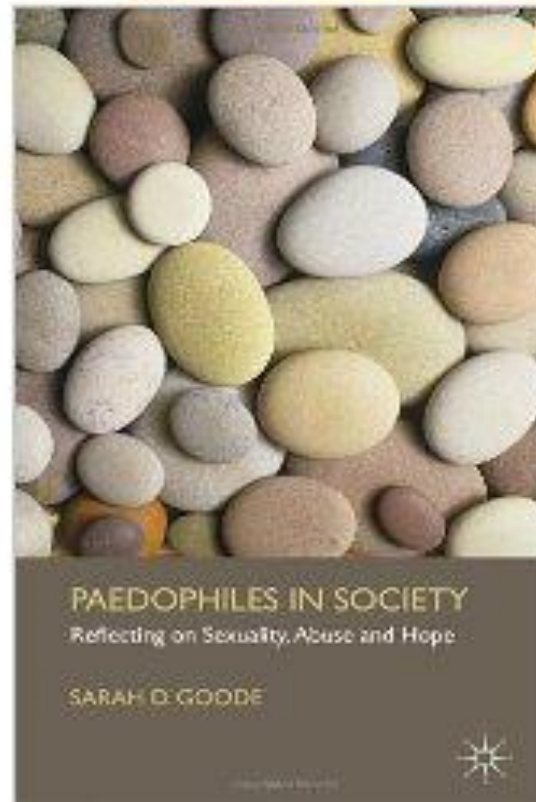
- ◉ Contact with 60+ self-defined paedophiles (one in prison, all others living in the community)
- ◉ 2 recorded interviews; 2 meetings; 56 questionnaire respondents: 77 completed questionnaires + follow-up questions (60+ items per main questionnaire) = more than 4620 pieces of data
- ◉ Research judged 'outstanding' by research council
- ◉ Resulted in two books

PUBLICATIONS

Click to **LOOK INSIDE!**



Click to **LOOK INSIDE!**



WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT ADULT SEXUAL ATTRACTION TO CHILDREN

- ◉ We need to know more about this experience in the general population, *before* (not after) children are harmed
- ◉ Very few studies on this important subject
- ◉ Studies done so far suggest that possibly around 20% of all men may become sexually aroused to children at some time
- ◉ Suggested model of paedophilia as part of continuum of human sexuality
- ◉ For many people, it starts around adolescence and is often lifelong

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

- ◉ In every country studied, child sexual abuse occurs
- ◉ Approximately 1 in 6 of ALL CHILDREN will experience some form of child sexual abuse
- ◉ It is a major threat to children's wellbeing
- ◉ Increasing levels of 'sexualisation' of children and of sexual violence in our culture and our society
- ◉ We need a radical change in thinking to tackle this problem

WAYS OF KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

- ◉ **Provide therapy:** counselling for adolescents who start to feel 'different'
- ◉ **Young people working together:** encourage ability and confidence to tell others, and band together to confront any abuser
- ◉ **Adults spending time with young people:** everyone needs hugs. Helpful for young people, and can help paedophiles resist sexual temptation
- ◉ **Face up to the reality of adult sexual attraction to children:** e.g. in workplace, use Code of Conduct recognising possibility

NEW INSIGHTS IN CHILD PROTECTION

- ◉ We are slowly beginning to move away from a ‘them and us’ model
- ◉ We need to recognise it is not ‘those people over there’ who abuse children; it is ‘these people right here’ - all of us
- ◉ We all need to accept a deeper sense of responsibility for protecting children
- ◉ We need to listen carefully to the voices of those who are sexually attracted but who choose not to act on their attraction

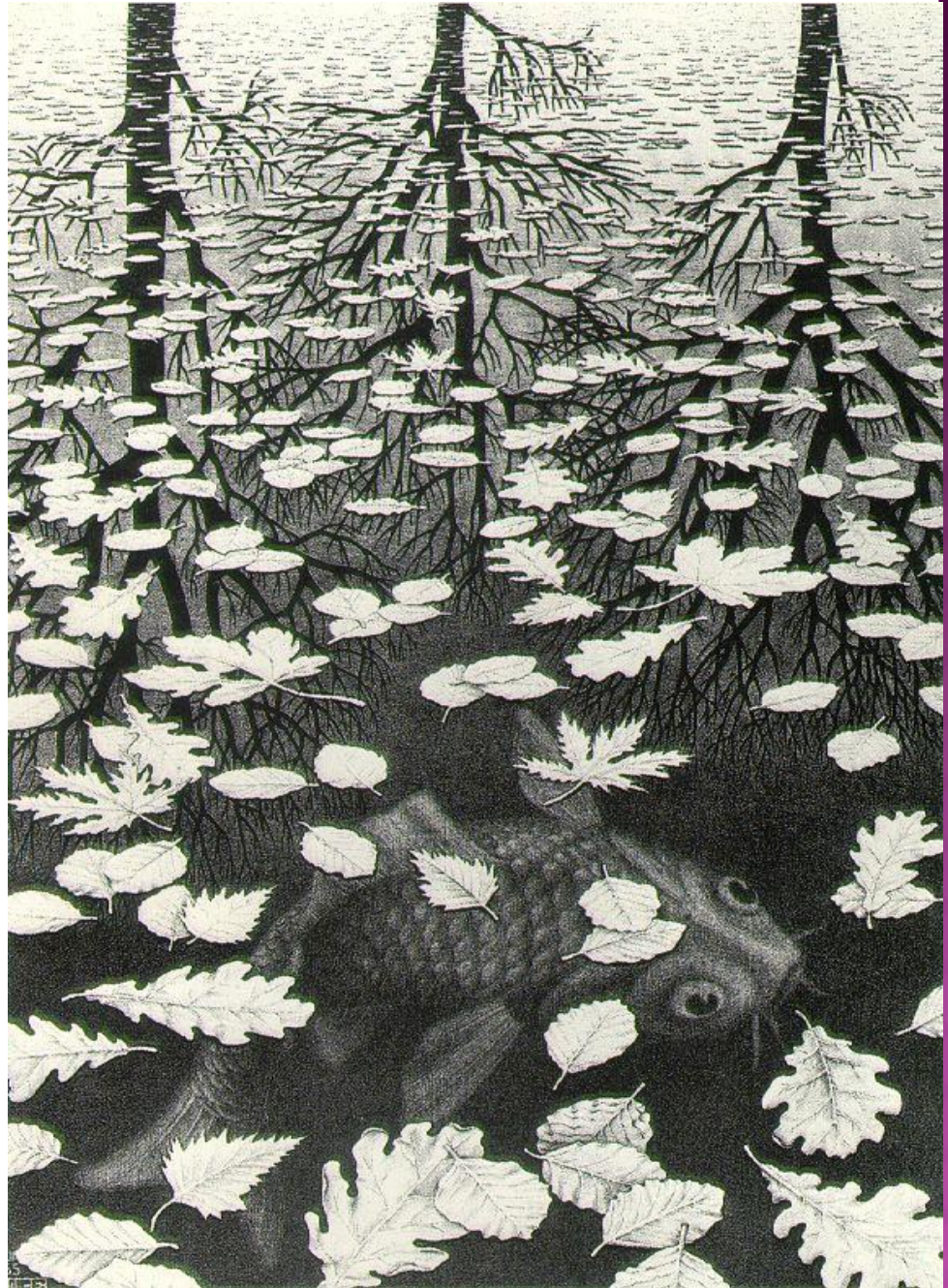
GOODNESS AND HOPE: THE UNTOLD STORY OF 'NON-CONTACT' PAEDOPHILES

- ⦿ A major finding from the MAA Daily Lives Study was learning about 'non-contact' paedophiles, i.e. non-offending, law-abiding
- ⦿ Some adults choose successfully to live moral lives which do not cause harm to children
- ⦿ We are beginning to hear their voices, in amongst 'pro-paedophile activists' and 'anti-paedophile activists'

‘THREE WORLDS’ (ESCHER) 3-LEVEL MODEL OF THE WORLD

“In the interstices
of language lie
powerful secrets of
the culture”

- ❖ Public account
- ❖ Private account
- ❖ ‘Hidden account’



LISTENING TO 'NON-CONTACT' PAEDOPHILES

- ⦿ “People with this attraction have created their own personal safe environment in which children can enter and leave without any danger whatsoever. Speaking to people with personal and practical experience of doing this should surely be the first port of call for society, and not people who are sitting in prison as proof only that they couldn't!” (John)

AN HISTORIC NEW MOMENT IN CHILD PROTECTION

- ◉ We are finally reaching a point when thinking about child protection is beginning to change
- ◉ What we have is not working; child sexual abuse is still at epidemic levels
- ◉ Now we have new models that will finally help us to keep children safe

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF STOP IT NOW

- ◉ Stop It Now is radical
- ◉ The traditional model of child protection put the responsibility on the child: ‘Just Say No!’
- ◉ Stop It Now puts the responsibility on the person doing the abusing
- ◉ It also puts the responsibility on all of us, the wider community

FRAN HENRY

- ◉ The Stop It Now! Campaign was started by Fran Henry in 1992 in the United States
- ◉ The campaign was based on Fran's own experience as a survivor
- ◉ As a child, Fran was sexually abused by her father and she has had the courage to speak and write openly about her experiences
- ◉ More than courage, she also has the intellectual rigour to analyse her experiences and to make her findings applicable to society generally

COMPLEXITY

- ◉ The strength of Stop It Now lies in its ability to hold complexity
- ◉ Fran has led the way in publicly discussing the complexity of being abused by someone you know and love - and continue to know and love
- ◉ As she says of her father, “I could tell you ... stories that would make you hate him in an instant. But at the next moment I could tell you stories of his humanity, his strength and his history that might leave you wanting to admire him. Complex, isn’t it?”

THREE PRINCIPLES OF STOP IT NOW

- ◉ Talk openly about sexual abuse, without shame, as we would talk about drink-driving or cancer or any other public health issue. Sexual abuse is *ordinary* - it is not too monstrous and horrifying even to mention
- ◉ Hold abusers accountable, at the same time as understanding them as human beings
- ◉ Focus on prevention, including treatment for abusers

BOOKLET ON 'FINDING CHILDREN SEXUALLY ATTRACTIVE'

- ◉ As part of a focus on prevention, I have designed a booklet for people who are worried about their sexual attraction to children
- ◉ It is aimed at young people and adults, and uses quotations from self-defined paedophiles themselves
- ◉ You can find a link to it on the Stop It Now website

PAEDOPHILES, GOODNESS AND HOPE

- ◉ Many adults are sexually attracted to children and *do not act on that attraction*
- ◉ We need to celebrate that capacity for goodness!
- ◉ Listening to ‘non-contact’ paedophiles can teach us helpful strategies for non-offending
- ◉ Stop It Now is part of a new approach which offers tremendous hope
- ◉ The best way to protect children is to talk openly about our feelings, no matter what they are, while holding ourselves responsible for our actions, no matter what they are