

**Sexual Abuse Forensic Research Lab (SAFR)**  
**December 2024**

Meet Our Research Team

**Research Lab Director:** David M. Feldman, Ph.D.

David M. Feldman, Ph.D. is a Florida Licensed Psychologist and Professor of Psychology at Nova Southeastern University.

**Lab Coordinator:** Lindsay Giammalvo (Third-year)

Lindsay Giammalvo is currently a psychology trainee in the Clinical Psychology Psy.D. program at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). She is currently in her third year in the program and a member of the Forensic Concentration. She recently completed her enroute master's degree in the program. Lindsay grew up in Tennessee and received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Mississippi where she also minored in Mandarin Chinese and Intelligence and Security Studies. Lindsay has worked in a variety of forensic settings completing evaluations for attorneys at several correctional institutions and facilitating psychoeducation groups at a juvenile detention center. Currently, Lindsay is working at a children's hospital on the inpatient psychiatry unit and in the intensive outpatient program administering individual therapy, family sessions, and co-facilitating multifamily and adolescent processing and dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) skills groups. Her areas of clinical and research interest include sex trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, identity formation, dissociation, and sexual trauma in indigenous populations.

**Lab Coordinator:** Samantha Guajardo (Third-year)

Samantha Guajardo, MS is a third-year clinical psychology PsyD student with a forensic concentration at Nova Southeastern University. Throughout her time at NSU, Samantha has completed a forensic practicum rotation providing assessments, evaluations, and psychoeducational groups to individuals within forensic settings, such as Broward County jails and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Currently, she is completing a second practicum at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami, FL, working with adolescents in the inpatient psychiatric unit and the intensive outpatient program. Samantha has held leadership positions in the Ethnic Minority Association for Graduate Students, Forensic Advocates for Rehabilitation and Reintegration, and Animal Assisted Interventions organizations within the College of Psychology. Samantha has research interests in sexual offending behaviors, the implications of the sex-offense registration system, juvenile justice, and culturally focused interventions. She has presented her research at the Minnesota Association for Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (MnATSA). Additionally, she is one of the lab coordinators for the Sexual Abuse and Forensic Research (SAFR) lab for the 2024-2025 academic year.

**Lab Coordinator:** Deja Smith (Third-year)

Deja Smith is a third-year Clinical Psychology Doctorate student at Nova Southeastern University, holding a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology from California Baptist University. Her research focuses on the manifestation of paraphilic interests and sexual deviance, with the goal of advancing the understanding and treatment of sexual

offenders. As a coordinator for the Sexual Abuse and Forensic Research (SAFR) lab, Deja has contributed to a comprehensive book on sexual offender civil commitment across the United States. Deja has presented her work at major conferences such as the American Psychology-Law Society (APLS), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the Western Psychological Association (WPA) on topics including psychopathy, sexual deviance, and paraphilic interests, with collaborations extending across the U.S. and Canada. Additionally, she presented her work on gender difference in sexual fantasy at the 2024 National Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) conference. Deja also has a background working with the California District Attorney's Office, where she provided services to families and victims in the Major Crimes and Homicide Unit. Currently, she is working at South Florida State Hospital, offering individual therapy, conducting comprehensive evaluations which include violence risk assessments, and competency evaluations, and facilitates dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) and cognitive behavioral therapy for psychosis (CBT-P) therapy groups.

### **Kelsey Applegarth (Third-year)**

Kelsey Applegarth is a third-year doctorate student in the Clinical Psychology Program at Nova Southeastern University and currently holds a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology. Throughout her time at NSU, she completed her forensic practicum rotation administering assessments for immigration evaluations, participating in competency evaluations, and providing psychoeducational groups to justice-involved youth. She is currently completing her second practicum rotation at South Florida State Hospital conducting various evaluations (e.g., violence risk assessments, competency, initials, and annuals) and providing psychoeducational groups and individual therapy for individuals adjudicated incompetent to proceed or not guilty by reason of insanity. Kelsey has held various leadership positions throughout the College of Psychology including being the Founder and President of the Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) Organization and the former Vice President and First-Year Representative of the Forensic Advocates for Rehabilitation and Reintegration (FARR). Her research interests surround the incorporation of animal-assisted interventions in the treatment of individuals convicted of sexual offenses and the assessment and treatment of individuals convicted of sexual offenses. As a member in the SAFR Lab, Kelsey has contributed to various chapters within a book focused on sexually violent predator laws across the United States. To date, Kelsey has presented her research at the Minnesota Association for Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (MnATSA).

### **Haley Barry (Third-year)**

### **Delta Burchi (Fourth-year)**

#### **Former Lab Coordinator 2022-2024: Abigail King (Fourth-year)**

Abigail King, MS is a psychologist in training at Nova Southeastern University. There she has served as the student coordinator for the Clinical Forensic Psychology Concentration and the Sexual Abuse and Forensic Research (SAFR) lab where her research has focused on an examination of the history, legal statutes, treatment outcomes, and social ramifications of sexual offender civil commitment. Ms. King has presented at the

American Psychology Law Society Conference (APLS) the 27th Minnesota Chapter of the Association and Treatment of Sexual Abusers (MnATSA), and the 2024 National Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) conference for topics pertaining to the treatment and assessment of females who sexually offend and adverse outcomes for female providers that treat those who sexually offend. Her forensic practicum experience has included providing assessments, evaluations, and interventions to individuals and groups within forensic settings that have included the Krome Detention Center, Legal Aid, the Paul Rein Detention Center, the West Palm Main Detention Center, and the Broward Public Defender's Office.

**Hope Marceaux (Fourth-year)**

Research Lab Contributor

**Richard Amsel (Second-year)**

Hi everyone, my name is Richard Amsel, and I am currently a second-year student in the clinical psychology PsyD program. My clinical and research interests include neuropsychology, forensic psychology, the treatment of sexual offenders, and clinical practice with the Deaf and hard of hearing. Currently, I am currently involved in the creation of a textbook focusing on the laws surrounding sexually violent predators with the SAFR lab.

**Genevieve Gottlieb (Second-year)**

My name is Genevieve Gottlieb, and I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. I received my BA at American University in Washington DC, having double majored in Psychology and Criminal, Justice, and Law with a concentration in Criminology. I received my MA in psychology from Columbia University, Teachers College, with a concentration in forensics. I continue as a research assistant in the Sex Crimes Against Children Lab. I am currently completing two manuscripts for publication with the Sex Crimes Against Children Lab regarding incremental disclosure among sexually abused children and inconsistencies across states regarding accommodations provided for sexually abused children who testify in court. I am now a second-year PhD Clinical Psychology student at NSU. I am in the forensic psychology concentration and plan to specialize in sex crimes. I contributed to a textbook to be published soon regarding the involuntary commitment of sexual offenders. My practicum site is at the South Florida Reception Center, a prison with long-term inmates and a transfer facility where all individuals sentenced to 365+ days from Orlando to Key West come through

**Olivia Janovy Meyer (Second-year)**

**Bethany Laesch (Fourth-year)**

**Tali Shir (Second-year)**

Tali Shir is a second-year trainee in the Clinical Psychology Psy.D. program with a concentration in forensics. Her clinical and research interests involve forensic evaluations and

assessments, the evaluation and treatment of sexual offenders, and advocacy for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community within the criminal justice system.

**Maggie Smith (First-year)**

**Anaïs Toussaint (Second-year)**

Anaïs Toussaint is a second year in the Clinical Psychology PsyD program. She received her BS in Psychology with a minor in Crime, Law, and Deviance and a certificate in Behavioral Forensics at the University of Central Florida. She is currently completing her practicum rotation at the Neuropsychology Assessment Center. Her clinical interests include forensic evaluations and recidivism. Her research interests include psychopathy and criminogenic risk factors.

**Soraya Ziemert (Second-year)**

Soraya Ziemert is a second-year clinical psychology student in the forensic concentration. Her clinical and research interests include psychopathy, personality disorders and more specifically, malingering. She is currently completing her forensic practicum rotation and works in courts and prisons completing assessments and providing group therapy. She is also working as a TA for an assessment class and forensics related class.

Research Members

**Megan Arnold (Fourth-year)**

**Miranda Boblett (First-year)**

Miranda is currently a psychology trainee in the Clinical Psychology Psy.D. program at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). She is currently in her first year in the program and has an interest in forensic and neuropsychology. Miranda grew up in Columbus, Ohio and received her bachelor's degree in psychology from The Ohio State University where she also minored in criminology and criminal justice. Her areas of clinical and research interests include at risk children and adolescents, false confessions, and forensic psychological assessment.

**Sydney Camp (First-year)**

**Kelsey Cashin (First-year)**

Kelsey Cashin is a first-year student in the Clinical Psychology Psy.D. Program at Nova Southeastern University. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a minor in Crime, Law, and Deviance. Kelsey's prior clinical experience was at the Juvenile Assessment Center in Orlando, Florida with Aspire Health's Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities program, which gave recommendations to the court on behalf of the adolescent facing charges. Kelsey's current clinical and research interests focus on juvenile offenders and associated risk factors related to incarceration and recidivism rates.

**Alexis Cohen (Second-year)**

**Sera Fernandez (Fourth-year)**

**Alivia Foster (Second-year)**

**Emma Johnson (Second-year)**

**Sofia Krausse (First-year)**

Sofia is a first-year psychology trainee in the Clinical Psychology Psy.D. program at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). Originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sofia moved to Miami in 2021. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, with a minor in biology, from the University of Miami. Her clinical and research interests include working with sexual abuse offenders, sexual trauma survivors, and the deaf and hard-of-hearing population.

**Stephen Loggia (First-year)**

**Komini Pardalos (First-year)**

**Belen Renteria (Third-year)**

**Carsen Zink (Second-year)**

Research Lab Alumni

**Isabelle Anillo (Fifth-year: Internship)**

**Claire Caggiano (Fifth-year: Internship)**

Poster Presentations & Publications

Association for Treatment & Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA)

2024

Delta Burchi

Presentation/Workshop: Practical Solutions for Enhancing Accuracy in the Evaluation and Treatment of Deaf Sexual Offenders

Authors: David M. Feldman, Ph.D.; Amber M. Lindeman Psy.D.; Judith Beldon-Feldman, NIC-Master; Delta Burchi, MS

Abstract: Professionals evaluating and treating sexual offenders who are also Deaf must often modify their methods to reflect language and cultural challenges, limited research, and a lack of guidelines. This workshop will provide practical solutions for providers who need to accommodate psychosexual evaluations and interventions with Deaf sexual offenders in a hands-on and resource-focused forum. Understanding and identifying the unique accommodations needed for evaluating and treating sexual offenders who are Deaf or hard of hearing is a very complex and multifaceted process. This is often dependent on a variety of variables, such as language, socialization, education, and sexual development. It is imperative for professionals providing assessment and interventions to be aware of practical solutions and accommodations available that can be used for this purpose. Knowing primary or preferred language is critical and often initially unpredictable and coupled with an extremely limited choice of assessment

materials, makes evaluation and intervention extremely challenging (Pizzo & Chilvers, 2019). The use of a qualified examiner who can successfully assess communication and intervention needs contributes to evaluative validity (Pizzo & Chilvers, 2019), however, very few professionals with this knowledge and skill exist. Therefore, A qualified interpreter is often necessary to facilitate communication and it is important to recognize that “interpreting English into ASL and vice-versa requires a great deal of skill” (Dubow et al, 1986). As the provision of an ASL interpreter alone is not a guarantee of access to language (Olsen & Kermit, 2014) professionals must be knowledgeable of other factors related to communication and culture that may affect information gathering, interpretations, and outcomes.

Abigail King

Poster, “Adverse Outcomes for Female Mental Health Providers Treating Male Sexual Abusers”

Authors: Abigail King, MS; David Feldman, PhD; Amber Lindeman, PsyD

Abstract: Within the realm of sexual abuse, treatment providers that assist in addressing the behavioral management needs of males who have committed sexual offenses, there has been a dramatic shift in gender composition. 1 Research has shown that as early as 2000, the management of those who have committed sexual offenses has seen an influx of more female providers entering the field than male providers. This trend largely reflects feminization in the larger and more general field of mental health professions, including a variety of social sciences that contribute to treatment such as psychology, social work, and counseling. With this change in gender composition, there is an added nuance that has the potential to affect treatment outcomes due to the relationship between female providers and those who sexually offend. 2 This systematic review of the current literature examined the potential adverse outcomes for female mental health providers who treat males who have committed sexual offenses. The repercussions that have been reported by current literature included burnout, decline in empathic abilities, compassion fatigue, a lack of support or acceptance of their work, safety concerns, vicarious traumatization, and poorer attitudes toward sex offenders. 3 An examination of these repercussions and the tools used to measure them, including the Maslach Burnout Inventory, were also discussed. These data will be used to develop an empirical study that will examine the negative ramifications for female treatment providers as a result of working with males who have engaged in sexual abuse.

Deja Smith

Data Blitz “A Cross-Gender Analysis of Sexual Fantasies: A Pathway to Understanding and Preventing Sexual Offending”

Authors: Deja E. Smith MA, MS, Saad Iqbal, Alexandra Zidenberg, PhD, & David Feldman, PhD

Abstract: This research utilizes the Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire (SFQ; Wilson, 2010a) to explore gender differences in sexual fantasies among a community sample of 307 participants, aiming to elucidate patterns that may contribute to understanding sexual offending behaviors. Our analysis focuses on intimate, exploratory, impersonal, and sadomasochistic dimensions of sexual fantasies, as well as specific sexual acts that are of interest in clinical and forensic contexts. Our results indicate significant gender-based differences across various domains. With men reporting higher levels of engagement in

impersonal and exploratory fantasies, particularly those involving anonymity ( $t=2.732$ ,  $p=0.0067$ ) and BDSM activities ( $t=2.529$ ,  $p=0.012$ ). Alternatively, women displayed a stronger preference for intimate fantasies involving emotional and familiar elements. Notably, these patterns suggest differing motivational pathways in sexual fantasy that could potentially relate to offending behaviors. Further item-level analysis shows significant gender differences in fantasies that involve non-consensual and illegal acts such as forcing someone ( $t=2.680$ ,  $p=0.0078$ ), voyeurism ( $t=3.066$ ,  $p=0.0024$ ), and other controversial behaviors including sex with an animal and incestuous relations. These findings are critical as they point to gendered differences in fantasies that may be linked to sexual offending (Bartels & Gannon, 2011). By examining the specific content and intensity of sexual fantasies across genders, we can better inform risk assessments and therapeutic approaches in both clinical and forensic settings.



