



Dark Desire:

Working with Harmful Sexual Interests:

Grief | Loss | Acceptance

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Consider

- How did you become aware of your sexuality?
- What social support was available as you faced your sexuality?
- What social systems embrace your sexuality now

Most people discover a sexual orientation that is supported by social systems.

Some people will discover that they have an exclusive sexual attraction towards pre-pubescent children.

Some people will discover that they are attracted to a range of other people but have an interest in young children.

Some people will discover that they are attracted to peers but experience greater arousal when their peers are in distress



Traumatic
Sexuality

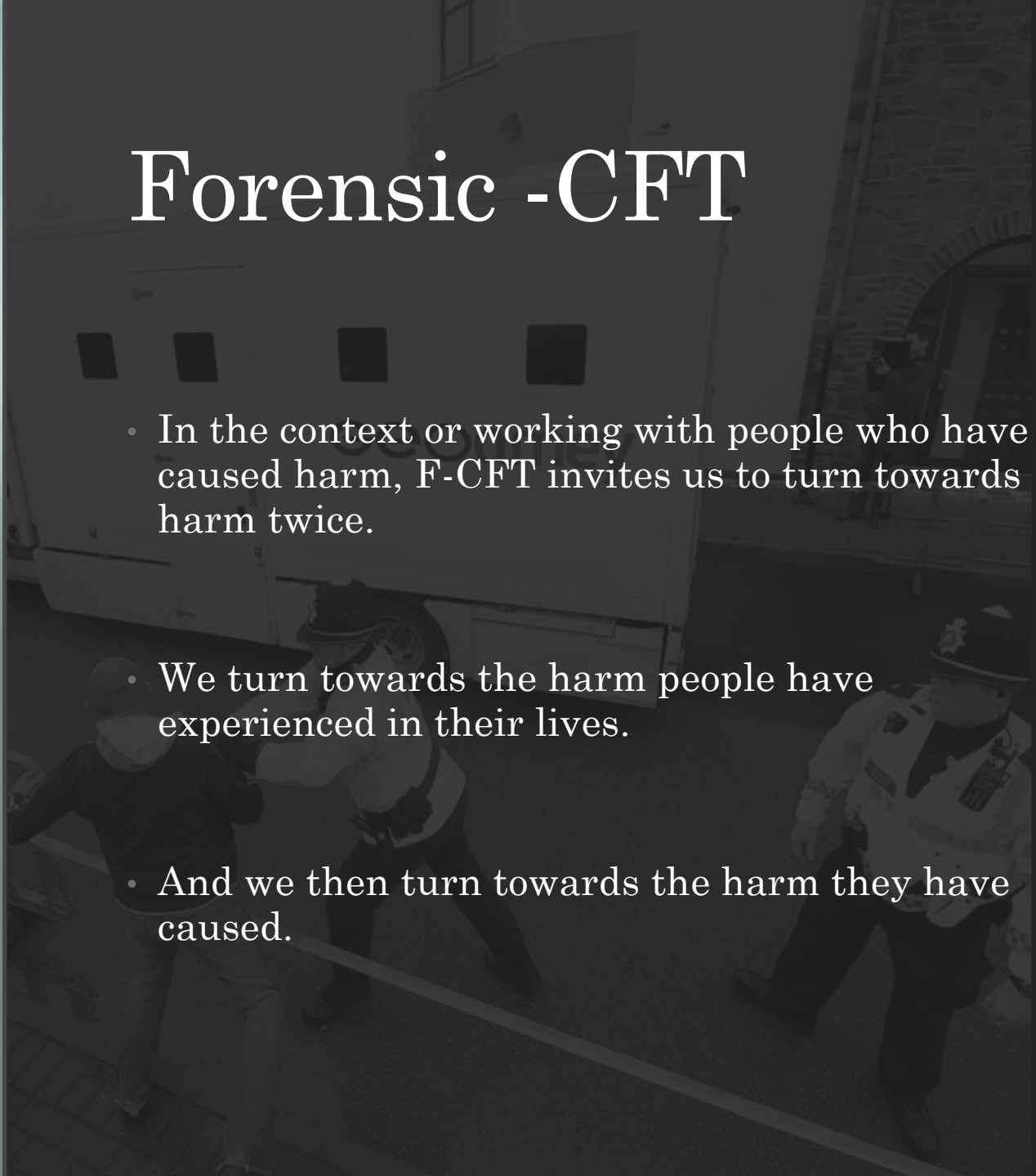
Traumatising
Sexuality





Forensic -CFT

- In the context of working with people who have caused harm, F-CFT invites us to turn towards harm twice.
- We turn towards the harm people have experienced in their lives.
- And we then turn towards the harm they have caused.



Forensic -CFT

- CFT recognizes the importance of understanding the context(s) of people's lives
- F-CFT offers a functional analysis of the development of risk factors.
- F-CFT reconceptualizes criminogenic need/risk as learned/acquired ways of being



Physical



Physical



Emotional



Emotional



Sexual



Sexual



Sexual



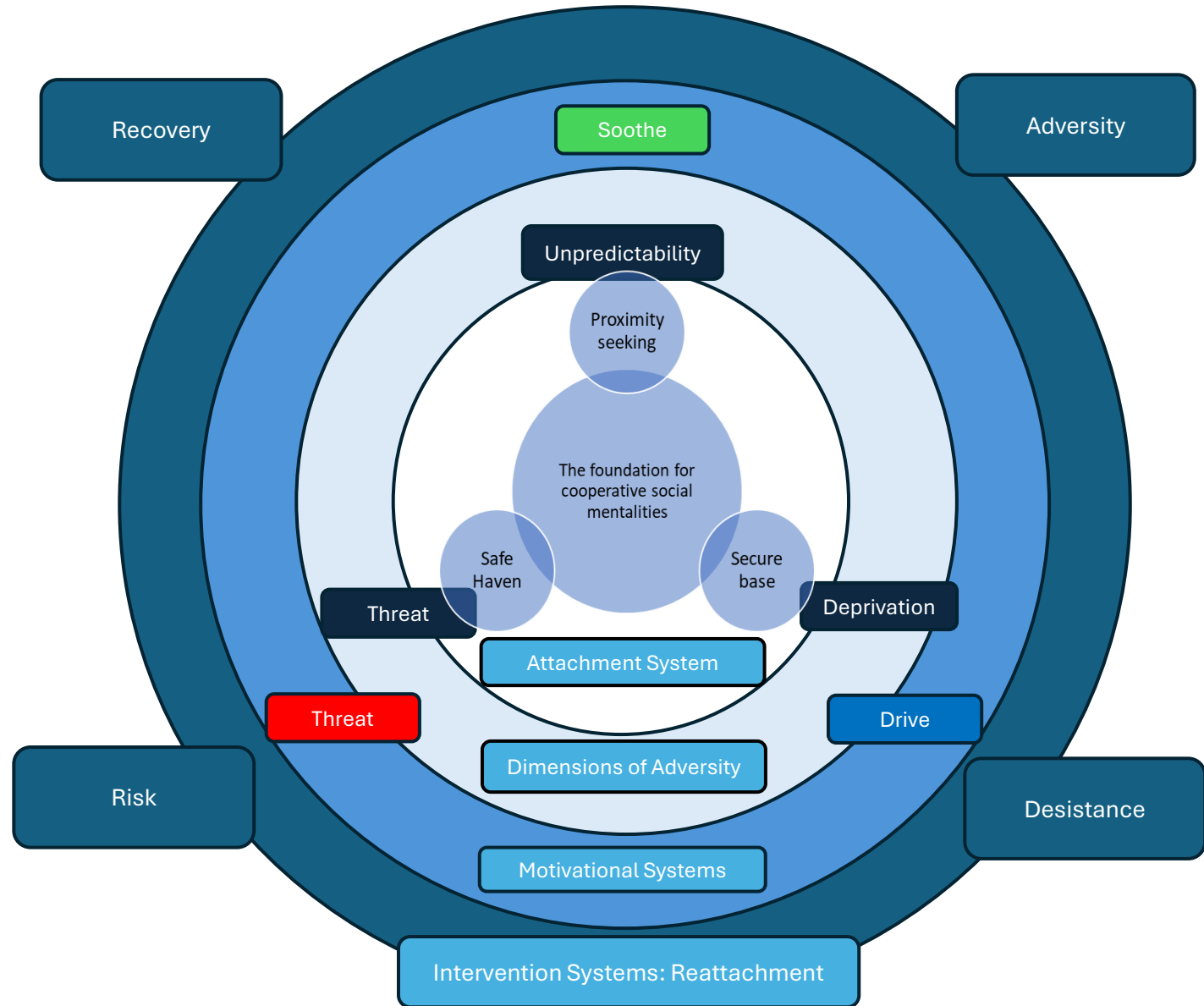
Sexual



Sexual



Intervention Framework (RADaR)

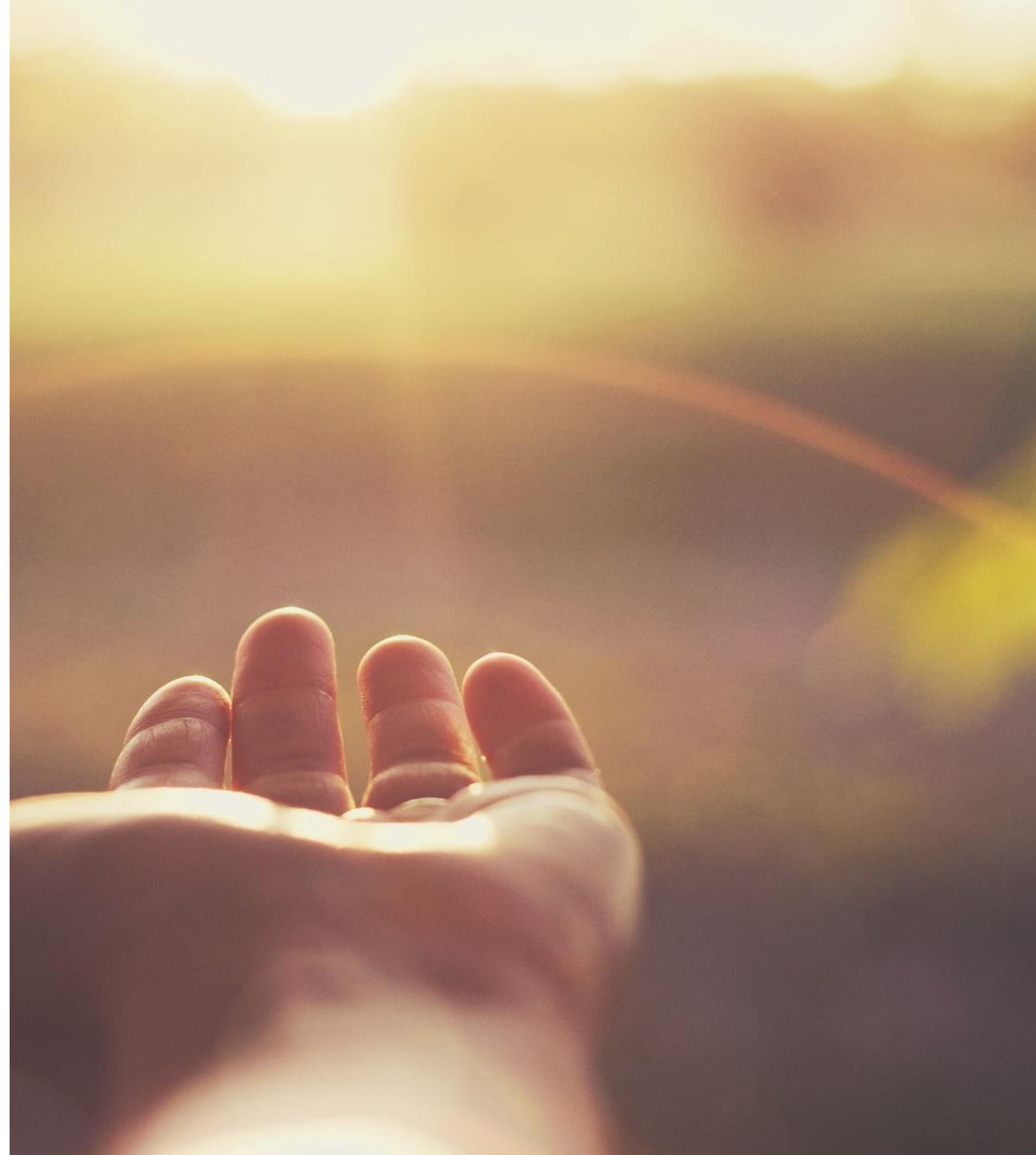


People with sexual convictions

Forensic - CFT

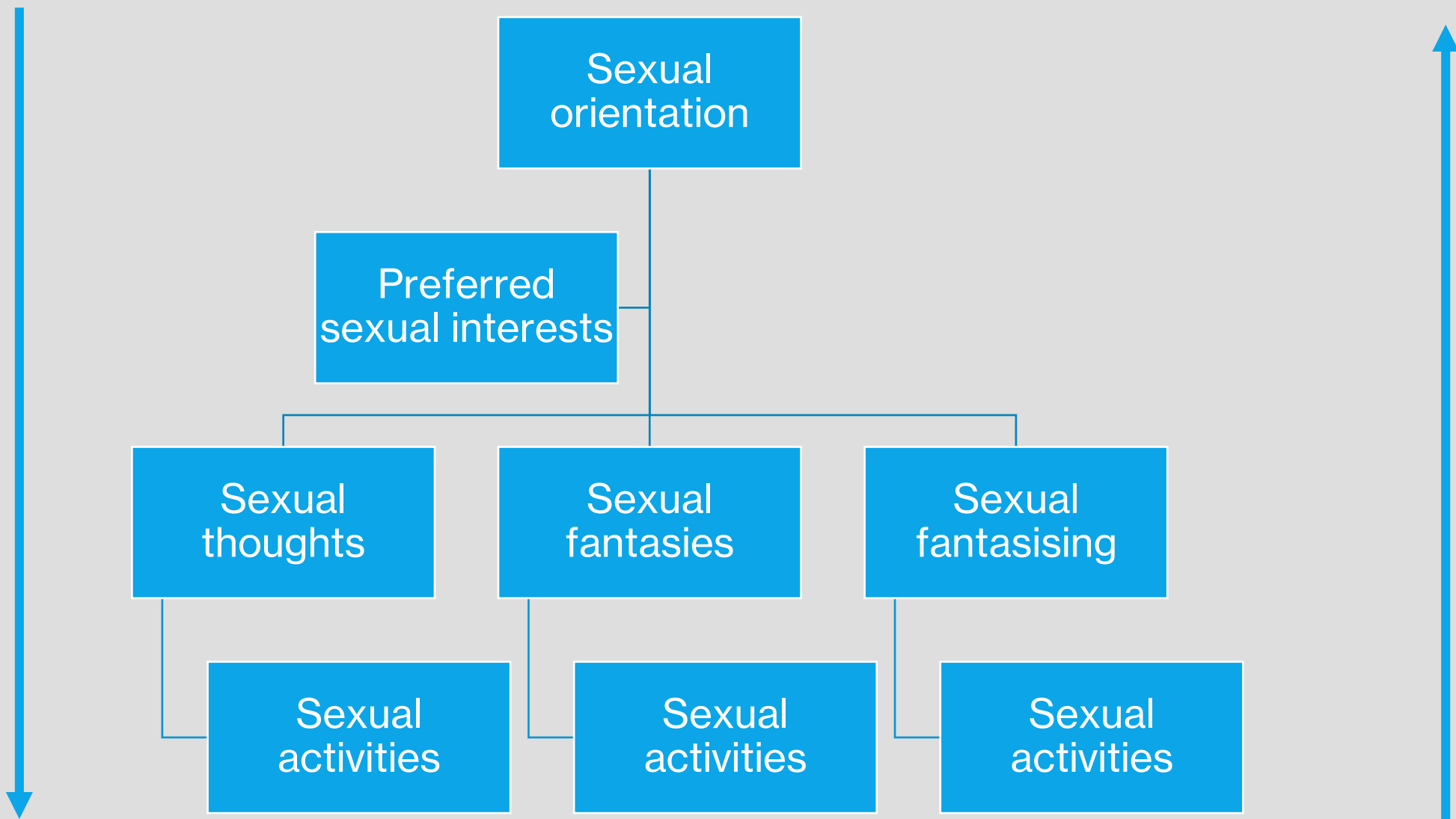


- Understand human nature :
understand human sexuality
- Turn towards suffering.
- Alleviate distress
- Turn towards suffering caused
- Commit to alleviating/preventing
further distress



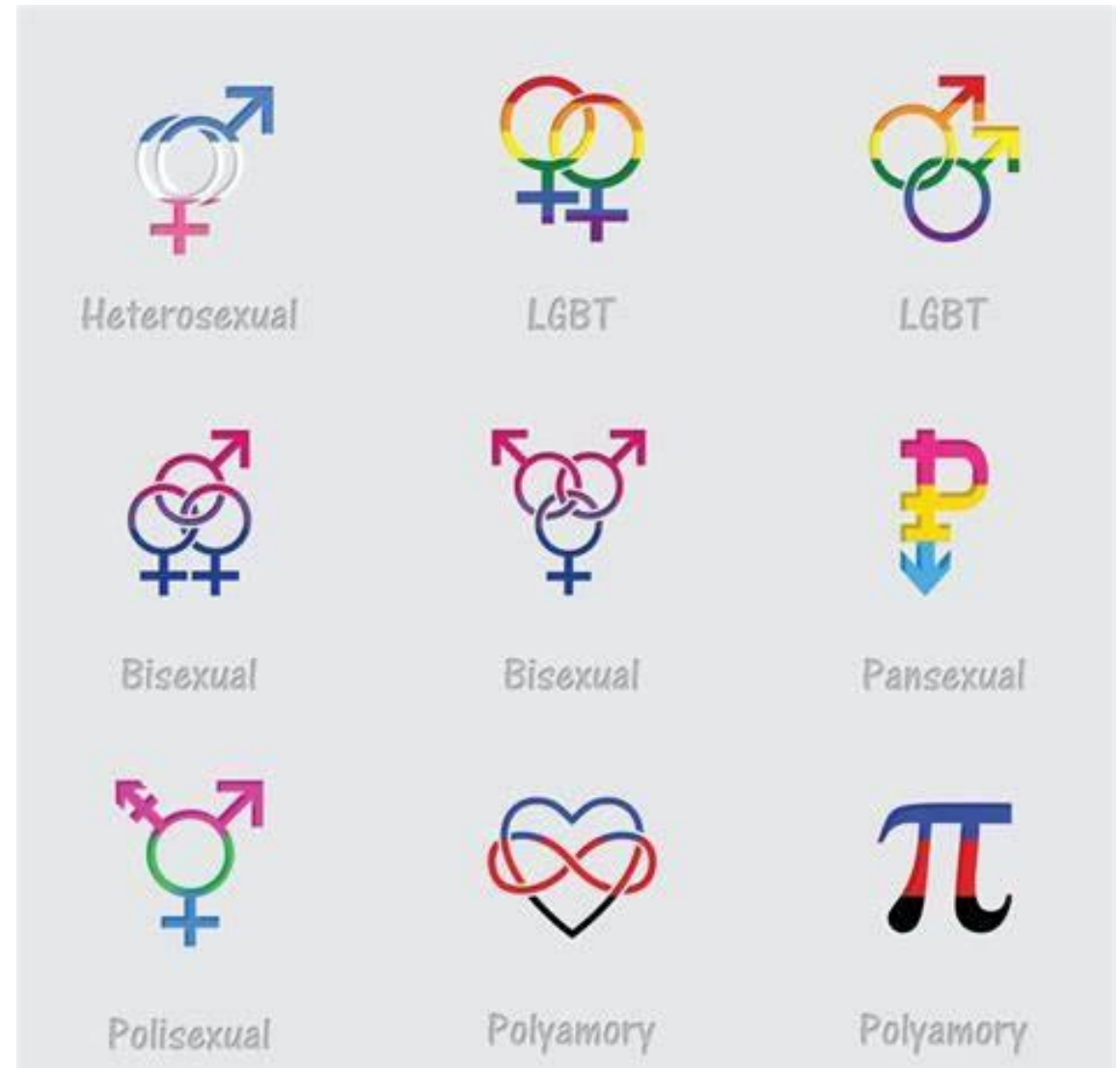


Human Sexuality



Sexual orientation

- Human beings do not choose their sexual orientation.
- Human beings do not choose the interests that stimulate arousal.
- Some human beings find themselves with sexual interest/orientations that can cause harm.
- Some human beings are robbed of the potential for intimacy.
- Human beings do choose their sexual practices (including fantasizing and behaviours)



Sexual interests, fantasies and fantasising

Sexual Interests

- An evaluative construct regarding the sexual appeal of a particular target category or behaviour category
- Bartels 2021

Sexual fantasies

- Mental imagery that is sexually arousing or erotic
- Leitenberg & Henning 1995

Fantasizing

- The degree to which an individual may engage with a fantasy
- Bartels & Beech 2016

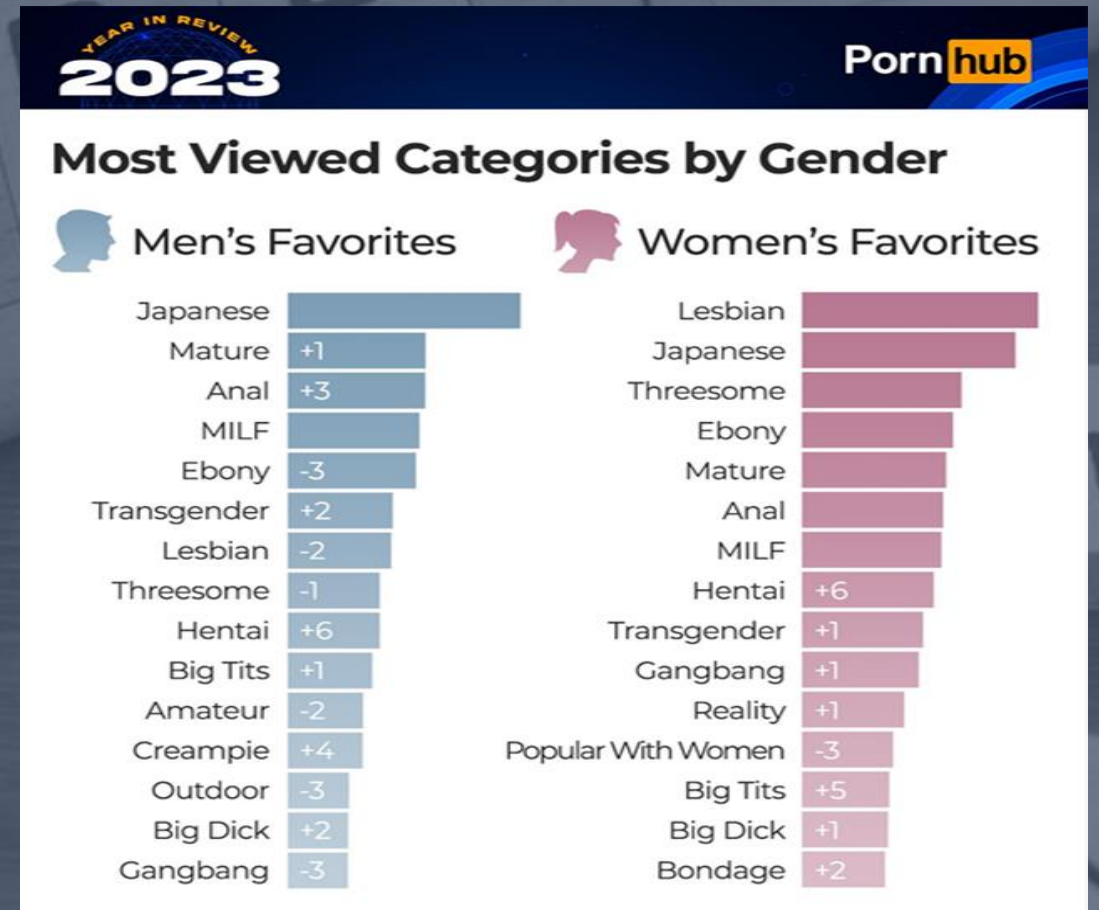
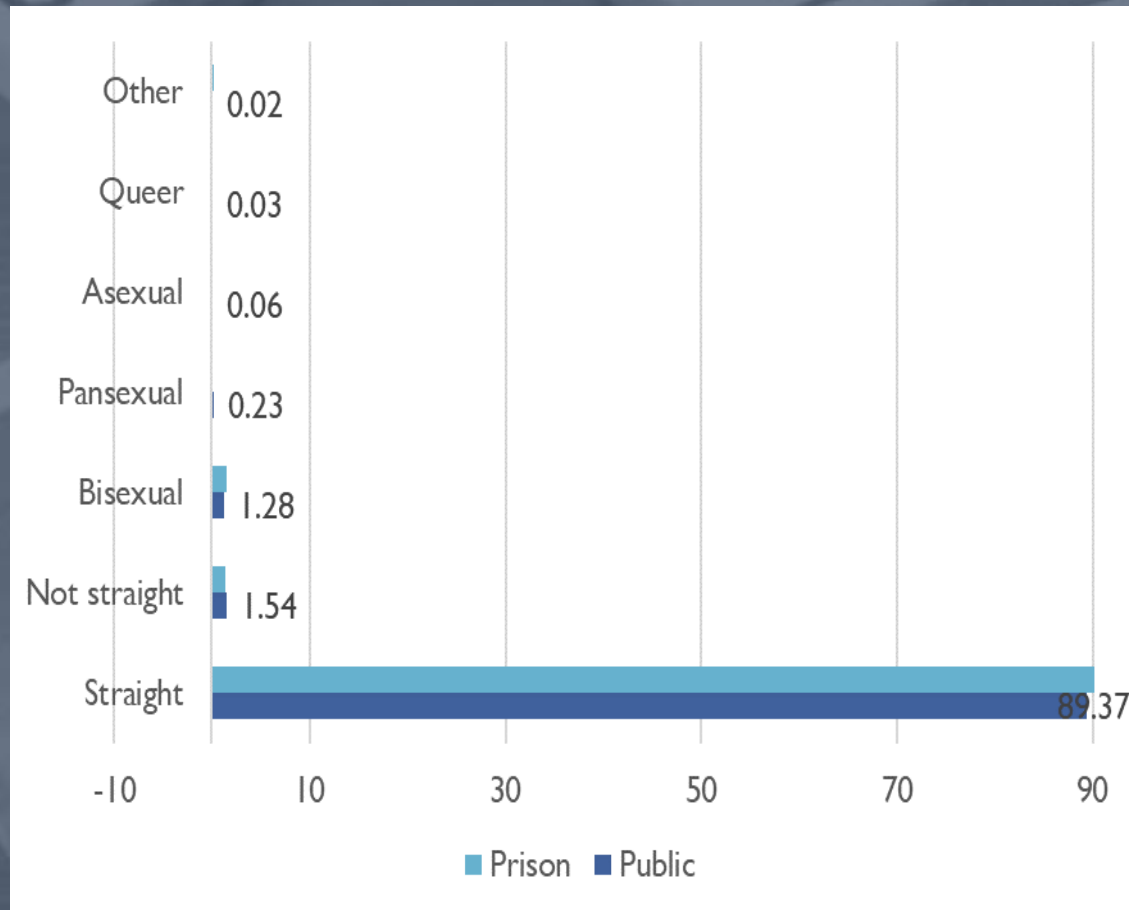
Human Sexuality: a preoccupation?

- Porn sites receive more website traffic in the U.S. than Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Netflix, Pinterest, and Zoom.
- 1 out of every 8 porn titles shown to first-time visitors to porn sites described acts of sexual violence (Vera-Gray, F., McGlynn, C., Kureshi, I., & Butterby, K. (2021). Sexual violence as a sexual script in mainstream online pornography. The British Journal of Criminology, doi:10.1093/bjc/azab035)
- In 2019 Pornhub had 42 *billion* visits: 1,120 visits a second, or 96.8 million a day.
- In 2018, 109,012,068,000 videos were viewed on porn hub. 14 videos for every person on the planet.
- More than 5,824,699,200 hours of porn were watched on Pornhub in 2019 alone: 665 centuries of content consumed in 1 year, on just one porn site.



Pornhub will have recorded more than 200,000 visits since this slide came on screen and almost 16 million by the time I shut up...

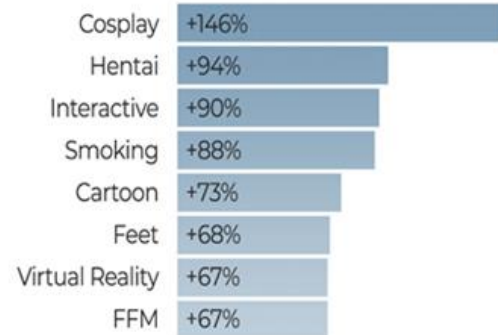
Sexual orientation to sexual interests: Consistency vs diversity



Sexual interests: generational differences

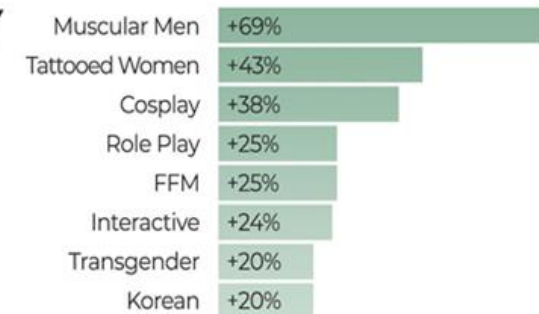
Gen Z

18-24



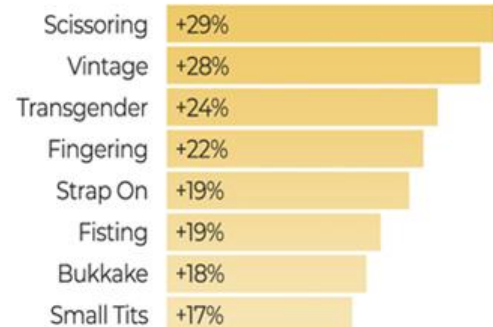
Gen Y

25-34



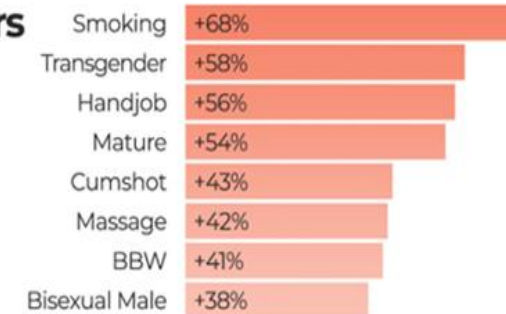
Gen X

35-54



Boomers

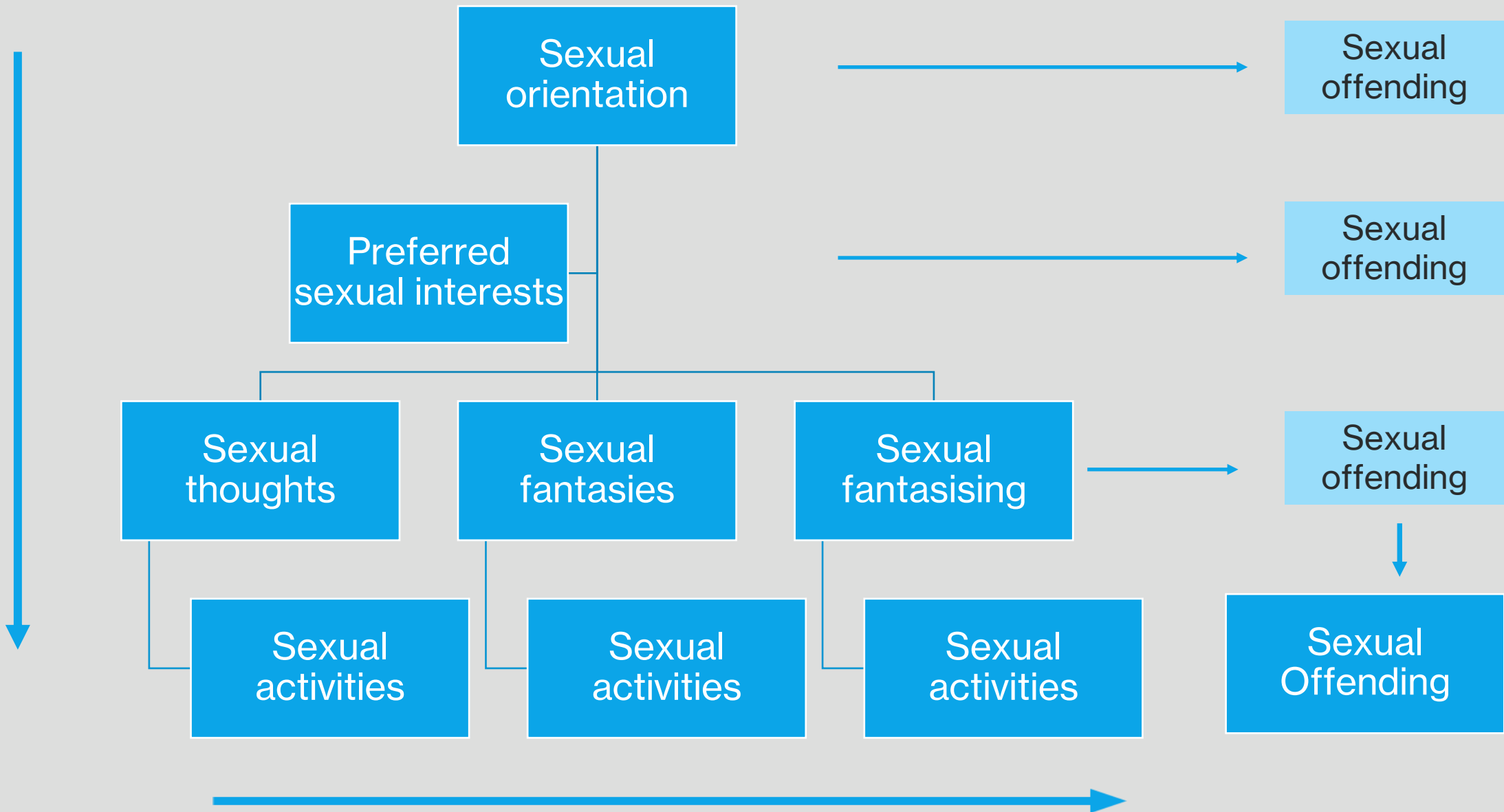
55+



Sexual Interests in Children

- Pedo-/hebephilia best conceptualised as a sexual orientation in men (Grundmann et al 2016).
- Individuals who commit sexual offences against children do not always meet criteria for paedophilia (Gerwinn et al, 2018).
- People with SO/SIIC do not necessarily offend against children (Gerwinn et al 2018, Jahnke 2018).
- Self-report data from Dunkfield project suggest sexual fantasies are stable (Grundmann et al 2016).





Interventions for people with sexual convictions

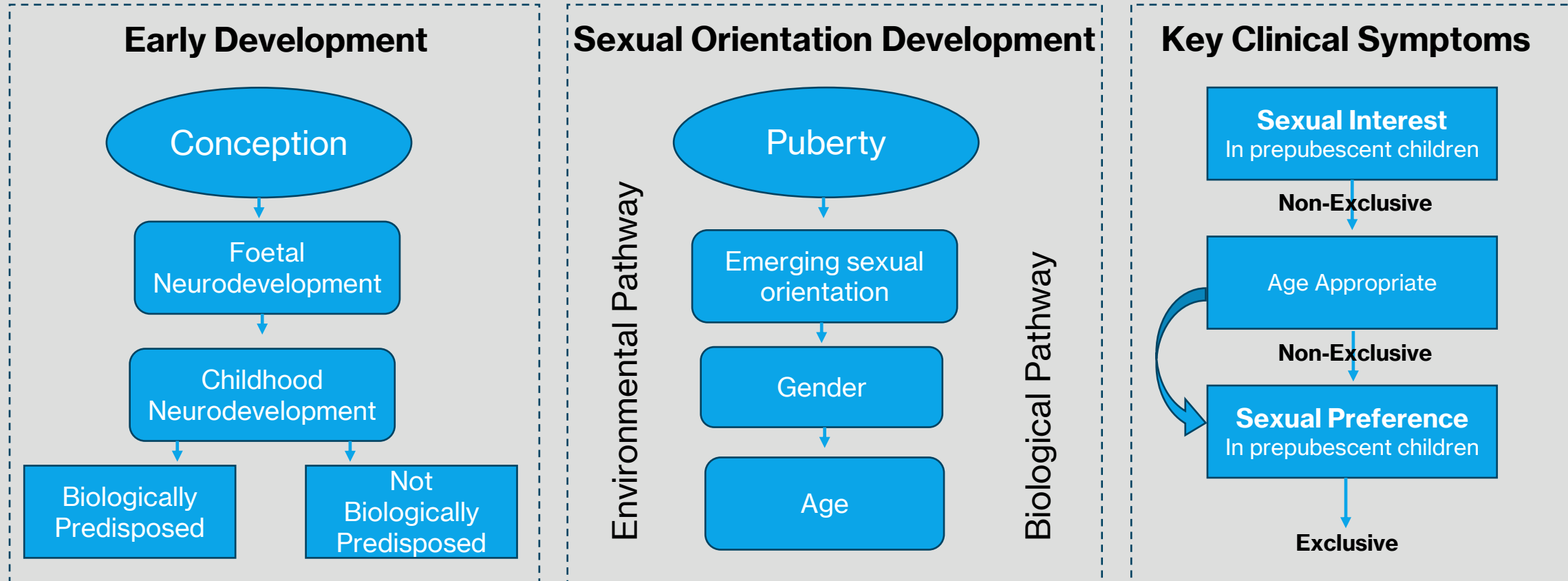
Need to establish which aspect(s) of human sexuality drives the behaviour (if it is sexually motivated).

Interventions will need to accommodate the level of sexuality that drives behaviour.

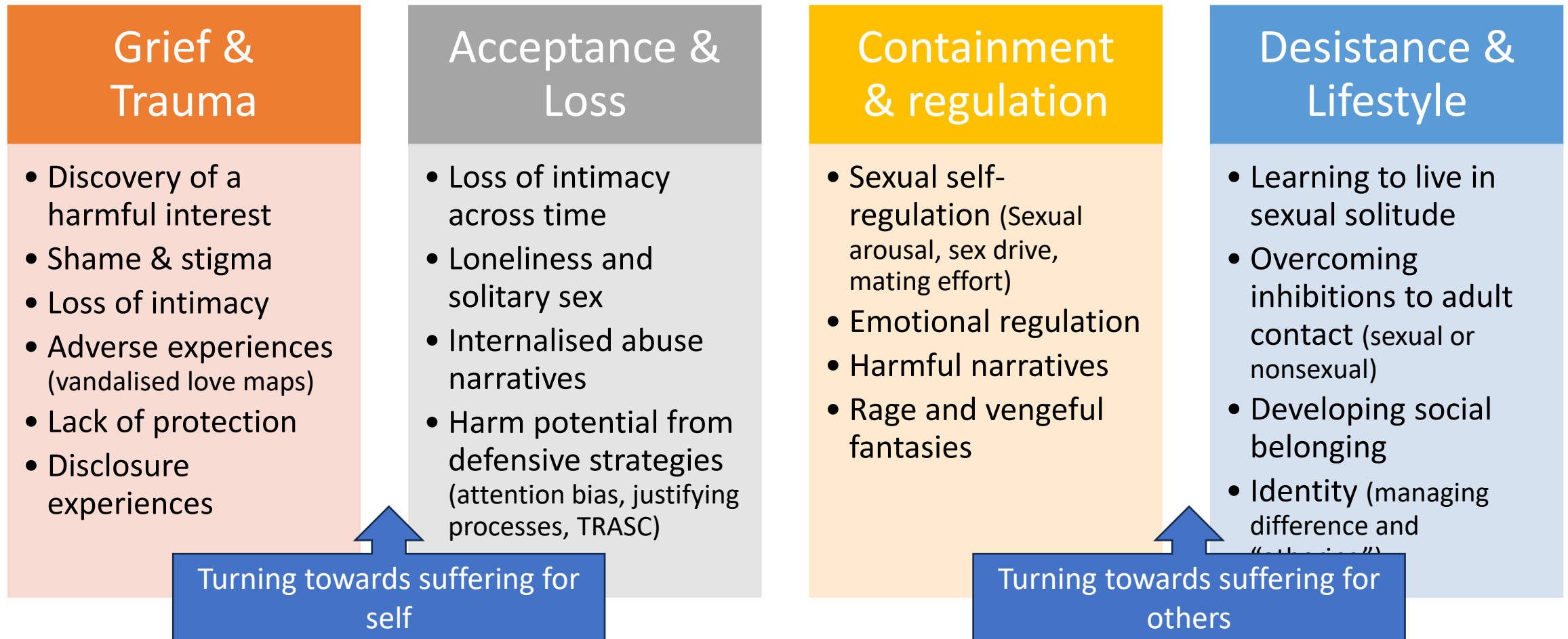
Offending driven by sexual orientation will need a different treatment focus

Compositional Theory of Pedophilia

(Gannon 2021)



Framework for working with harmful sexual orientation and/or interests



Grief: Biological pathway



Noticing early arousal patterns



Reactions to self



Attempts to conceal (from self and others)



Developing social script/presentation to blend in



Grief: Environmental pathway

- Experiences of sexual abuse; sexual conditioning
- Internalisation of perpetrator justifications
- Betrayal trauma (trusted adult)
- Responses to disclosure (inc professional responses)

