

TITRE / TITLE

Understanding and addressing online child sexual abuse

THEME / THEMATIC

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Travail thérapeutique sur le trauma / Therapeutic Work on Trauma

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TEXTE / TEXT

Online child sexual abuse (OCSA) has garnered increasing attention in both, media and politics, with studies showing a rising number of affected children and adolescents. OCSA includes a range of harmful behaviours, such as the distribution of sexual content, online grooming, and the sexual exploitation of minors through digital platforms. Research has shown that OCSA also occurs within the family. For example, in one case that was made public in Germany, a father filmed his daughter being abused and then posted it online. This growing phenomenon presents complex challenges for professionals and policymakers, as the lines between online and offline victimization become increasingly blurred.

This workshop offers a comprehensive examination of OCSA, exploring its various forms and identifying those most at risk. It begins with an overview of current research and statistics on OCSA, followed by an analysis of its perception and challenges within professional practice. Using case studies from the media and examples provided by participants, the discussion will address key questions: Why is OCSA so difficult to define? What barriers exist in identifying and responding to it? How can professionals better assess and act on cases of OCSA? Additionally, strategies for raising awareness among parents about online risks will be explored.

The workshop integrates scientific evidence with practical experience, providing opportunities for participants to share insights. A final group discussion will focus on translating research findings into actionable strategies for prevention, awareness, and intervention.