

**Psychotherapy Trainees and
Social Networking Use**

David B. Weed, Matthew Kincheloe,
& Caleb W. Lack, Ph.D.

University of Central Oklahoma



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Acknowledgements

- Research & travel funding

- University of Central Oklahoma
 - Office of Research and Grants
 - College of Education & Professional Studies
 - UCO Foundation




UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Introduction

- Social networking

- Rules of engagement

- Further rules for the Professional
 - Patient confidentiality



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Introduction

- Web 2.0
 - Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc.
 - Permanency of posted information
- The extension of social rules and obligations into new forms of communication
 - Or the lack thereof



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Introduction

- Institutional and patient concerns
 - Portrayal of Professionalism
 - Patient confidentiality
- Previous studies
 - Chretien et al. (2008)
 - Ferndig et al. (2009)
 - Lack et al. (2009)



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Current Study

- Psychotherapists in training and web use
- Formation of internet use habits
 - Information disclosure
 - Language and images



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Study Method

- Participant collection

- Data collection method



Participants

- 103 Graduate students from the University of Central Oklahoma currently enrolled in a Master's of Psychology program

- 53.4% ($n = 55$) had Facebook profiles

- Of those, 45.5% ($n = 25$) were publically accessible

- 60% ($n = 15$) of those with public profiles were female



Quantitative Analysis

- Looked for readily available information about participants with public profile
 - Standard form information
 - Number of:
 - Friends
 - Photographs
 - Group affiliations



Quantitative data

Revealed Information	Total (n = 25)	Revealed Information	Total (n = 25)
Birthday	92%	Email address	36%
Hometown	76%	IM screen name	24%
Relationship status	88%	Mean # friends	269.84
Political views	68%	(Range)	(0-1457)
Religious views	44%	Mean # photo albums	6.96
Sexual orientation	72%	(Range)	(0-45)
Personal photograph	96%	Mean # social groups	18.72
Field of study	92%	(Range)	(0-86)
Home postal address	4%		



Qualitative Analysis

- Concerned with things employers would look for, not included in quantitative analysis
- Qualitative analysis looked for:
 - Depictions of or references to overt sexual behavior, alcohol use, profanity, or illicit drug use
 - Instances of racism or sexism



Qualitative data

Displayed information	Total (n = 25)
Overt sexual behavior	32%
Alcohol use	36%
Profanity	4%
Illicit drug use	0%
Racism	0%
Sexism	0%



Discussion

- Based upon previous research
 - Predictions:
 - Roughly 70% would have profiles
 - Clear majority would have public profiles
- Results
 - 53.4% had profiles
 - 45.5% publically accessible



Conclusions

- Education
 - Professional responsibilities
 - Web 2.0 responsibilities
 - Common sense and prevention
- Future research opportunities
 - Current limited research base
 - Introduction of education



Finally

- Questions?

- Comments?