

# Sexual Offenses against Children: Social Learning Theory and Dark Web Reinforcement

Chicheng Yang<sup>a</sup>, Entien Ma<sup>b</sup>, Dayu Kao<sup>b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Foreign Affairs Police, Central Police University, Taiwan

<sup>b</sup>Department of Information Management, Central Police University, Taiwan

<sup>b</sup> Corresponded Author: camel@mail.cpu.edu.tw

**Abstract**—As cybercrime activity increasingly uses anonymous technologies, the dramatic growth of child sexual exploitations on the dark web has posed a challenge to law enforcement agencies. Data were gathered in 2019 and 2020 through face-to-face interviews with a juvenile in New Taipei City, Taiwan. This paper extends the application of social learning theory to online child sexual abuse behavior. Research testing Akers' social learning theory has been confined to sexual offenses against children on the dark web. A social learning concept of differential association, definitions, imitation, and differential reinforcement is illustrated and supported by online child sexual abuse behavior findings. Before it occurs, preventing child sexual abuse has become a critical issue and necessary effort from all areas of society: family caring, school instruction, community-based treatment, and social values. An innovative social learning strategy to battle online child sexual abuse is proposed to reduce juvenile delinquency on the dark web. Every child, parent, teacher, or social worker who works with children should realize what child sexual abuse is and how to prevent it.

**Keyword**—Sexual Abuse, Dark Web, Social Learning Theory, Criminology, Juvenile Delinquency



**Chi-Cheng Yang** is an Instructor at the Department of Foreign Affairs Police, Central Police University, Taiwan. With a Master degree in Administration Police and a PhD degree in Crime Prevention and Correction from Central Police University, Taiwan, in 1999 and 2014, respectively. His research interests include Criminal justice system, police service, Information Security Regulations, and cyber criminology.



**Entien Ma** is a student at the Department of Information Management, College of Police Science and Technology, Central Police University, Taiwan.



**Dayu Kao** is an Associate Professor at Department of Information Management, College of Police Science and Technology, Central Police University, Taiwan. He is responsible for various recruitment efforts and training programs for Taiwan civil servants, police officers or ICT technicians. He has an extensive background in law enforcement and a strong interest in information security, ICT governance, technology-based investigation, cyber forensics, human resource development, and public sector globalization. He was a detective and forensic police officer at Taiwan's Criminal Investigation Bureau (under the National Police Administration). With a Master degree in Information Management and a PhD degree in Crime Prevention and Correction, he had led several investigations in cooperation with police agencies from other countries for the past 20 years. He can be reached at camel@mail.cpu.edu.tw.