



Sébastien Prat, MD

Research Work & Current Projects

My research focuses on risk assessment and violent behaviour. I am interested in understanding the psychobiological factors underlying deviant behaviour. I have a particular interest in sexual offences and online offences. I believe that the use of technology such as virtual reality can enhance our understanding and treatment of offenders. In terms of research, I also study normal sexual behaviours as a way to understand deviant sexual behaviour.

Another one of my research interests is around stigma and media representation of the forensic population; further research in this area will help these individuals reintegrate back into their communities.

Research in these areas will assist in improving the criminal justice system, to reduce the risk of violence and to provide optimal care to individuals with mental illness who are in conflict with the criminal justice system. Studying offenders is not straight forward due to the attached stigma and the ethical considerations.

As part of my interest in academic research, I have participated in launching the International Journal of Risk and Recovery, a forensic mental health journal that focuses on clinical practice. We have published three issues and are celebrating its' first anniversary. I am also actively involved in developing the Brainstorm Podcast, a knowledge translation tool that will help educate professionals and community members about mental health, with an initial focus on forensic psychiatry and criminology.

I am also actively seeking international collaborations. I continue to partner with my former French colleagues around sexual offending research but also more broadly around education in forensic psychiatry; notably with faculty from the University of Tours and clinicians of the Forensic Psychiatry section of the French Biological Psychiatry Association (AFPBN). Within the Forensic Program at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, we recently developed a partnership with clinicians and researchers of the Serbsky National Medical Research Centre for Psychiatry and Narcology in Moscow, Russia. As part of my interest in international partnerships and knowledge translation in research and clinical practice, I have participated for the past two years in organizing the Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences section of the annual conference of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. During the upcoming conference that will take place in Baltimore in February 2019, I will be the Chair of the Psychiatry scientific section and the Co-Chair of the Academy Cup (an educational session that tests forensic knowledge).

Recent Publications

Cécile Michaud & Sébastien Prat (2018) Involuntary Hospitalisation in France: Major Evolution of Legal Aspects, *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 25:1, 124-130, DOI: [10.1080/13218719.2017.1387849](https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2017.1387849)

Sébastien Prat, Noémie Praud, Lauren Barney (2018) Criminal court ordered assessments in France and Canada: a comparison, *International Journal of Risk and Recovery*, 1:2, 32-35, DOI: [10.15173/ijrr.v1i2.3562](https://doi.org/10.15173/ijrr.v1i2.3562)