

Acknowledgment

This edited volume aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the various aspects of sexual online grooming (SOG). The contributions from the authors shed light on this phenomenon not only from specific perspectives but also through their unique interpretations of SOG. Thus, the book encompasses insights not only from researchers but also from therapists and individuals dedicated to prevention strategies, investigation, and prosecution within the context of SOG. By incorporating this diversity, our intention is to engage a wide audience on a topic that, much like child sexual abuse in general, often remains relegated to tabooed spheres and thus lacks presence in social discourse, despite its high prevalence. However, it is important to note that this book does not claim to cover all dimensions of SOG. There are still numerous research gaps in this field that have received limited or no attention, such as female sexual online groomers, SOG among peers, and the utilization of artificial intelligence for early detection and prevention of SOG.

We extend our gratitude to the professionals, researchers, and organizations dedicated to understanding, preventing, investigating, and prosecuting SOG, as well as to those involved in treating offenders and victims. Additionally, we express our appreciation to individuals and institutions whose support was instrumental in realizing this book. Specifically, we acknowledge the financial support provided by the Freie Universität Berlin, without which this project would not have been feasible. We sincerely appreciate the support of the Institute for Sexology and Sexual Medicine at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, as well as the Prevention Network “*Kein Täter werden*” (meaning: don’t offend). Their important work significantly contributes to preventing sexual offenses against children and addressing pedophilic and/or hebephilic disorders as mental health issues. Our heartfelt thanks go to the authors whose contributions highlight various aspects of the topic, enriching the diversity of the book’s content.

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SOG remains a societal issue that requires heightened awareness. Effective prevention necessitates the establishment of evidence-based knowledge at individual, societal, legal, and technological levels.