

Formato: Comunicação Oral apresentada em Conferência

Fátima Ferreira

fatimaabreuferreira@hotmail.com

Paula Martins

pcmartins@psi.uminho.pt

Rui Gonçalves

rabrunhosa@psi.uminho.pt

Cyberbullying: a critical perspective on cyberbullying victimization and the overlap between the roles of victims and aggressors

Social Psychology Section Annual Conference 2011
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, 6-8 September

Language: English

Abstract:

- The main objective of this research is to examine the national prevalence and scale of cyberbullying, how it takes place and the core characteristics (behaviors, frequency, and duration) of cyberbullying victimization. We also intend to analyze the existence of an overlap between the roles of victims and aggressors concerning this risk. In order to accomplish our goals we have made a cross cultural comparison between Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom and developed a questionnaire (Online Victimization Assessment) that we have applied to a representative sample of students from ten to eighteen years old, from Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. Participants were students on randomly selected public and private schools and descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze data. Results reveal that cyberbullying is the most present risk in online youngsters' exposure in the three contexts. We also identified the existence of an overlap between the roles of victims and aggressors, with older females, without parental supervision, revealing higher correlation levels. These results led us to conclude that the anonymity of the Internet and the fact of not having to deal directly with the consequences of their actions, can often led victims to engage in cyberbullying behaviors themselves.

Keywords: Online Risks; Victimization, Internet; New technologies; aggressors; Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying:

A critical perspective on cyberbullying victimization and the overlap between the roles of victims and aggressors

Fátima Abreu Ferreira

Paula Cristina Marques Martins

Rui Abrunhosa Gonçalves



Minho University
School of Psychology

Objectives



1

Examine the prevalence and scale of cyberbullying
- Cross cultural comparison



2

Identify a risk profile for victims and aggressors



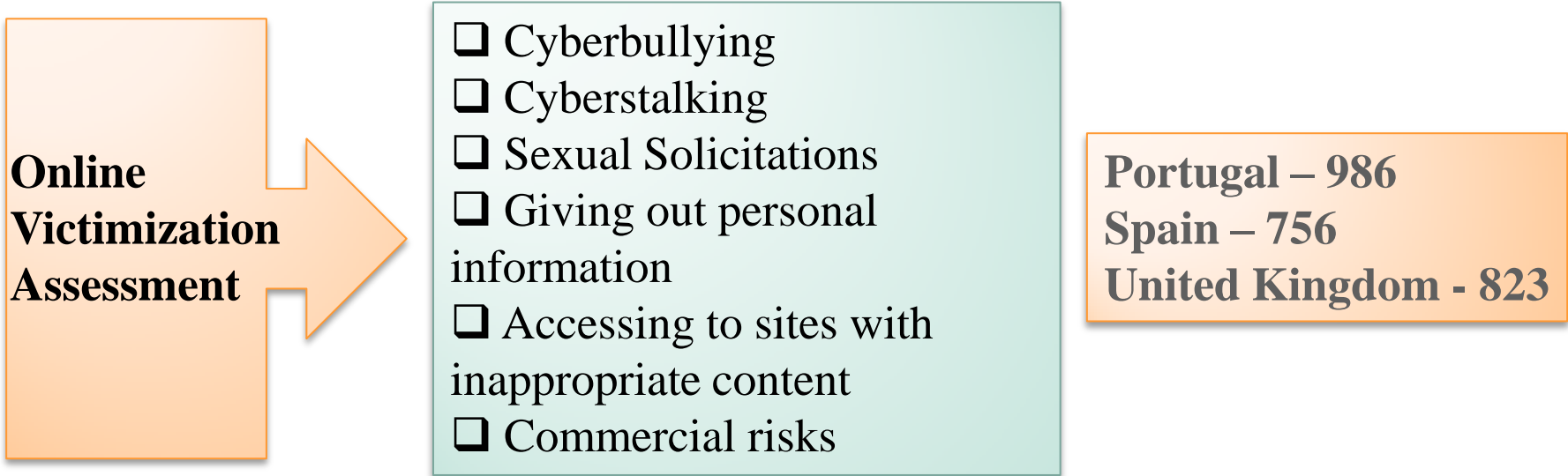
3

Analyze the existence of an overlap between the roles of victims and aggressors

Instruments and Procedures

- In order to accomplish our goals we have made a cross cultural comparison between Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom and developed a questionnaire (Online Victimization Assessment) that we have applied to a representative sample of students from ten to eighteen years old. Participants were students on randomly selected public and private schools and descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze data.

**Online
Victimization
Assessment**



```
graph LR; A[Online Victimization Assessment] --> B[☐ Cyberbullying  
☐ Cyberstalking  
☐ Sexual Solicitations  
☐ Giving out personal information  
☐ Accessing to sites with inappropriate content  
☐ Commercial risks]; B --> C[Portugal - 986  
Spain - 756  
United Kingdom - 823];
```

- ☐ Cyberbullying
- ☐ Cyberstalking
- ☐ Sexual Solicitations
- ☐ Giving out personal information
- ☐ Accessing to sites with inappropriate content
- ☐ Commercial risks

**Portugal – 986
Spain – 756
United Kingdom - 823**

Sample

Portugal



Sex

Male: 55,27 %

Female: 44,73%

Age

10 - 18

Computer

1,6% does not have

Cellular Phone

0.81% does not have

Spain



Sex

50,40%

49,60%

Age

10 - 18

Computer

1.19% does not have

Cellular Phone

1.45% does not have

United Kingdom



Sex

48,60%

51,40%

Age

10 - 18

Computer

1.45% does not have

Cellular Phone

1.59% does not have

Results

1

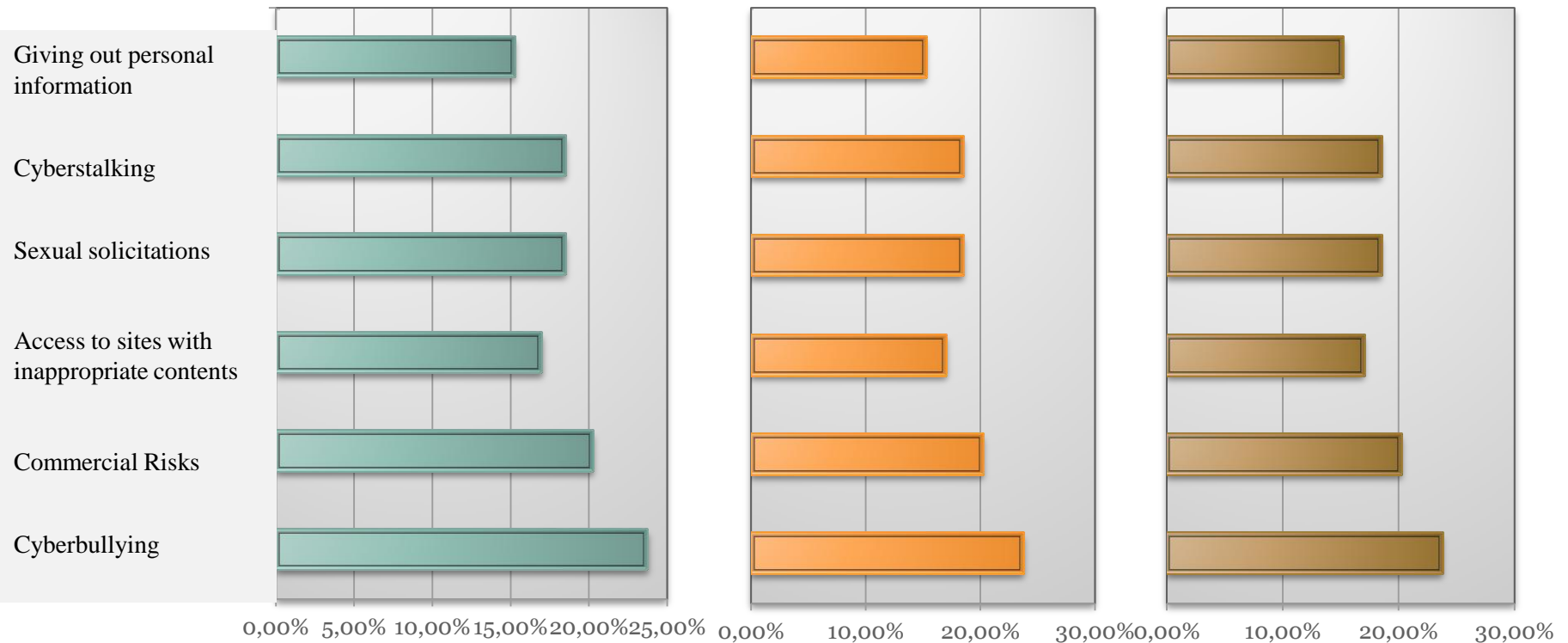
Examine the prevalence and scale of cyberbullying
Cross cultural comparison



Portugal

Spain

United Kingdom



Results

1 - Examine the prevalence and scale of cyberbullying - Victim



| Cyberbullying behaviors |
|--|
| Receiving threatening messages via mobile phone |
| Receiving insulting messages by phone |
| Receiving insulting messages by e-mail |
| Someone wrote jokes, comments or embarrassing rumors about you on the Internet (e.g. Facebook, MySpace, Hi5, MSN) |
| Someone excluded yourself (or blocked you up) from an online group (such as chat rooms, group of friends, MSN, etc.) |
| Receiving threatening messages via e-mail |



The most commons

Results

1 - Examine the prevalence and scale of cyberbullying - Victim



Cyberbullying behaviors

Someone got your password and pretended to be you, sending emails, messages, or insulting or threatening jokes or gossip.

Someone sent mobile messages to your friends and colleagues with jokes, rumors or embarrassing comments about you.

Someone recorded a video or took pictures with the phone while other person was having fun making you go through something horrible or humiliating.

Someone created a blog or website to badmouth you

Someone published humiliating images or videos on your Internet without your consent

Someone published your secrets online, information or compromising images without your consent



The least commons

Results

1 - Examine the prevalence and scale of cyberbullying - Aggressor



Cyberbullying behaviors

Delete (or block) one of a group online (such as chat rooms, group of friends, MSN, etc.)

Send messages to insult someone by phone

Send threatening messages to anyone by phone

Write jokes, gossip or embarrassing comments about someone on the Internet (e.g. Facebook, MySpace, Hi5, MSN)

Send phone messages with jokes, rumours or embarrassing comments about someone

Record a video or take pictures with the phone while someone enjoys making other people go through something horrible or humiliating.



The most commons

Results

Examine the prevalence and scale of cyberbullying - Agressor



Cyberbullying behaviors

Send threatening messages to anyone by email

Send threatening messages to anyone by phone

Create a blog or website to badmouth someone

Get the password of someone without their consent, and pretend that you are him/her, sending emails, messages, or insulting or threatening jokes or gossip

Publish online the secrets of others, information or compromising images without their consent

Post pictures or videos of humiliating someone on the Internet without your consent



The least commons

Results

2 - Identify a risk profile for victims and aggressors

Victims

- Age – (over 16 years)
- Sex – Female
- Not having extra curricular activities
- No parental supervision
- Spending more time in the Internet
- Alone (with no friends)

*Positive
correlations*

Portugal

Spain

**United
Kingdom**

Results

2 - Identify a risk profile for victims and aggressors

Aggressors

- Age – (over 16 years)
- Sex – no significant differences
- Having extra curricular activities - Sports
- No parental supervision and no rules on what they can do
- Spending more time in the Internet
- Be on the Internet with no friends – the social phenomenon

*Positive
correlations*

Portugal

Spain

**United
Kingdom**

Results

3

Analyze the existence of an overlap between the roles of victims and aggressors



Higher correlation levels

- Females
- Over 16 years old
- No parental supervision
- Spending more time on the Internet

Portugal

Spain

United Kingdom

Final Considerations

- Theoretical review points out to giving out personal information as the most common and dangerous risk
- There are no significant differences between realities but some regards must be made
- Victim Profile - Aggressor Profile
Overlap
- Theoretical explanations – anonymity; no physical strength
- Public alarmism

Thank You!

Fátima Abreu Ferreira

fatimaabreuferreira@hotmail.com

Paula Cristina Marques Martins

pcmartins@psi.uminho.pt

Rui Abrunhosa Gonçalves

rabrunhosa@psi.uminho.pt



Minho University
School of Psychology