“Online I am someone else.....”
Young women with experience of selling sex online

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Experience of selling sex  
(Svedin & Priebe, 2009)

3500 Swedish youth (age 18.4)

- 1.5% of the youth have experience of selling sex
- More boys (1.7%) than girls (1.2%)
- Internet were the most common arena for contact
- Most youth had sold sex less than five times
- More problematic social background
- Experience their health as worse
- 78% experienced sexual abuse, 51% penetrating sexual abuse

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(Jonsson & Svedin, 2012)
Online I am someone else....
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- 11 interviews with young women between 15-25 years old that before the age of 18 had sold sex online.
- No men/boys included!

Aim
- Describe the areas of contacts.
- Describe the young persons living situation and reasons for selling sex.

- Average age 19.7 years old
- From different places in Sweden
- Occupation: Students, employers, parental leave or medical leave
- Most (n=8) were in a relationship
- First time of selling sex (average 14.5 years old)
- Described that they quitted, but only three had not sold sex during the last year
The informants about.....

- Internet and mobile phone use
- using the Internet differently when unwell
- getting in contact
- what kind of sexual services were sold
- compensation for sex
- the buyers
- images and films
- threat

Since I got my iphone I am always online (...) I do everything with it. Can hardly understand that I had a life before my iPhone. Mum were crazy, but now, both she and dad have one, so now they don´t complain he he....
The informants about.....

- Internet and mobile phone use
- using the Internet differently when unwell
- getting in contact
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- compensation for sex
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I surched the web about everything there was about self harm, anorexia and things like that. On Pro-ana I was very active and shared recepees with the others.
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Getting in contact

- Youth sites
- Sex sites
- Advertisements on sex selling sites

- Most were in the “hidden” prostitution on the net, especially youth under 18.
- Special langugae, "code langugae"
Write for example “Mia, 14”, and after a sec there are innumerous people who want to talk sex with you.

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No but like..he started talk about shugging and then he talked about sex and things like that. ”You can have a lot of clothes if you do it”, he said. And I just..no...clothes can’t come from nowhere. My parents would wonder where I have got them from.

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Pictures and films

- Own produced material posted/sent online
- Own produced material sold online
- Material produced in the selling situation with consensus
- Material produced in the selling situation without consensus.
- There was a worry concerning the pictures and films

I came to the hotel, and there was another man also. I always get scared than, but I couldn´t walk out. I couldn´t do it. And then when they were at it I saw that they took turns in holding the camera. They said "smile" and so, and I was scared.
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Reasons for selling sex

- Being someone, see mee!
I don’t know why, that was, I supposed...mostly was about getting affirmation. They (the buyers) could say something about me, but not always. I got disappointed when they didn’t say something, wanted to hear that I was good. If I didn’t get to hear that, I could at the same time text with someone else directly after, just because I needed to hear something good.

Reasons for selling sex....

- Being someone, see mee!
- Self loathing
I don’t like myself. It feels like my body always have been a tool. It has not been a part of the rest of me. Well, its been a way of hurting myself really. I have never felt comfortable in larger settings, I have never belonged there. I don’t feel I am the person that others see me as...that I am the person they describe me as. I see myself as a worse person. I am not good at anything, besides sex, and at the the same time it (sex) is difficult with my partner.

Reasons for selling sex.....

- Being someone, see mee!
- Self loathing
- Sex to control anxiety, like self harming.
You feel like you are worthless. Your whole body shakes and I panic – I can start to scream for example. It all starts again. Memories come back to me. I get scared. It mostly happened when I was by myself so my parents didn’t know about it.

Thin line between life and death

I see no future, I don’t know, I see no future. I can still see how they kill me, especially now when there is a police investigation. ...No, but its the fact that the strangle me with their hands when they have sex with me.
Online I am someone else....
(Jonsson & Svedin, 2012)

- Youth are approached sexually online but are also active themselves in contacting
- Not in the “open prostitution online”
- Not decided on beforehand what will happen at the meeting
- Not one explanations why
- Traumatic experiences, e.g. sexual abuse
- Being someone, who am I?
- Relation to self harm and sex as a way of self harming
- Hard to quit! Replace the need with something else