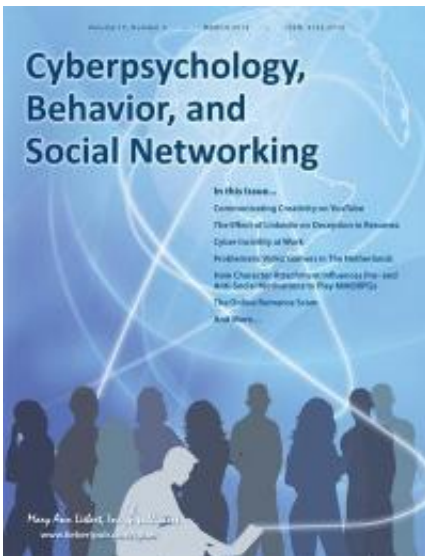


Online dating scammers looking for money, not love

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Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking is an authoritative peer-reviewed journal published monthly in print and online that explores the psychological and social issues surrounding the Internet and interactive technologies. Credit: ©2012 Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers

Online romance scams, a new form of cybercrime, is under-reported and increasing, and has victimized an estimated 230,000 people in England, costing them nearly \$60 billion a year, according to an article in *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, a peer-reviewed journal published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

The article is available free online at the *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and*

[Social Networking](#) website.

"This crime is very serious and unfortunately often overlooked. The costs to the victim are both hidden (emotional) and more visible (monetary)," says Brenda K. Wiederhold, PhD, MBA, BCIA, Editor-in-Chief of Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking, from the Interactive Media Institute, San Diego, CA.

Online dating scammers pretend to initiate a [romantic relationship](#) through online dating services and then defraud their victims of large sums of money over a period of months or longer. Monica Whitty, University of Leicester, UK, and Tom Buchanan, University of Westminster, London, UK, document the rapid growth in these [serious crimes](#) and how cybercriminals pursue and steal from their victims. They describe the devastating financial and emotional losses the victims suffer.

More information: www.liebertpub.com/cyber

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

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