



## Aggression & Conflict

Psychology 320  
Social Psychology

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### What is aggressive?

- Justified or not
- Physical vs. Verbal
- Instrumental vs. Emotional
- Intentional vs. Unintentional
- Antisocial vs. Prosocial
- Sanctioned aggression
- Behavior vs. Feelings
- Direct vs. Indirect

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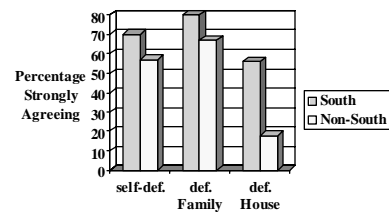
### Types of Aggression

- 1) **Instrumental Aggression** - aggression in order to obtain something of value (means to an end)
- 2) **Emotional Aggression** - impulsive behavior intended solely to hurt another person (end in itself)

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### Killing in Defense of Self-Protection Kahn, Andrews, & Head (1972)



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### Sources of Anger

- Attack
- Frustration
- Expectation of Retaliation opportunity → more anger
- Attributions about intent

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### Social Learning

- Behavior learned through observation or direct experience of punishment/rewards
- Can increase or decrease aggression

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## Bobo

Model	Physical Aggression	Verbal Aggression
Neutral	Low	Low
Violent	High	Medium

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## Frustration-Aggression

- Frustration (blocking the attainment of a goal) always leads to a motive to aggress
- When aggressive motive cannot be satisfied (situational constraints), can be temporarily inhibited
- **Displacement**: aggressing against a substitute target
- **Catharsis**: reduction of the motive to aggress after being aggressive or witnessing aggression
- “Getting it out of one’s system”

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## Criticisms of F-A Hypothesis

- Problems:
  - a) Frustration does not always lead to an aggressive motive
  - b) Frustration not the only cause of aggression
  - c) Evidence for displacement is ambiguous
  - d) Little evidence for catharsis

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## Negative Affect Hypothesis

- Negative affect (not frustration) leads to aggression
- Many possible sources of negative affect (frustration, physical pain, provocation)
- 4 Stages of Process
  1. Unpleasant Experience (frustration, noxious stimuli, provocation)
  2. Negative Affect
  3. Trigger memory, thought, and motor response associations (fight or flight)
  4. Higher order cognitive processing (determine how one should feel and behave)

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## Negative Affect Hypothesis

- - **Situational Cues** Can Influence third and fourth stages (e.g., weapons effect; TV violence)
- - What **kinds of thoughts** occur in fourth stage?
  - Attributions of Intent to Harm
  - Expectations of successful Aggression
  - Mitigating Information

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## Alcohol Myopia

- alcohol restricts range of cues perceived and ability to process those cues (E.g., might notice provocation, but not realize mitigating circumstances)

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### Gender Differences

- M > F overall
- F > M for indirect forms of aggression

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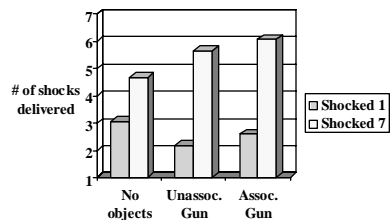
### Common Couple Violence

- Women more likely than men to be violent (physically and verbally) in their relationships.
- Women more likely to start aggressive acts.
- 25% of couples say violence is a normal part of the relationship.
- Men most likely to suffer due to societal constraints.
- Homosexual couple violence ← very little support

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### Cues to Aggress

Berkowitz & LePage (1967)



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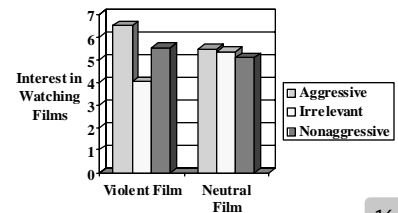
### Priming Aggression

Langley, O'Neal, Craig, & Yost (1992)

**Aggressive primes: insult, stab, anger**

**Irrelevant: hold, zone, move**

**Nonaggressive: praise, smile, jolly**



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### Punishing Aggression

- Deterrence
  - Anger is low
  - Instrumental aggression with small reward
  - Speed and magnitude of punishment
  - Probability of punishment

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### Effects of punishment

- We 'think' it works.
  - Test failed → punishment → improvement
    - Not just regression to the mean?
- Biological Approaches
  - Hormone therapy
  - Age and Hormones (release 'old' criminals)
  - Lobotomy
  - Genetic proclivity

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### Solutions using Drive Theory

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- Catharsis—Exhaustion but not effective
- Imagined catharsis—doesn't work

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### Solutions using Social Learning

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- Teach non-aggressive responding
- Plant non-aggressive models
- Cue a non-aggressive response
  - Incompatible responding

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