

Anti-Social Behavior

“Man’s inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn”

-Robert Burns

The 20th Century

- Dubbed the most violent of all time
- WWI (“the war to end all wars”) was promptly followed by WWII
 - 45 million deaths due to WWII alone
- Countless minor wars continue to break out, like hives, all over the world
- “The chief business of 20th century philosophy is to reckon with 20th century history”

– R. G. Collingwood

In America

- Since 1990, 100,000 Americans per year have died as the result of violent crimes
- The time is ripe for people to learn how to resolve conflict – both international and personal – in nonviolent ways

Definition of Aggression

- “Physical or verbal behavior _____ to harm another”
- Social psychologists make 3 distinctions
- _____
 - Aggression that is retaliatory, or tries to stave off aggression on the part of another
- _____
 - Aggression that serves as a “means to an end”
- _____ (emotional)
 - Aggression that is driven by negative affect

Which type of aggression?

Place a D, I, or H next to each example below

- A soldier shoots and kills a soldier from an opposing army
- A hockey player smashes a player from an opposing team with a stick to prevent him from scoring goal
- A sister angrily calls her brother a “stupid slob”
- A woman shoots mace at a would-be rapist
- The government executes a known murderer
- A man murders his wife’s lover in a jealous rage
- A parent spanks a disobedient child
- Two men kill a third man because he is gay

Hostile Aggression

- Aggression based on negative affect (i.e., that serves no greater purpose) is the most interesting to psychologists
- What causes it? What factors increase and decrease its likelihood?

Is aggression an instinct?

- Freud argued that we are equal parts _____ (the need to create) and _____ (the need to destroy)
- “Men are not gentle creatures who want to be loved, and who at the most can defend themselves if they are attacked; they are, on the contrary, creatures among whose instinctual endowments is a powerful share of aggressiveness”

For social psychologists

- Aggression is not an _____
- Instead, personality, biological, and situational factors are more likely predictors of aggression
- Personality
- Who is more aggressive? People with high or low self-esteem?

Conventional wisdom regards “_____ self-esteem” as the cause of aggression

- But Roy Baumeister reviewed the literature and found that, on the contrary, **people with _____ SE** are more likely to aggress
- Aggressors view themselves as “superior beings”
- They often show inflated opinion of self – when they are confronted with evaluations that dispute this, they lash out
- This is especially true when the challenger is considered an _____
- Rapists often choose a particular victim to disabuse her of her sense of superiority – they use rape as a means of proving her wrong
- Baumeister argues it would be better to instill a sense of humility and modesty in aggressors, as opposed to working on “boosting” their self-esteem

Biological bases of aggression

- Neurological
- Studies of prisoners convicted of violent crimes suggest the vast majority have suffered brain damage at some point in their lives
- In particular, damage to the _____ can lead to more aggression

“Testosterone poisoning”

- Chemical
- Higher levels of _____ (T) and lower levels of _____ (S) have also been linked to violent behavior
- Studies of both male and female prisoners showed an association between T-levels and violence – the higher the T-level, the more violent the crime
- This relationship holds up for juvenile delinquents and military veterans as well

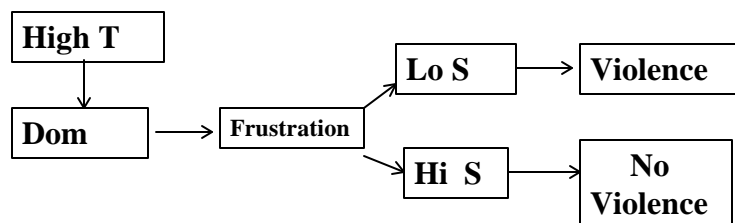
Caution!

- What isn't known is the direction of the causal link
- Animal studies show that T-levels increase in stressful situations
- So which came first, the prison or the T-level?

- _____
- Low levels of S are associated with being more aggressive
- It also makes us more _____ to aversive stimuli, which may explain the link
- Bernhardt (1997) has combined the testosterone and serotonin findings into an integrated model of aggression

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Integrated model of aggression



High testosterone leads to more status-seeking behaviors (dominance), which results in more frustrating experiences. Low serotonin makes the frustration more aversive, resulting in higher likelihood for violence.

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Situational influences on aggression

- Social psychologists have researched these the most
- Among the situational predictors studied are frustration, discomfort (e.g., heat and crowding), situational cues, cultural effects, and media influences

_____ -Aggression

- You don't have to be High T or Low S to experience aggression
- The most researched influence on aggression is _____
- But this alone is not enough to induce aggression – you also have to have thwarted expectations

The goal-interruption hypothesis

- Recall Mandler's theory of emotion?
- When our goals are _____ interrupted, the result is negative affect
- Frustration → Anger → Aggression

Frustration-Aggression in the lab: the telemarketing study

- Researchers hired students to phone up strangers and ask for charity donations
- Hired on commission, students received a fraction of each dollar pledged
- Half of the students were led to expect a _____ rate of contributions
- The other half were told _____ to expect much success
- The experiment was rigged – none of the potential donors agreed to make a contribution

Results

- Students in the “high hopes” condition were angry!
- Students in the “low hopes” condition accepted their fate with relative calm
- Thus, Frustration → Aggression occurred only for students with _____ expectations

- Mandler's theory also hypothesizes that the _____, the more frustrating an interruption will be

Frustration-Aggression in the field:

The "butt in line" study

- Brave confederates were sent out to "butt in line" at various places (e.g., movie theatres)
- When they butted into _____ place, the people behind them protested more often than if they butted into _____ place
 - People near the front are closer to their goal than people nearer the back

Discomfort-Aggression

- Frustration is not the only situational factor that increases aggression
- Discomfort of all kinds (heat, noise, crowding) increases the likelihood of aggression (see your text)
- Given the wide range of stimuli that makes us frustrated, uncomfortable and angry, we should consider carefully whether "_____ " anger is a means of reducing aggression

The _____ hypothesis

- It comes from Freud's "hydraulic" model – the more steam you let off, the less steam there will be available to transform into aggression
- Conversely, if you repress anger, it will eventually boil over into violence
- This idea is so commonly expressed that you might be surprised to find there is _____ to support this hypothesis

"violence _____ violence"

- Football players report _____ aggression after a season than before it begins
- Sports fans engage in _____ aggression after the event is over, compared with before
- Cross-culturally, a nation's murder rate tends to _____ immediately after a war is over
- Couples who engage in _____ _____ are also more physically violent toward one another

Catharsis in the lab: the rubber mallet study

- In each case, the pattern is _____ to the catharsis hypothesis
- Experimenters (using the teacher-learner paradigm) have also manipulated whether anger is “vented” or not
- Some subjects suffered an insult, and then all were given the chance to administer shocks to an innocent confederate
- Half of the insulted subjects were allowed to beat on the table with rubber mallets before the shocking started; the other half were not

Results

- If the catharsis hypothesis was correct, insulted subjects who banged on the table would have shocked the innocent victim less
- Instead, “venting” had no effect – _____ was the only thing that predicted how many shocks were delivered

Cue-Aggression hypothesis

- Your text discusses Berkowitz’s research on _____
- He showed that insulted subjects were more likely to shock innocent confederates if a _____ (compared with a racquet)
- Why? Because _____ are _____ that prime us to think about violence
- Let’s consider how this might work at the cultural level

Cultural differences

- A broad situational factor concerns the culture we grow up in
- The U.S. is notoriously known as a “violent culture” – because of our media and our love of guns
- In fact, Americans murder one another at a rate that astonishes the rest of the world

Situational cue?

- Americans are more likely to possess hand guns
 - It is estimated that between 65-80 million Americans own between 200-225 million firearms
 - Over the past ten years, the U.S. averaged over _____ hand-gun homicides per year
 - The U.K. has averaged less than _____

- If you compare Vancouver, B.C. to Seattle, WA (two cities equal on nearly every other factor but guns), Seattle has 10 times the number of murders

Subculture effects

- Americans in the South are substantially more murderous than Northerners
- Interestingly, Southerners don't _____ in general more than Northerners
- But they do agree more that a violent response to an insult is _____

“Culture of honor”

- Dov Cohen and Richard Nisbett argue that Southerners are descended from Celtic (Scotch/Welch) immigrants – known for their “culture of honor”
- In a culture of honor, people are quick to take offense at the slightest provocation
- And the response to “offenses” is more violent in nature

Field Study

- They sent a fake resume and cover letter to several companies in the South and North
- In it, the applicant admits to being a felon, but the crime was provoked by someone insulting his _____
- The response was dramatically different, with Southern companies _____ substantially more than Northern companies

Lab Experiment

- University of Michigan students were recruited; half hailed from the South, half from the North
- Subjects filled out a bogus survey, and were told to bring it to a table at the end of a long hall
- Planted in the hallway was a confederate standing with a file drawer open, digging through files
- To pass by, the confederate had to shut the file drawer – acting extremely inconvenienced, he insulted subjects as he did so
- He then escaped to a locked office
- In general, Southern subjects showed a lot more _____

- Northerners tended to act more _____
- How did they measure aggression?
- The primary DV was “_____” in the hallway
- To leave, the subject had to walk down the hallway again – this time, a second confederate approached, coming the other way
- Researchers measured _____

Results

- On average, Northern subjects moved out of the way _____ as did Southern subjects – suggesting that those from the South were more _____

Rape

- Contrary to murder, rape is a form of aggression found in all cultures
- Typically, men are the aggressors and women the victims
- More than _____% of college women report some form of sexual aggression (rape, attempted rape, sexual coercion), and _____% of college men admit to having been the perpetrators

A cognitive sex → aggression link

- Because men may behave aggressively in sexual situations (and women know this), both genders might show an automatic link between sex and aggression
- Mussweiler & Forster (2000) used a priming technique and found that, indeed, this was the case
- But which gender should be more likely to behave aggressively after being primed with sex?

The dart study

- The cover story: S’s were told that researchers were interested in finding out if people do cognitive tasks better with or without music
- S’s then engaged in a “find a word” puzzle task
- Primed subjects found _____ words planted in their puzzle
- Control subjects found **neutral** words (desk, chair, paper)
- The idea was to prime some subjects with _____ words to see if they would **behave more** _____ than controls

The behavioral measure

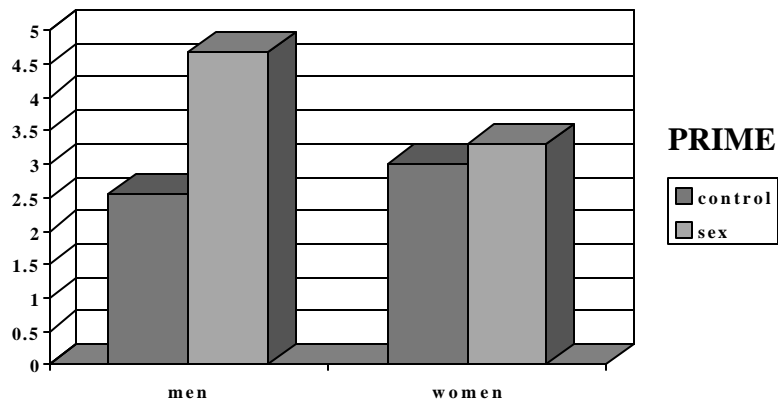
- After the priming task, S's engaged in an ostensibly unrelated experiment about the effects of free will on skill performance
- The skill was dart-throwing – S's were first told where to throw, and then they got to choose where to throw the dart
- Each subject threw 10 darts each time

Hypothesis

- The dartboard contained pictures of male and female faces, as well as inanimate objects
- Men primed with sex should be more _____ (aim for people), compared with controls
- Women should _____ show a behavioral sex → aggression link

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of darts directed at faces



Summary

- Men primed to think about sex were _____ likely to exhibit aggression, compared with _____
- Women were not affected by the priming manipulation (they were equally aggressive as the control men, and less aggressive than the primed men)

- For men, the situational cue of “_____” appears to operate in the same way that the situational cue of “_____” operates – it predisposes them toward aggression
- Perhaps the culturally transmitted link between “sex and violence” (e.g., through the media) is partly responsible for this
- In addition, men are often portrayed as responding aggressively in sexual situations
- By contrast, women are more often portrayed as the victims (rather than perpetrators) of sexual violence

Media and anti-social behavior

- Is violence on TV linked to aggression?
- Do video-games incite violence?
- Is pornography linked to sexual violence?
- _____ relationships?
- According to Myers, the answer seems to be “yes” – although _____ relationships are not well established
- It could be that people who are attracted to violent media are predisposed to be anti-social to begin with
- To determine the direction of relationships, we need _____

Milgram’s “Medical Center” study

- Stanley Milgram set up a clever experiment in the 1970’s
- People were invited to view an episode of “Medical Center”
- Afterwards, they were given directions to an office where they could pick up their compensation – a free radio

Method

- In fact, people watched one of 4 versions of the show (N = 400)
- 1 Dr. Gannon berates and fires an intern, who later is seen breaking into charity boxes all over the city and stealing the proceeds (unpunished)
 - 2 The intern steals the proceeds and is _____
 - 3 The intern does something prosocial in response to being fired
 - 4 Control condition: the episode concerned a romance

Guess the theory

- Which theory was he relying on here?

Method, cont'd

- Subjects were given different times to show up at the office, but in all cases they were met with a note explaining “all the prizes were gone”
- A charity box was placed in a conspicuous place, and a \$1 bill was hanging out of it
- So subjects are frustrated, but would they act in an anti-social way?
- _____ theory states only if they had watched the intern get away with it
- A camera recorded their reactions (fill in the blanks below)

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% of subjects who stole

	Stealing (no pun)	Stealing (pun)	Pro- social	Control
Stole 1\$	4	2		4
Stole the whole box	8	5	4.5	~
Stole other items	9	8	13	11

Summary

- These findings are _____ to the hypothesis
- In fact, _____ subjects often behaved worse than the other groups

Follow-up research

- Maybe subjects were suspicious
- So Milgram tried broadcasting his different episodes in two cities (NY and St. Louis)
- He _____ differences in stealing behaviors
- He tried all kinds of boosters and facilitators, but was _____ able to support the link between media & anti-social acts

Known effects

- There are some other, well-established effects of media on anti-social behavior
- These are not directly linked to violence, but they are serious nonetheless
- _____
- Paranoia
- Increased Stereotyping

Desensitization

- People exposed to violent media show less _____ the next time they view violence
- They also engage in more “_____” after reading about a crime victim
- So exposure to violence decreases our ability to respond appropriately to violent situations

Erotica?

- In the 1970's, researchers worked hard to prove a link between _____ and _____
- But they eventually had to admit that erotica was _____
- The only effects they could find concerned _____, erotic materials

Paranoia

- People who watch a lot of violence are also more likely to be afraid of a dangerous world, and to _____
- One of the worst things you can watch is _____

-But shows like “COPS” also gives us a terrible view of the world

Stereotyping

- People who watch _____, period, are more likely to endorse a host of stereotypes
 - This is not surprising, considering that _____ rely on stereotypes to communicate “what groups are like”
 - One of the worst offenders is _____
- From Archie Bunker to Will and Grace, we seem to like our characters to rely on stereotypes when they talk about others, or to come packaged in familiar forms
- So stereotypes may serve a “_____” function, giving us a way to communicate to one another about ourselves