

Social Psychology

Aggression: Hurting Others



What We Will Cover in This Section

- Quiz
- Introduction
- Biological approaches.
- Learning approaches.
- Cognitive approaches



Which of the following is AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR?

1. A soldier bayonets an enemy soldier causing pain and killing the person.
2. A physician amputates a person's leg without anesthetic causing pain but saving the person's life.
3. A hunter, shooting at a deer, misses and kills another hunter.
4. A mother spanks a child who has hit another child.
5. A student falsely accuses a male professor of sexual harassment after she fails his course.
6. A participant in an experiment shocks another participant after being told to do so by the experimenter.

What is Aggression?

*Physical or verbal behavior
intended to hurt someone.*



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Types of Aggression

HOSTILE AGGRESSION

Aggression driven by anger and performed as an end in itself.

INSTRUMENTAL AGGRESSION

Aggression as a means to an end.

EMOTIONAL AGGRESSION

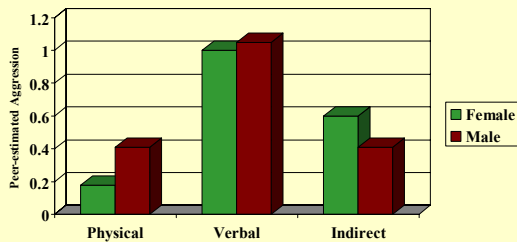
Behavior designed to cause psychological harm.

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Gender Differences in Aggression



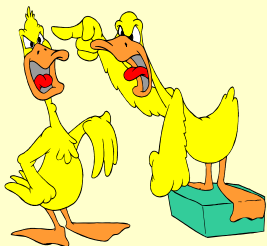
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Approaches to Aggression

- Instinct.
- Biological.
- Drive.
- Learning.
- Cognitive.



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Aggression As INSTINCT

FREUD

Thanatos

Catharsis

LORENZ

Animal behavior

Dominance hierarchies

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Biology of Aggression

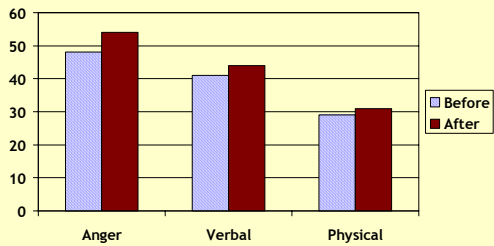
- Testosterone
Male hormone
- Serotonin

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Female Transsexual Study



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Aggression as a DRIVE

FRUSTRATION-AGGRESSION HYPOTHESIS

Frustration always leads to aggression of some sort, and aggression is always the result of some form of frustration.

FRUSTRATION

Thwarting or blocking some goal-directed behavior.

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Frustration-Aggression

DISPLACEMENT

Redirecting aggression toward a target other than the source of the frustration.

AGGRESSIVE CUES

Learned stimuli that have previously been associated with aggression.

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Cognitive-Neoassociationist Model



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LEARNED Aggression (1)

CLASSICAL CONDITIONING

Associate aggression with previously neutral condition.

OPERANT CONDITIONING

Aggressive behavior is directly reinforced.

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LEARNED Aggression (2)

SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY

We learn by watching others who are rewarded.

MODEL

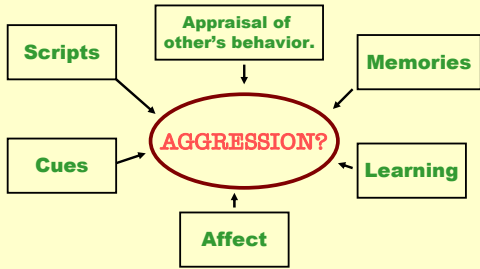
People whose behavior can be imitated and who provide a guide for appropriate behavior.

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COGNITIVE Aggression



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Aggression Self Assessment

On the following page I will show you a brief story with a question following the story.

Read through the story then answer the question as quickly as you can. Write your answer on a piece of scrap paper.

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Influences on Aggression



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Environmental Influences (1)

- PAIN
- CLIMATE
- AGGRESSION
- ALCOHOL

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Environmental Influences (2)

EXCITATION TRANSFER

Physiological arousal acts to intensify subsequent emotional experiences even if they are not related to the initial arousal.

- Group
- Sex
- Pain

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Environmental Influences: Media

- Pornography.
 - Viewing material may lead to higher levels of aggression.
 - Pornography may lead to desensitization.

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Environmental Influences: Media

- Sexual violence.
 - Sexual violence by males toward females is increasing.
 - Sexual aggression may reflect a need for dominance and control.

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Environmental Influences: Media

- Television.
 - There is an immense amount of violence on TV.
 - Between 5 and 15 typical American child will see more than 13,000 violent deaths on TV.
 - Seeing all of this violence may lead people to believe that it is common and accepted.

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Aggression and Observation (1)

NORMATIVE APPROACH

Viewing media leads people to assume that aggression is socially acceptable.

- People learn scripts for aggressive behavior.
- See what is appropriate then act it out.

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Aggression and Observation (2)

DISINHIBITION

Exposure to violence reduces the normal inhibitions against behaving aggressively (behavioral).

DESENSITIZATION

Reduction in the negative reaction to aggressive stimuli (affective).

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Sexual Aggression



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Rape Myth

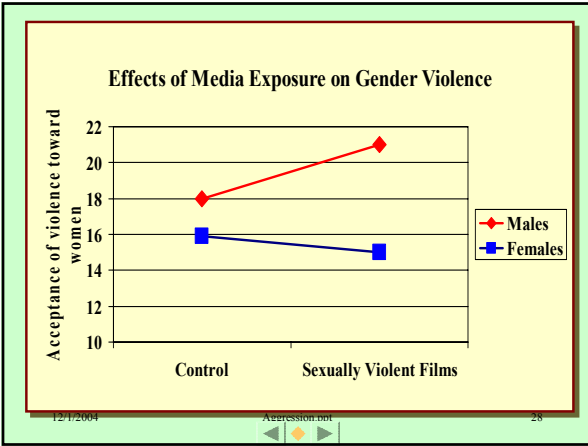
The false belief that deep down women enjoy forcible sex.

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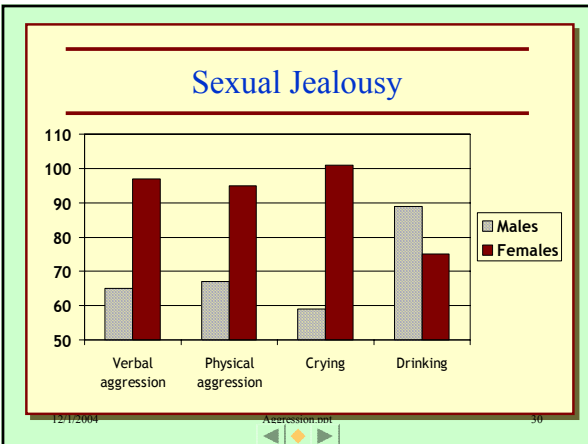




Acquaintance Rape

Forced sexual intercourse on a date or between acquaintances.

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Reducing Aggression



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Reducing Aggression (1)

CATHARSIS (emotional release)

- *Direct*
- *Fantasy*
- *Displacement*

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Reducing Aggression (2)

LEARNING

- Do not reinforce aggressive behavior.
- Reinforce appropriate behavior.
- Substitute acceptable behavior.
 - Reinforce cooperation
- Model non-aggressive behavior.
- Remove aggressive stimuli.

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PUNISHMENT?

To work it must be...

1. Prompt
2. Certain
3. Strong
4. Justified

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Other Alternatives

- Induce incompatible responses.
- Apologies.
- Social skills training.
- Reduce exposure to violence.

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Finally...


Remove aggressive stimuli.

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The End



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