

**Psychology 3201:
Introduction to Social
Psychology**

Elliott Hall Room N119

Monday, Dec. 5

2:30-4:25PM

Today

- Aggression
 - Defining aggression
 - Psychodynamic, biological, and social causes of aggression
 - Movie on media violence effects on aggression

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

A parent yells at a child who has broken a vase

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

A linebacker (Hawkeye) tackles a running back
(Gopher)

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

A farmer slaughters a turkey for dinner

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

A woman tailgates after a driver who passed her
on the right

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

A soldier kills an enemy soldier

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

A golfer breaks a club over his knee

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

A hunter kills an elk only for its antlers

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

A woman passes along a rumor about another's
affair

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

A parent spanks a child who has disobeyed

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

A student gives a professor low teaching
evaluations after receiving a lower grade than
expected

Defining Aggression

- Is it aggression?

One student gives the other student “the bird”

Defining Aggression

- Any behavior that is intended to harm another person
 - Intention and harm are necessary
 - Good
 - Bad
 - Sanctioned
 - Prosocial vs. antisocial

Defining Aggression

- Two Basic Types
 - Instrumental
 - Goal is something other than causing pain
 - A means to an end
 - e.g., football player blocking another

Defining Aggression

- Two Basic Types
 - Instrumental
 - Goal is something other than causing pain
 - A means to an end
 - e.g., football player blocking another
 - Hostile
 - Goal is to inflict pain
 - An end in itself
 - Typically involves anger

Manifestations of Aggression

- Verbal aggressions
- Direct aggression
- Indirect aggression

Effects of Aggression

- On the victim
 - Lack of trust
 - Lack of feeling safe
- On the aggressor
 - Development of an aggressive personality
 - Lower intellectual achievement

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Psychodynamic Causes of Aggression

- Freud's theory of aggression
 - Eros
 - Life instinct
 - In the interest of self-preservation
 - Thanatos
 - Death instinct
 - Thanatos is redirected toward others
 - Hydraulic model

Biological Causes of Aggression

- Instinct theories
 - Aggression is an instinctual response to threats to survival
 - But, aggressive responses are modifiable
 - Differences between genders, across cultures, and within cultures across time (Archer & Gartner, 1984)

Biological Causes of Aggression

- Genetic theories
 - Mice have been bred for aggression -- manifest aggression in 2nd or 3rd generation (Lagerspetz, 1979)
 - Evidence of genetic component of nurturance, empathy, and aggression (Rushton et al., 1986)
 - XYY genotype

Biological Causes of Aggression

- Neuropsychological theories
 - Amygdala and hippocampus (limbic system)
 - Stimulation can elicit aggression

Biological Causes of Aggression

- Hormonal Theories
 - Males are more physically aggressive than females (Maccoby & Jacklin, 1974)
 - Due to testosterone
 - Ingesting pregnant rhesus monkeys with testosterone produced aggressive female infants
 - Swedish bullies shown to have higher testosterone levels
 - Testosterone and aggression both decline around the age of 25 for men

Social Causes of Aggression

- Instrumental aggression
 - Based on a cost-benefit analysis
 - Personal abilities
 - children who find it easy to do (Perry et al., 1986)
 - Gender differences
 - men perceive it to be less costly than women (Eagly, 1987)
 - Modeling successful aggression (Bandura, 1973)

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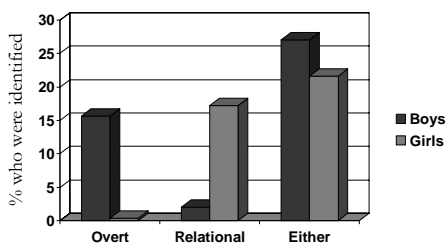
Social Causes of Aggression

- Gender socialization
 - Males more aggressive than females regardless of age, culture, and other factors (Maccoby & Jacklin, 1974)
- Aggression differs by situation (Eagly & Steffen, 1986)
 - Gender differences more pronounced in lab studies
 - Gender differences are small in situations that are not very dangerous
 - Difference greater with pain or physical injury, but smaller with psychological or social harm

Social Causes of Aggression

- Gender socialization
 - Crick & Grotpeter (1995)
 - Overt vs. covert aggression
 - Overt: physical harm, e.g.
 - Covert: relational – ostracism, e.g.
 - 500 children (grades 3-5) asked to identify peers who manifest certain types of aggression

Social Causes of Aggression



Social Causes of Aggression

- Gender socialization
 - Girls: value their connections with others
 - Boys: value their independence and nonsocial achievements
- “I won’t invite you to my birthday party.”
 - intentional
 - intent to harm

Social Causes of Aggression

- Media violence
 - Liebert & Baron (1972)
 - IV: children watched violent police drama or exciting, non-violent sporting event
 - DV: subsequent behavior in a group of other children

Social Causes of Aggression

- Media violence
 - Huesmann (1986)
 - TV violence and violent crime (longitudinal study)
 - The more violence watched at age 8, the more likely to commit violent crime at age 30