

**Psychology 3201:
Introduction to Social
Psychology**

Elliott Hall Room N119
Wednesday, December 7
2:30-4:25 PM

Today

- Aggression, cont'd
 - Situational causes of hostile aggression
 - Curbing aggression
- Focus on negative affect and attributions

Situational Causes of Aggression

- Frustration-aggression theory
 - Frustration leads to aggression
 - Frustration
 - External condition that blocks a person from obtaining expected rewards/pleasure
 - A barrier to expected goal attainment

Situational Causes of Aggression

- Frustration-aggression theory
 - Barker et al. (1941)
 - Children expecting to play with toys, but were kept from doing so
 - Much more destructive than children who were not frustrated

Situational Causes of Aggression

- Frustration-aggression theory
 - Frustration leads to aggression
 - Frustration
 - External condition that blocks a person from obtaining expected rewards/pleasure
 - A barrier to expected goal attainment
 - Negative affect (e.g., anger) mediates the frustration-aggression relation

Situational Causes of Aggression

- Frustration-aggression theory
 - When does frustration produce negative affect?
 - Unexpected
 - Seen as intentional
 - Internally caused, controllable, and improper
 - Expected reward is particularly satisfying
 - Within grasp

Andy Hertel
Introduction to Social Psychology

Situational Causes of Aggression

- Frustration-aggression theory
 - When does negative affect produce aggression?
 - No threat of punishment
 - Nonaggressive ways to respond
 - We know how to be aggressive

Situational Causes of Aggression

- Temperature
 - More violent crimes...
 - in summer than winter
 - during hot years than in cool years
 - in hot cities than in cooler cities
 - Political uprisings, riots, homicides, assaults, and rapes all increase in summer months
 - More batters hit with pitches if > 90 degrees (Reifman et al., 1988)

Cultural Causes of Aggression

- Southern culture of honor

Homicide rates	Rural Cities	Non-rural
New England	2.62	3.16
Middle Atlantic	1.90	3.35
Midwest	2.92	3.37
Pacific	4.62	6.10
Mountain	4.67	4.56
Southwest	5.13	4.47
South	8.23	6.63

Cultural Causes of Aggression

- Southern culture of honor
 - South settled by herders
 - "Every man should be sheriff of his own hearth."

Cultural Causes of Aggression

- Southern culture of honor

Defensive violence	Gun control	South and West have less restrictive laws for buying and selling guns
	Self-defense	South and West have less restrictive laws about killing intruders
Social control	Domestic violence	Mandatory arrest for domestic violence and strict child abuse laws less common in South
	Corporal punishment	Fewer Southern states have banned corporal punishment in schools

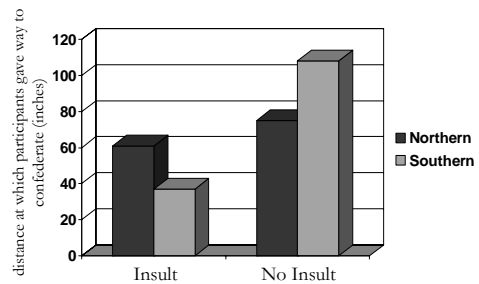
Cultural Causes of Aggression

Category	Southern	Northern
Self	~70	~60
Family	~75	~65
House	~60	~30

Cultural Causes of Aggression

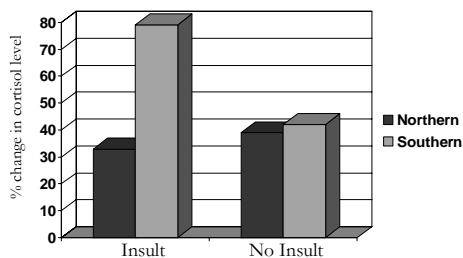
- Southern culture of honor
 - Cohen et al. (1996)
 - 2 (Southern/Northern) X 2 (insult/no insult)

Cultural Causes of Aggression



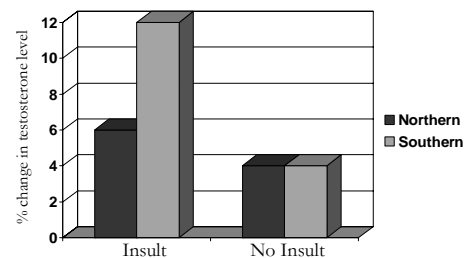
(Cohen et al., 1996)

Cultural Causes of Aggression



(Cohen et al., 1996)

Cultural Causes of Aggression



(Cohen et al., 1996)

Attributions

- Intention to Harm?
 - Under a person's control?
 - Greenwell & Dengerink (1973)
 - Two participants shocked each other in a competitive reaction time task
 - 2 (opponent intends to increase shock level vs. opponent intends to maintain shock level) vs. 2 (actual shock level increases vs. actual shock level remains the same)
 - Only opponents intention affected aggressive reaction

Attributions

- Intention to Harm?
 - Under a person's control?
 - Chronically aggressive people usually think so!

**How Can We Reduce
Aggression?**

- Promote empathy and identification with those we might aggress against
- Exposure to non-aggressive models