

Lecture Outline

1. Aggression: What is it?
2. Types of aggression
3. Causes of aggression

Is It Aggression?

A hit man kills an unfaithful husband for 1,000 dollars

A jealous man kills his wife and her lover

A prison ward executes a criminal

A depressed person commits suicide

A man mentally rehearses a murder

A hunter kills an animal for a trophy

A Girl Scout tries to help an elderly woman cross the street, but trips her by accident

A person punches a hole in the wall in anger

One person calls another a racial slur

A person slams a door shut after an argument

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Aggression: What is it?

Any form of behavior directed toward the goal of harming or injuring another living being who is motivated to avoid such treatment

- Behavior
- Directed toward a living organism
- Intentional
- Victim motivated to avoid harm

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Types of Aggression

1. Instrumental aggression:

A means to an end

Intentional harm for purpose other than desire to inflict harm

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Examples of

Instrumental Aggression

A hit man kills an unfaithful husband for 1,000 dollars

A prison ward executes a criminal

A hunter kills an animal for a trophy

An American soldier kills an Iraqi soldier

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Types of Aggression

2. Hostile aggression:

Aggression IS the end goal

Intentional harm done for purpose of inflicting harm

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Examples of
Hostile Aggression

A jealous man kills his wife and her lover

One person calls another a racial slur

Self-Esteem: valuing
yourself

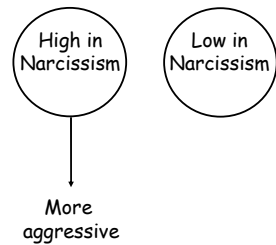
Narcissism: inflated view
of self

Causes of Aggression

1. Narcissistic Personality

Causes of Aggression

1. Narcissistic Personality



Causes of Aggression

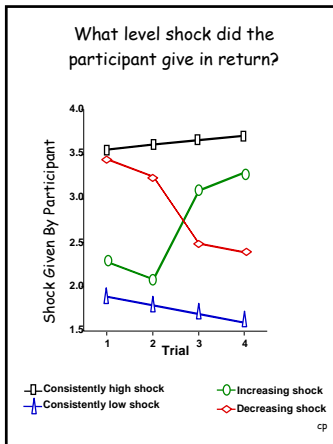
1. Narcissistic Personality
2. Aversive (unpleasant) situations
 - provocation

Provocation Study

O'Leary & Dengerink (1973)

Computer programmed to give:

- consistently high shocks
- shocks of increasing intensity
- shocks of decreasing intensity
- consistently low shocks



Causes of Aggression

1. Narcissistic Personality
2. Aversive (unpleasant) situations
 - provocation
 - hot temperatures

Temperature and Violent Crime Anderson (1987)

Temperature associated with...

- murder
- rape
- aggravated assault

Temperature not associated with...

- robbery
- burglary
- motor vehicle theft

Temperature

Violent crime higher when it's hot outside

Implication:

Hot cities should have many more violent crimes than cold cities

Hotopolis vs. Coolton

Hotopolis	Coolton
Pop. 600,000	Pop. 600,000
Hot days: 70	Hot days: 30

4 more murders in Hotopolis
14 more rapes in Hotopolis
122 more assaults in Hotopolis

Alternative Explanations

Culture: More crimes in south than north because south more steeped in a "culture of violence"

Demographics: Temperature doesn't matter. Age, race, SES of South is what matters

Idle hands: More crimes summer than winter because children out of school and adults on vacation

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Hot Temperature Study
Anderson et al., (1997)

Looked at relationship
between temperature and
crime from 1950 - 1995

Findings rule out each
alternative
explanations.....

RESULTS

1. Violent crime higher in hotter
summers than cooler summers in
both South and North (**rules out
culture**)
2. Violent crimes higher in hotter
summers than cooler summers in the
same cities (**rules out demographics**)
3. Violent crime higher in hotter
summers than cooler summers even
though in both summers kids are not
in school and adults take vacations
(**rules out idle hands**)

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Global Warming

Increases of 2 - 8 degrees

Increase in temperature
should result in increase in
violent crime