

# AGGRESSION and ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

## What is aggression?

Importance of intention (to harm another)  
 [Moyer, 1976; Berkowitz, 1993; Fiske, 2004]

hostile (aimed solely at hurting another) ('gratuitous' aggression)

vs. instrumental (means to an end, e.g. self-defence)

natural/positive (self-defence/combating social injustice) vs. pathological (violence) [e.g. Maslow, 1968]

## Social constructionist approach

[e.g. Mummendey, 1996]  
 'aggression' = an evaluation of behaviour  
 Soccer hooliganism [Marsh et al., 1978]  
 aggression as a cultural drama

## Ethological approach

[Lorenz, 1966]  
 territoriality  
 ritualisation  
 appeasement rituals/gestures (lacking in humans)  
 human technology of aggression

## Psychoanalytic approach

[Freud, 1920, 1923] [Storr, 1968]  
 Life instinct (Eros) vs. death instinct (Thanatos)  
 inborn destructiveness  
 overcontrolled violent criminals [Megargee, 1966]  
 displacement onto others  
 sublimated into sport etc.

## Theories of aggression

### Instinct theories

### Frustration-aggression hypothesis

[Dollard et al., 1939]  
 frustration → aggression  
 aggression ← frustration

frustration = instigator of aggression [Miller, 1941]  
 frustration might be source of arousal; aggression = only one possible outcome [Bandura, 1973]  
 frustration may → different responses in different situations [Miell, 1990]

### attributional perspective

attribution of intention [Kulik & Brown, 1979]  
 Berkowitz [1993]  
 Hostile attributional bias [Nasby et al., 1979]  
 attributional theory of emotion/motivation [Weiner, 1986]  
 scapegoating account of racial discrimination  
 bullying  
 partner abuse  
 retaliatory aggression

### Aggressive-cue theory

[Berkowitz, 1966] (cue-arousal theory)  
 • Frustration → anger  
 • Cues are needed to convert anger → aggression

environmental stimuli associated with aggressive behaviour/frustrating object or person  
 Berkowitz paradigm  
 Berkowitz & Geen [1966]  
 Berkowitz & Le Page [1967]

### Excitation-transfer theory

[Zillman, 1982]  
 Arousal from one source can be transferred to some other response e.g. aggression [Zillman & Bryant, 1974]  
 sexual arousal/aggression [Zillman & Bryant, 1984]  
 [Donnerstein et al., 1987; Donnerstein & Berkowitz, 1981]

### Deindividuation

[Festinger et al., 1952]  
 Le Bon [1895]  
 Diener et al. [1976]  
 Zimbardo [1969] anonymity  
 Johnson & Downing [1979] behavioural expectations  
 depersonalisation in total institutions [Goffman, 1968]  
 Gergen et al. [1973] cognitive-neo-associationistic approach [Berkowitz, 1990]

### Social learning theory

[Bandura, 1973]  
 Vicarious reinforcement (Bobo doll experiments)  
 [Bandura et al., 1961, 1963]  
 Learning vs. performance [Bandura, 1965]  
 Antisocial behaviour shows lack of feeling/concern for others' welfare [Baron & Richardson, 1994]  
 correlation studies laboratory studies field experiments [e.g. Parke et al., 1977]  
 natural experiments longitudinal/panel studies (e.g. St. Helena)  
 [Berkowitz, 1966]  
 [Zillman, 1982]  
 [Festinger et al., 1952]  
 [Gergen et al., 1973]

### Effects of the media

phase one of research into media violence [Baron, 1977]  
 How do viewers perceive violence? [Gunter & McAleer, 1997; Gunter, 2000]  
 How much TV do people watch?  
 How much TV violence?  
 Gerbner's research Cumberbatch [1987]  
 Gunter & Harrison [1998]  
 arousal  
 disinhibition  
 imitation  
 desensitisation  
 Cumberbatch [1997]

multiple motives of aggressors [Bushman & Anderson, 2001a]

proximate (most immediate)  
 primary (ultimate)