

Aggression evoked by discrimination: influences of hostile attribution of intent and narcissism

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Abstract

Although many studies convincingly showed that ethnic minorities are frequently discriminated, little is known about the effect of ethnic discrimination on child aggression. By disentangling the effect of objective and perceived discrimination on aggression using an experimental design, our study attempts to provide an innovative perspective on this matter. In particular, we investigated the extent to which two personality characteristics (hostile attribution and narcissism) explain why some children may be inclined to perceive discrimination and react aggressively in situations in which they are not discriminated or discrimination is ambiguous (vigilance bias), whereas others may not perceive discrimination and may not react aggressively even when they are discriminated (minimization bias). In this presentation, the study design and preliminary findings are discussed.