

Imitation and Aggression

Children frequently learn to solve conflicts aggressively by imitating adults and their peers, especially when they see that the aggression is rewarded.



-A child whose aggression successfully intimidates other children may become more aggressive. Animals who have become successful in securing mates or food through aggression become increasingly ferocious.

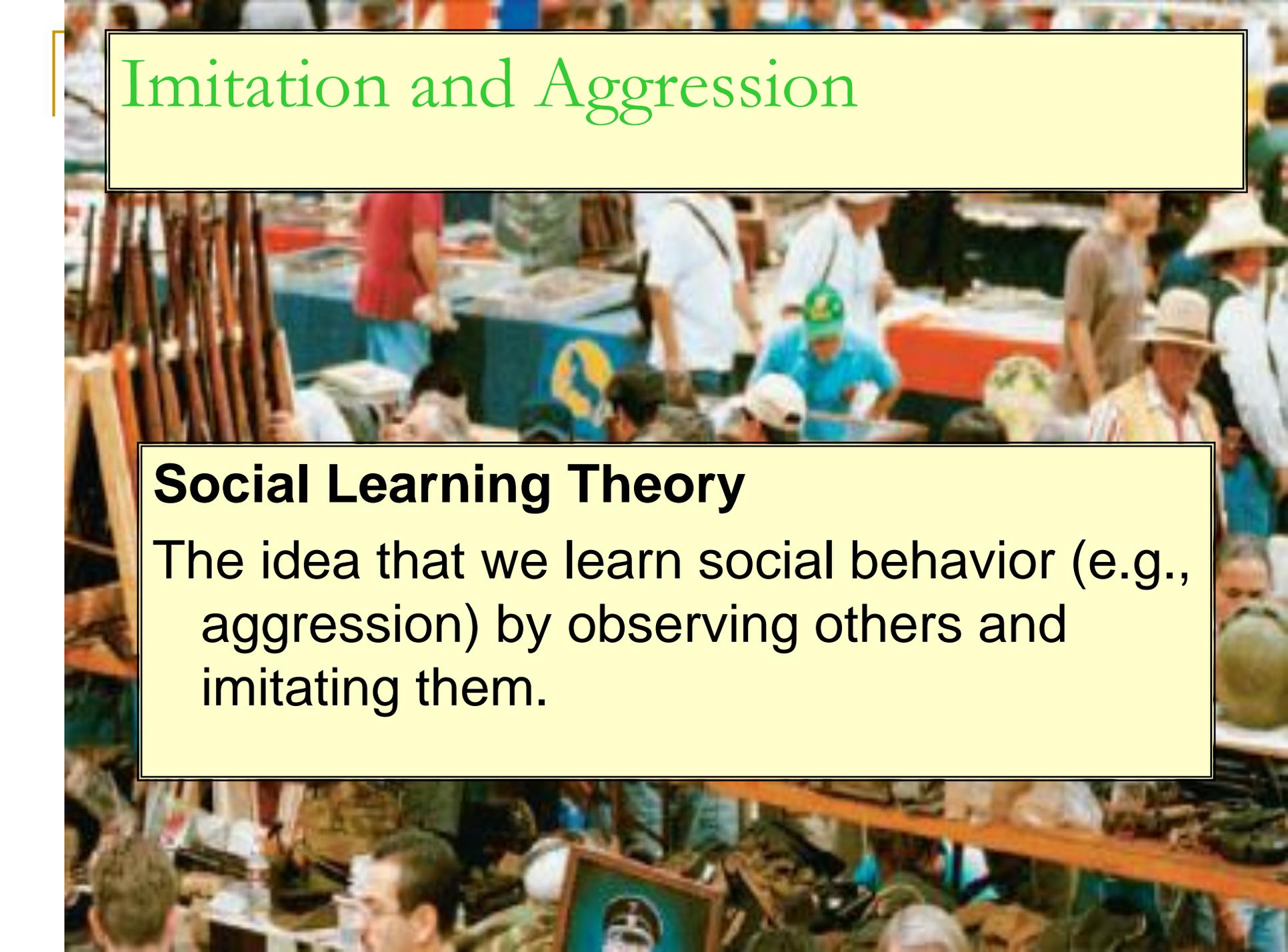
Imitation and Aggression

The people children imitate the most, of course, are their parents.

And if the parents were abused as children, this can set a chain of abuse in motion.

Indeed, a large percentage of physically abusive parents were themselves abused by their own parents when they were kids.

Imitation and Aggression

A vibrant outdoor market scene with people, stalls, and various goods. The background shows a busy market with people, stalls, and various goods. The foreground shows a man in a green shirt and a woman in a white shirt. The market is filled with people, stalls, and various goods.

Social Learning Theory

The idea that we learn social behavior (e.g., aggression) by observing others and imitating them.



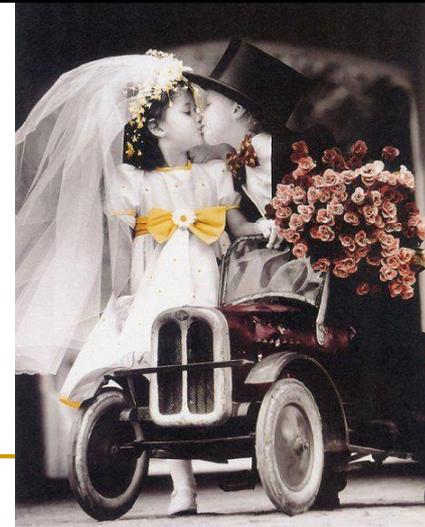
In a classic series of experiments, Albert Bandura and his associates demonstrated the power of social learning.



Social Scripts



Ways of behaving socially that we learn implicitly from our culture.



Acquiring Social Scripts

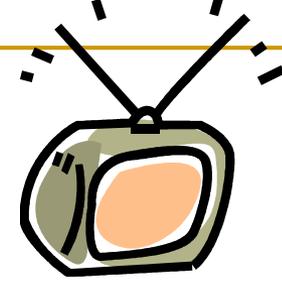
- The media portrays *social scripts* which constitutes the generation of “mental tapes” in the minds of viewers.
- When confronted with new situations individuals may rely on such social scripts. If social scripts are violent in nature, people may act them out.
- “Oh, so that’s how you do it.”

Violence in the Media: TV, Movies, and Video Games



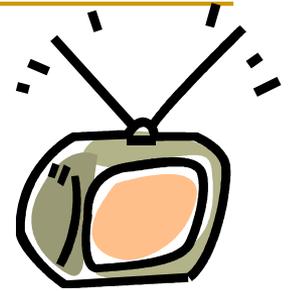
"At last, a movie without all those filthy sex scenes!"

Effects on Children



1. BY THE TIME THE AVERAGE AMERICAN CHILD FINISHES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HE OR SHE WOULD HAVE SEEN 8,000 MURDERS AND MORE THAN 100,000 OTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE.
2. 58% OF ALL TV PROGRAMS CONTAIN VIOLENCE—AND OF THOSE, 78% CONTAIN NOT A SHRED OF REMORSE, CRITICISM, OR PENALTY FOR THAT VIOLENCE.
3. 40% OF THE VIOLENT INCIDENTS SEEN ON TV DURING A PARTICULAR YEAR WERE INITIATED BY CHARACTERS PORTRAYED AS HEROES OR OTHER ATTRACTIVE ROLE MODELS FOR CHILDREN.

Effects on Children



The more TV violence individuals watch as children, the more violence they exhibit later as teens and young adults.

Watching a violent film has the effect of increasing the number of aggressive acts committed during a game—primarily by the youngsters who already rated as highly aggressive by their teachers.

Even children who are not inclined toward aggression will become more aggressive if exposed to a steady diet of violent films over a long period.

Effects on Children

Playing violent video games seems to have the same kind of impact on children that watching TV violence does.

Violent video game playing positively correlates with aggressive behavior and delinquency in children.

The relationship was found to be stronger for children who had been more prone to violence beforehand.

The relationship is more than correlational. Exposing a random sample of children to a graphically violent video game had a direct and immediate impact on their aggressive thoughts and behavior.



What About Adults?

- The amount of time spent watching television during adolescence and early adulthood correlates positively with likelihood of subsequent violent acts against others.
 - This association was significant *regardless of parental education, family income, and neighborhood violence.*
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The Numbing Effect of TV Violence

Repeated exposure to difficult or unpleasant events tends to have a numbing effect on our sensitivity to those events, as indicated by reductions in:

- Emotional response,
 - Physiological response, and
 - Perception of brutality.
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Why Does Media Violence Affect Viewers' Aggression?

1. *"If they can do it, so can I."*
2. *"Oh, so that's how you do it!"*
3. *"Those feelings I am having must be real anger rather than simply a stressful day."*
4. *"Ho-hum, another brutal beating; what's on the other channel?"*
5. *"I had better get him before he gets me!"*

- What is on TV serves as social scripts...

Violent Pornography and Violence against Women

1. Sexual scripts adolescents are exposed to suggest to them the traditional female role is to resist the male's sexual advances and male's role is to be persistent.
 2. Although 95% of the males and 97% of the female high schoolers surveyed agreed that a man should stop sexual advances as soon as a woman says no, nearly 1/2 of those same students also believed that when a woman says no, she doesn't always mean it.
 3. Often perpetuates the "rape myth." The idea that some women invite or enjoy forced sex and get "swept away" with being "taken".
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Violent Pornography and Violence against Women Taken by Force



Violent Pornography and Violence against Women

- Coinciding with an increase in date rape has been an increase in the availability of magazines, films, and videocassettes depicting vivid, explicit sexual behavior.
- Careful scientific research suggests an important distinction between simple pornography and violent pornography.



Violent Pornography and Violence against Women

- Exposure to violent pornography promotes greater acceptance of sexual violence toward women and is almost certainly a factor associated with actual aggressive behavior toward women.
- After watching violent pornography, men express more negative attitudes toward women and have more aggressive sexual fantasies.



Observing Models of Aggression



Does watching violent tv correlate with aggression or violence?

The overarching theme of the information on viewing violence and its correlation with real-world acts of violence is that **there is an large amount of data that supports the position that watching violence may make one more prone to:**

- act in a violent way
- show less empathy for others
- devalue women (in case of sexual violence)
- become desensitized to violence.

Types of Aggression

- Instrumental Aggression is aggression that intends harm as a means (instrument) to another goal, not simply to cause pain.
 - e.g Yelling at a child to make her stop drawing on the walls is instrumental aggression.
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Types of Aggression

- Hostile Aggression is aggression that intends harm as its primary goal.
 - e.g Yelling at a child to make her feel bad is hostile aggression
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Types of Aggression

- Anti-Social aggression intends harm in terms of a violation of social norms.
 - e.g A thief who shoots a cashier while robbing a bank is committing antisocial aggression.
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Types of Aggression

- Pro-social aggression which takes place for the good of society.
 - e.g Police Officer having to use aggression when catching a murderer at the end of a chase.
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Clerk kills would-be robber who grabbed daughter

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Sheriff's officials in southwest Florida say a clerk at a 24-hour food store shot and killed a man who tried to rob her and take her 1-year-old daughter.

Store owner Del Ackerman told the Naples Daily News his granddaughter shot the man after he stormed into the store Tuesday afternoon and demanded money and grabbed the stroller that held her baby.

Authorities say 22-year-old Elizabeth Easterly was alone in the store with her 1- and 2-year-old daughters. Collier County Sheriff's spokesman Jamie Mosbach says the man was acting erratically before the incident.

Mosbach says the clerk shot the man as he headed toward the door with the child. He was taken to a hospital where he died of his injuries.

The sheriff's department is investigating.

10/19/2011 <http://news.yahoo.com/clerk-kills-robber-grabbed-daughter-102801527.html>

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Biological influences:

- genetic influences
- biochemical influences, such as testosterone and alcohol
- neural influences, such as severe head injuries

Psychological influences:

- dominating behavior (which boosts testosterone levels in the blood)
- believing you've drunk alcohol (whether you actually have or not)
- frustration
- aggressive role models
- rewards for aggressive behavior

Aggressive behavior

Social-cultural influences:

- deindividuation from being in a crowd
- challenging environmental factors, such as crowding, heat, and direct provocations
- parental models of aggression
- minimal father involvement
- being rejected from a group
- exposure to violent media

Attraction



Factors of Attraction

Proximity

- Geographic nearness

Mere exposure effect:

- Repeated exposure to something breeds liking.
- What was familiar was generally safe and approachable.
- What was unfamiliar was more often dangerous and threatening.



Mere Exposure Effect

