Developing and validating an analogue measure of violent behaviour.


Creating the Vignettes

- Interviews (Offenders & Community)
- Open-ended responses to scenarios (Community & Students)
- Treatment manuals
- Existing measures
- Vignettes

Vignette format

- 10 vignettes
- Say what you really would do if you were actually in that situation right now
  - Initial scenario
  - First response
  - Reaction from antagonist
  - Second response

Response Options

- Ignore it
- Without being rude, say something to try to deal with it peacefully
- Rudely say something to him
- Threaten to hurt him
- Shove him
- Hit him

Illustration of Procedure with Vignette 9

- You’re at a bar standing beside your girlfriend/wife when a guy strolls up to her, puts his arm around her, and starts trying to pick her up. He acts like you aren’t even there.
- What do you do?
  - Ignore it
  - Without being rude, tell him you’re together and ask him to move his arm
  - Rudely tell him to get away from your girlfriend/wife
  - Tell him you’re going to hurt him if he doesn’t get away from your girlfriend/wife
  - Shove him
  - Hit him

- He ignores you, steps between you and your girlfriend/wife with his back to you, tells her that you’re a loser, and asks her to dance again.
  - What do you do?
    - Ignore it
    - Without being rude, ask him to stop trying to pick up your girlfriend/wife
    - Rudely tell him to get away from your girlfriend/wife
    - Tell him you’re going to hurt him if he doesn’t get away from your girlfriend/wife
    - Shove him
    - Hit him

**Independent Indicator of Violent Behaviour**

- Violent Behaviour Scale
  - From when you were 16 years old to today, how many times have you (1) Started a physical fight with someone? (2) Threatened to physically hurt someone? etc.

**Independent Indicator of Violent Behaviour (Offenders only)**
- Self-Appraisal Questionnaire
  - Antisocial beliefs, antisocial personality, antisocial behaviour, substance abuse, and antisocial associates

**Estimated Risk of Violent Reoffending (Offenders N = 16)**

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<th>Violent response</th>
<th>Non-violent response</th>
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**Summary**
- Men who selected a violent response option (i.e., threaten, shove, or hit) on our vignette measure generally had much higher levels of trait-aggressiveness and “real” violent behaviour than did men who selected non-violent response options
- Findings provide initial support for the use of our measure in both lab and correctional/forensic settings as a measure of current propensity for violent behaviour

**Next Steps**
- Further refinement and validation
  - Against indicators of violent behaviour beyond self-report (e.g., VRAG, violent re-offending)
- Virtual reality?
  - Anthony Whitehead, Liam Davidson, Zach Sullivan
  - School of Information Technology

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