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Developing and Validating an Analogue Measure of Violent Behaviour

Kevin L. Nunes, Chantal A. Hermann, Maya Atlas, Sacha Maimone, Mandie Woods, and Brian A. Grant

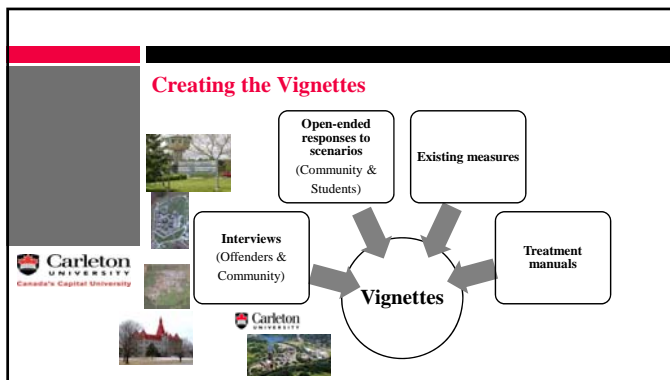
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SSHRC Partnership Development Grant
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Vignette format

- 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

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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

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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

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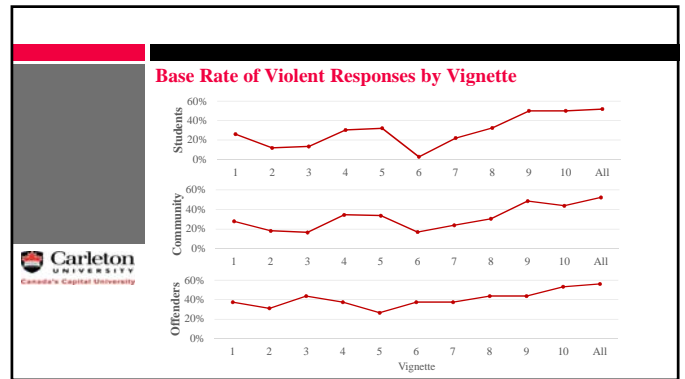
- He ignores you, steps between you and your girlfriend/wife with his back to you, tells her that you're a loser, and asks her to dance again.
What do you do?

Non-violent

- 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

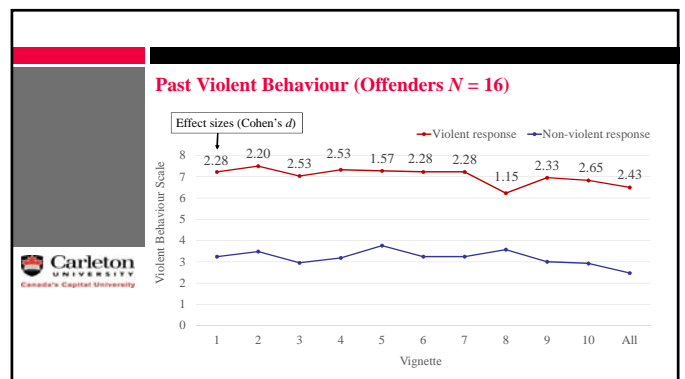
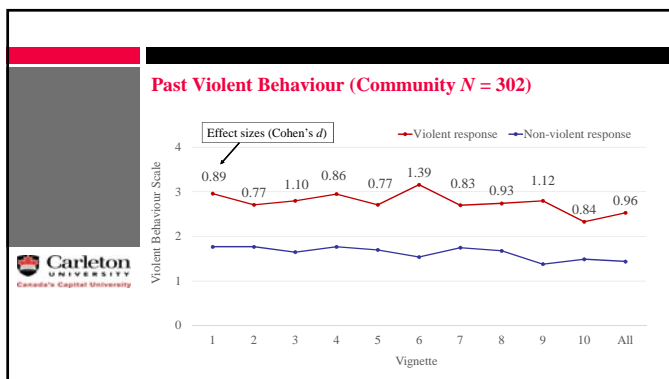
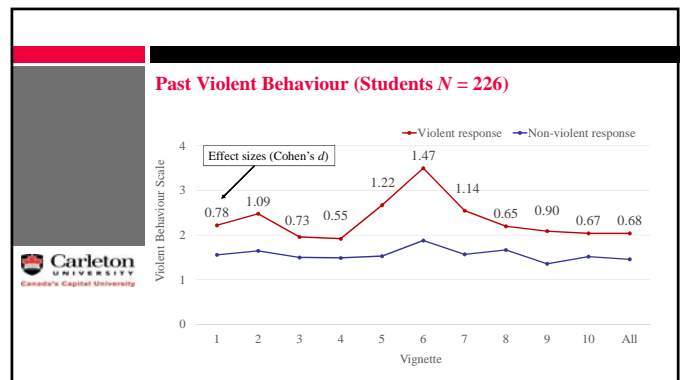
Violent

- Tell him you're going to hurt him if he doesn't get away from your girlfriend/wife
- Shove him
- Hit him

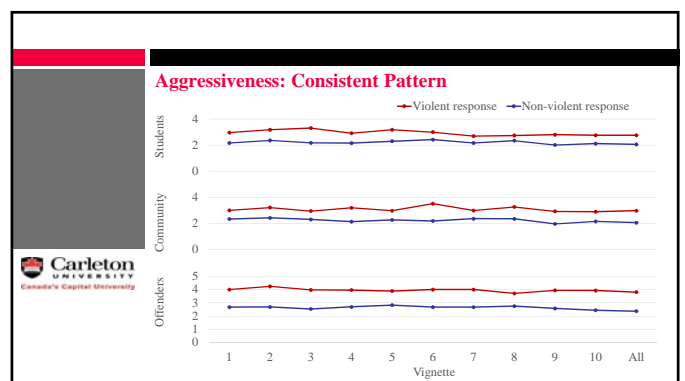
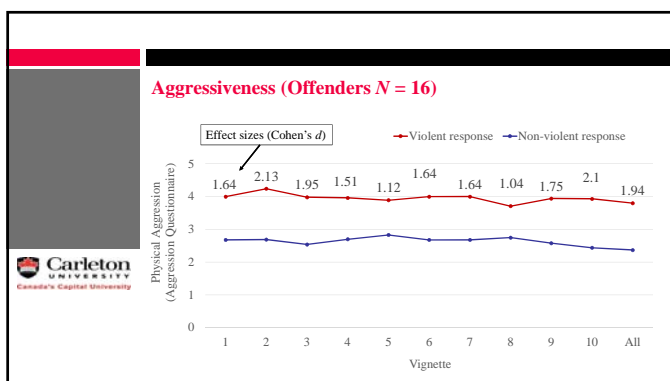
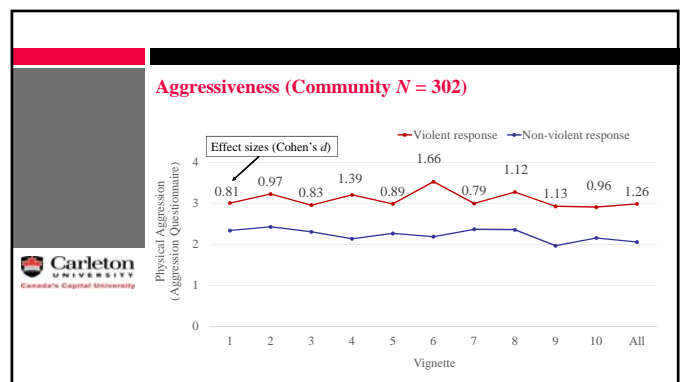
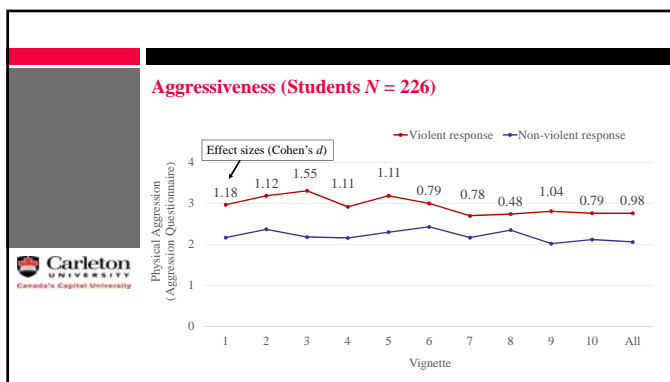
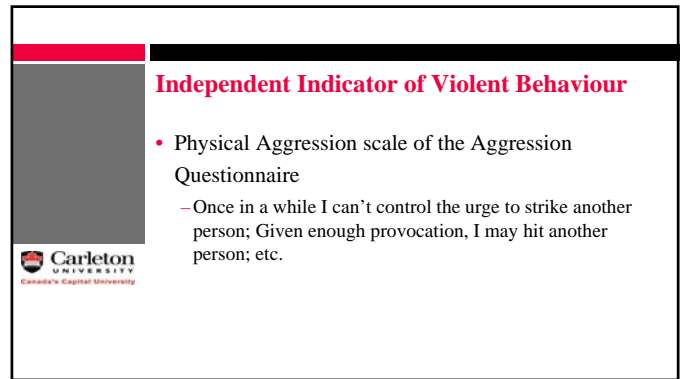
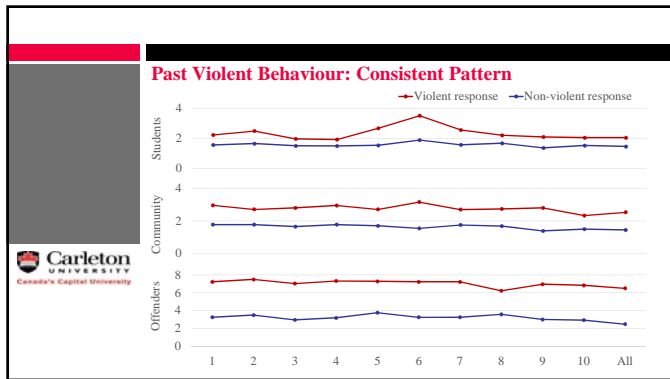


Independent Indicator of Violent Behaviour

- 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.



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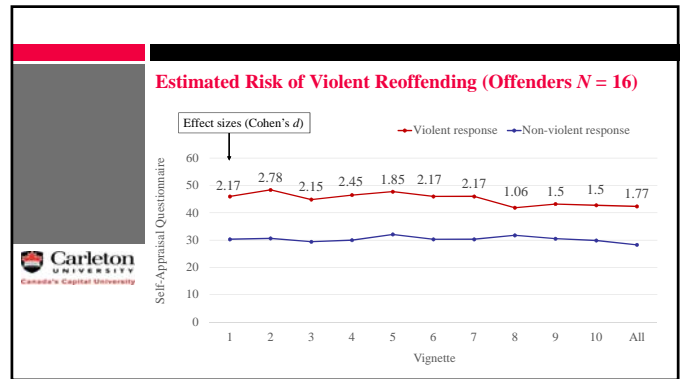


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Independent Indicator of Violent Behaviour (Offenders only)


- Self-Appraisal Questionnaire
 - Antisocial beliefs, antisocial personality, antisocial behaviour, substance abuse, and antisocial associates






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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kevin.nunes@carleton.ca
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