

Nunes, K. L., Hermann, C. A., & Pedneault, C. I. (2018, July). The development and validation of a measure of evaluative attitudes towards violence. In K. L. Nunes (Chair), *Violent attitudes and beliefs: Conceptualization, measurement, and relationship with violent behaviour*. Symposium conducted at the 23rd World Meeting of the International Society for Research on Aggression, Paris, France.

The Development and Validation of a Measure of Evaluative Attitudes Towards Violence

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Attitudes in Forensic Theory, Research, and Practice

- Violence scale of the Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates (MCAA)
 - “It is reasonable to expect a fight from someone you cheated”
- Criminal Attitudes to Violence Scale (CAVS)
 - “When I get violent, what I want most is to teach the other person a lesson”

at-ti-tude
/ˈædəˌt(y)oo̩d/
noun

a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behavior.
"she took a tough attitude toward other people's indulgences"

synonyms: **view, viewpoint, outlook, perspective, stance, standpoint, position, inclination, temper, orientation, approach, reaction**

Attitudes in Social Psychology

- “Degree to which a person has a favorable or unfavorable evaluation or appraisal of the behavior” (Ajzen, 1991)
- Attitudes = evaluations

Evaluative Attitudes Missing?

THAT FEELING THAT YOU FORGOT SOMETHING

Article

Thinking Clearly About Violent Cognitions: Attitudes May Be Distinct From Other Cognitions

Journal of Interpersonal Violence
2015, Vol. 30(8) 1322–1347
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Sacha Maimone,¹ and Mandie Woods¹

Abstract
The purpose of the current study was to explore whether measures such as the Violence Scale of the Revised Measures of Criminal Attitudes and Associates (MCAA-R-V) and the Criminal Attitudes to Violence Scale (CAVS) assess attitudes toward violence (i.e., evaluation of violence) and whether attitudes and the cognitions assessed by the MCAA-R-V and CAVS are independently associated with violent behavior. Participants

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Violence is ...

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Very					Very
	negative					positive

CAVS are independently associated with violent behavior. Participants

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- Preliminary evidence that
 - evaluative attitudes towards violence may not be assessed by typical forensic measures
 - both evaluative attitudes and these other cognitions are independently related to violent behaviour

CAVS are independently associated with violent behavior. Participants

**Evaluation of Violence Questionnaire (EVQ):
Development and Validity**




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Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

EVQ Development

- Created large pool of items
- Administered to two separate samples of men from the community ($N = 283$; $N = 226$).
- Retained 17 items for the EVQ
- Retention/exclusion based primarily on
 - item variance (minimize floor effects)
 - inter-item correlations (minimize redundancy)
 - factor structure (ensure unidimensionality)

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Sample EVQ Item

You hitting (for example, punching or kicking) a guy who hurts someone you care about.

Very negative	A bit negative	A bit positive	Very positive
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Sample EVQ Item

You threatening to physically hurt a guy who owes you money.

Very bad	A bit bad	A bit good	Very good
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Sample EVQ Item

You using a weapon (for example, a baseball bat, knife, or gun) on a guy who has sex with your girlfriend/wife or boyfriend/husband.


Very unpleasant A bit unpleasant A bit pleasant Very pleasant



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Does the EVQ Measure Evaluative Attitudes Towards Violence?

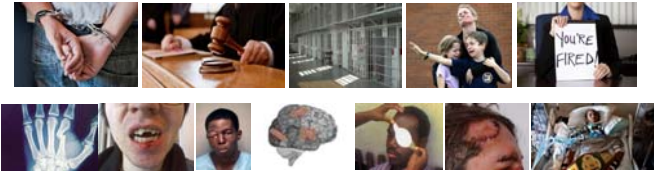

- If so, then its scores should change in response to established attitude-change procedures
- Randomized experiment
 - Attitude-change condition
 - Control condition
- $N = 510$ men from the community (Qualtrics Panel)



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Attitude-Change Condition


- Violence is a “lose-lose” situation, with negative consequences for everyone involved.

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You hitting a guy.


bad



16

You hitting a guy who hurts someone you care about.


sad



17

You hitting a guy who steals from you.

spoil

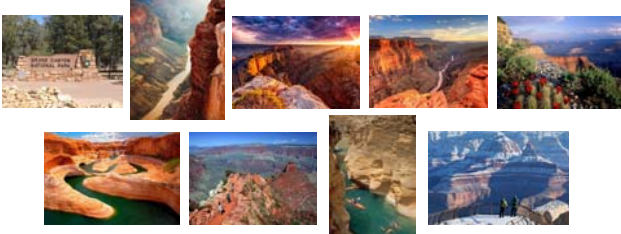


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Control Condition


- The Grand Canyon is an impressive site with something for everyone to enjoy.



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You hitting a guy.


bridge



20

You hitting a guy who hurts someone you care about.


page



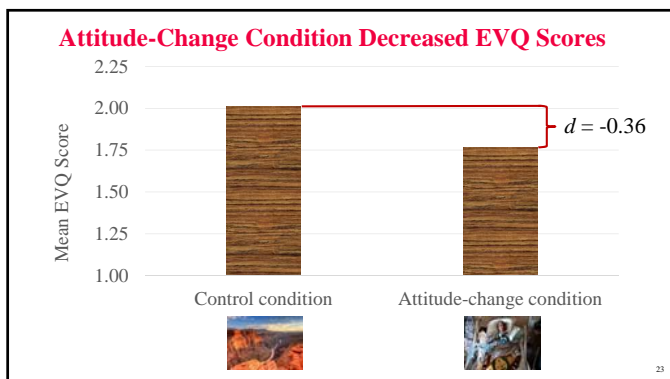
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You hitting a guy who steals from you.



section



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Results suggest that the EVQ does assess evaluative attitudes towards violence





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Next Steps


- Further tests of construct validity
- Further tests of distinctiveness
- Causal effect on violent behaviour?
- Alternative approaches; e.g., implicit, interview
- Other types of violence and populations; e.g., sexual violence, IPV, women

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Conclusion

- Evaluative attitudes towards violence may have been overlooked, but may be relevant
- EVQ promising for further research

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