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Research interests

My main research interest lies in revenge.

Proposals

1.1. Comparing enacted and imagined revenge in producing affective responses

A meta-analytic synthesis of studies examining the affective consequences of revenge suggests that responses to revenge may differ depending on how it is operationalized. In this research project, I aim to investigate why these differences occur, focusing on the distinction between enacted and imagined revenge.

Key reading:

- Dyduch-Hazar, K., & Kjaervik, S. L. (in press). Sweet or bitter? A meta-analytic review on pleasantness and unpleasantness of revenge. *Emotion*.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/emo0001757>

1.2. Hedonic reactions and evaluation of revenge

Previous research has shown that moral evaluations of immoral acts are partly shaped by hedonic reactions. However, this research has predominantly relied on imagined scenarios rather than actual social interactions. In this project, I aim to extend these findings to the interpersonal domain and examine how the positive and negative feelings associated with revenge shape behavior toward those who seek it.

Key readings:

- Dyduch-Hazar, K., & Gollwitzer, M. (2024). Feeling bad about feeling good? How avengers and observers evaluate the hedonic pleasure of taking revenge. *Social Psychological Bulletin*, 19, 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.32872/spb.12477>
- Gromet, D. M., Goodwin, G. P., & Goodman, R. A. (2016). Pleasure from another's pain: The influence of a target's hedonic states on attributions of immorality and evil. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 42(8), 1077-1091.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167216651408>

1.3. Satisfaction from harm through lens of effort

Previous research has shown that people tend to justify the effort they expend by assigning greater value to the outcomes they have worked to achieve. In this project, I aim to extend these findings to the domain of aggression and examine the boundary conditions of this effect.

Key reading:

- Inzlicht, M., Shenhav, A., Olivola, Ch. Y. (2018). Effort paradox: Effort is both costly and valued. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 22(4), 337-349.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2018.01.007>

1.4. Implicit and explicit attitudes towards revenge

Previous research has shown that people intuitively approve of victims' revenge while simultaneously condemning vengeful acts. However, attitudes toward revenge may vary across cultural contexts, particularly between dignity, honor, and face cultures. For example, individuals from honor cultures may express approval of revenge more openly than those from face cultures. In this research project, I aim to investigate the discrepancy between implicit and explicit attitudes toward revenge using the propositional evaluation paradigm (PEP).

Key reading:

- Müller, F., & Rothermund, K. (2019). The propositional evaluation paradigm: Indirect assessment of personal beliefs and attitudes. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 10, Article 2385. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02385>

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