

Dr. Karolina Dyduch-Hazar

Email: karolina.dyduch-hazar@uni-wuerzburg.de

Research interests

My research interests include aggression, particularly revenge. This includes motives underlying revenge, “sweetness” of revenge, and consequences of taking revenge. I am also interested in perception of avengers, that is, what we think of people who enact revenge and how we judge them. Apart from examining why people seek revenge and how revenge makes them feel, I am investigating the concept of sadism which reflects a tendency to harm others for the sake of one’s enjoyment.

Proposals

1.1. Take revenge or not to take revenge?

People assume that victims who restrained oneself from taking revenge feel better than victims who enacted revenge. Is this really a case?

1.2. Revenge in public, revenge in secrecy

People seek revenge for various reasons, including having a pleasure. Is revenge “sweeter” in public or rather in private?

1.3. Feelings towards revenge seekers

Victims who retaliate and reconcile are seen as equally competent but differ in attributed warmth (i.e., cold avengers and warm pardoners). These attributions differently influence our feelings towards avengers (i.e., increased envy, fear, decreased pity) and pardoners (i.e., increased admiration, love, and decreased pity). Do avengers pick up on these impressions? Do we really envy avengers? If so, what are we envious about? Are these feelings different for male and female avengers?

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