

---

Paper Session SP-1  
Saturday, July 29, 2006

## **Investigating Johnson's domestic violence typology**

***Dr Nicola Graham-Kevan***      ***Department of  
Psychology, University of Central Lancashire, UK***



Johnson's typology (1995) of relationship aggression suggests that partner violence is not a unitary phenomenon, and that the frequency of use controlling behaviours can be used to differentiate between domestically violent relationships. Two studies were carried out both using the following measures: the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS, Straus 1979), Controlling Behaviours Scale (CBS-R, Graham-Kevan & Archer 2005) and measures relating to injuries (Morse, 1995). Study 1 investigated the Johnson's typology using a stratified sampling technique whereby three samples; refuge women, students and male prisoners, were compared using discriminate function analysis on the frequencies of controlling behaviour, physical aggression, fear, and injuries. Broad support for the high/low control distinction was found. The analysis however investigated the typology by comparing only one partner's behaviour. In response to new analysis produced by Johnson (1999) the three samples used in study 1 were combined and classified using cluster analysis. Classification was based upon the frequency of controlling behaviour and the occurrence or absence of physical aggression used by both partners and this was used to create a dyadic classification. Support was found for this dyadic classification. Study 1 and research by Johnson and colleagues however has been restricted to composite data from women reporting on their own and their partner's behaviours and/or sampling techniques believed to result in bias towards reports of male violence towards women. Therefore study 2 assessed whether the dyadic typology would be found in a sample of 1350 respondents unselected for partner violence. Replicating previous methods it was found that victim reports were found to produce a clearer typological profile than perpetrator reports. Further, the typologies failed to replicate previous gender differences. Implications for theories of relationship aggression will be discussed.

*Communicating author:*  
*Nicola Graham-Kevan*  
*Phone + 44 (0)1772 893726 Fax +44 (0)1772 892925*  
*email: [ngraham-kevan@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:ngraham-kevan@uclan.ac.uk)*