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## **Relationship between psycho-physiological responses to screen violence and reactive/proactive aggression in adults**

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This study focuses on relationship between emotional arousal generated by violent movie scenes and the propensity to behave aggressively. According to social cognitive theorizing (Huesmann, 1998), the following predictions were made: (1) There are types of individuals with different patterns of reactivity (arousal) and habituation in physiological responding to viewing violence; (2) Different types of individuals experience different emotional patterns while watching violence; and (3) Proactive aggression may be predicted in individuals who show diminished negative emotional responses to violent scenes.

College students (61 males, 61 females) reported how often they exhibited reactive and proactive aggression. Skin Conductance Level (SCL) was measured while they watched violent movie scenes. Self-reports of experienced emotions were recorded after the scene. Also trait-anxiety, trait-anger and normative beliefs on aggression were measured as potential moderators. Cluster analysis of SCL revealed two types of physiological responses to screen violence: 'Non-reactive-habituating-fast' (Type I) and 'Reactive-habituating-slowly' Type II). These two types experienced different emotions while watching violence. Type II predominated Type I on negative emotions. Contrary to expectations, the types of physiological responding to screen violence did not differ on reactive and proactive aggression. However, proactive aggression of the two types was predicted from different emotions experienced during violence viewing. Higher positive/lower negative emotions predicted proactive aggression in Type I individuals. Also normative beliefs approving of aggression predicted proactive aggression. Neither positive nor negative emotions predicted aggression in Type II individuals. Trait anger predicted both kinds of aggression in Type II individuals. Results confirm that: (1) Individual characteristics moderate media effects on aggression; (2) High positive and low negative emotions to screen violence might result in proactive aggression in 'low-aroused-fast-habituating' to screen violence individuals. SCL pattern of responding to screen violence moderates the relationship between media violence viewing and proactive aggression.