

The Analysis of General and Intimate Partner Violence: Theoretical Foundations, Criminality, & Clinical Considerations in Social Work

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Introductions

- Presenter Introductions
 - Greg Bohall, Psy.D., C.R.C. MAC, ICADC, CADC-II
 - Mary-Jo Bautista-Bohall, Psy.D.
 - Brad Conn, Ph.D.
- Audience Introductions
 - Name and discipline
 - Area of expertise related to violence/IPV

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Agenda

- The algebra of aggression
- Risk factors for violence
- Modes of violence
- Theories of violence
- Warning behaviors of targeted violence
- Intimate partner violence
- The complexity of crime
- Theories of crime
- Clinical considerations and recommendations

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The Algebra of Aggression⁵

- Four domains that influence the likelihood that an individual will engage in criminal violence:
 - 1. Instigation: Sum of internal influences that support violent behaviors
 - Feelings, thoughts, motivations
 - 2. Inhibition: Sum of internal influences that make it less likely that the individual will exhibit violent behaviors
 - 3. Habit Strength: Describes the history of violent and nonviolent behavior
 - 4. Situation: External factors
 - Location, drugs/alcohol, social
- Violent behavior is very complex and multifaceted

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Risk Factors for Violence

- Analysis of HCR-20 and VRAG Items⁸
 - Historical violence
 - Young age at first violent incident
 - Relationship instability and lack of personal support
 - Lack of insight, negative attitudes, impulsivity
 - Stress
 - Prior supervision failure and noncompliance with remediation attempts
 - Unresponsive to treatment
 - Early maladjustment
 - Separation from parents under the age of 16
 - Alcohol abuse

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Modes of Violence⁶

- Affective Violence
 - Intense arousal that functions moments before the violence occurs
 - Instinctual, reactive, immediate, and defensive
 - Internal or external perceived threat
 - Goal is to neutralize the threat
 - Aggression can be easily displaced
 - Most physical IPV is affective
- Predatory Violence
 - Planned, purposeful, focused on a target
 - Not reactive to a perceived threat
 - Arousal is absent
 - No displacement of target
 - Goals can vary

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Theories of Violence²

- **Biological-Clinical Approach**
 - Focus on physical attributes and indicators
 - Perhaps the most critiqued approach
 - Pathology (neurological/personality) may be present but not necessarily causal
 - In the present, fewer direct claims of biological causality
 - Limited in explanatory capacity as it fails to acknowledge the interactional nature of violence
 - Situation

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Theories of Violence²

- **Biosocial Criminology/Evolutionary Approach**
 - Interplay between the biological being in a social environment
 - Historical adaptation of violence
 - Survival and "hard-wired" when environment necessitates action
- **Structural Approach**
 - Explain patterns in the social characteristics of victims and offenders
 - Ex: Poverty, inequality, deprivation, social disorganization, gender inequality
 - Offenders and victims often come from the same community

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Theories of Violence²

- **Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology Approach**
 - Interpretation of environmental cues triggering violent behavior
 - Behavioral rewards or consequences for violence
 - Cognitive processes related to violence
 - **General Aggression Model (2002)¹**
 - Individual brings unique characteristics to a situation that impacts their arousal and cognitive response
 - Attitudes, personality traits, genetic predisposition, learning, etc.
 - Influential in developing offender programs

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Theories of Violence²

- Situational and Interactionist Approaches
 - Location, time, and "actors" in the violent act
 - Focus is on the micro-environment
 - Acknowledges that violence is dynamic and evolving
 - Behavior is molded in a particular physical and social context
- Cultural-Community Approaches
 - Violence within a social setting
 - Acknowledge broader structural factors
 - Violent "culture"
- Integrated Approach
 - Scholars integrate elements from different disciplines and approaches

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Warning Behaviors of Targeted Violence⁷

- Typology conceptualizing behavioral patterns indicating an increasing threat of targeted violence
 - 1. Pathway warning behavior
 - Planning, researching, preparing or implementing an attack
 - 2. Fixation warning behavior
 - Pathological preoccupation with an individual or a cause
 - 3. Identification warning behavior
 - Psychological desire to be a "pseudo-commando"
 - Have a "warrior-mentality"
 - Closely associate with weapons or other military/law enforcement paraphernalia
 - Identify with previous attackers/assassins

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Warning Behaviors of Targeted Violence⁷

- 4. Novel aggression warning behavior
 - Act of violence unrelated to targeted violence
 - Committed for the first time
 - Seen as a way to test their ability to complete the actual violent act
- 5. Energy burst warning behavior
 - Increase in frequency or variety of activities related to the target
 - Even if relatively innocuous
 - Usually days or weeks before targeted attack

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Warning Behaviors of Targeted Violence⁷

- 6. Leakage warning behavior
 - Communication to a third party of the intent to do harm/attack
- 7. Last resort warning behavior
 - Subject feels trapped
 - No alternative to violence
 - Subject believes this is the last resort
 - Experiences distress and desperation
- 8. Directly communicated threat warning behavior
 - Communication of direct threat to the target or law enforcement beforehand
 - Intent to damage/injure/kill intended target

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Intimate Partner Violence³

- By a current or former partner
- 1. Physical Violence
 - Use of physical force that causes death, disability, injury, or harm
 - Pushing, shoving, choking, hitting, burning, slapping, punching, etc.
 - Also includes coercing others
- 2. Psychological Aggression
 - Verbal and non-verbal communication with intent to harm partner mentally or emotionally, and/or to exert control
 - Expressive aggression (humiliation, name-calling)
 - Coercive control (limiting access to money, transportation)
 - Threats
 - Control of reproductive/sexual health
 - Exploitation of victim's vulnerability (disability, immigration status)

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Intimate Partner Violence³

- 3. Sexual Violence
 - Attempted or completed
 - Without consent (includes intoxication)
 - A) Rape/Penetration
 - B) Victim made to penetrate someone else
 - C) Non-physically pressured unwanted penetration
 - D) Unwanted sexual contact
 - E) Non-contact unwanted sexual experiences
- 4. Stalking
 - Repeated, unwanted attention and contact that causes concern for personal safety or the safety of someone else
 - Spying, unwanted phone calls, following from a distance, leaving cards, threats

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The Complexity of Crime

- Crime as a multifaceted construct
 - 1. Individual dimensions
 - Lifespan, diversity/multicultural, victim, offender, mental health
 - 2. Social constructions of crime
 - Law, media portrayal, public knowledge, public attitudes
 - 3. Crime type
 - Violent, white-collar, substance-related, crimes for gain
 - 4. Reactions to crime
 - Prevention efforts, offender/victim intervention, police oversight, sentencing and/or use of incarceration

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Theories of Crime⁹

- Anomie Theory
 - Crime is an outcome of defective social regulation
 - Individuals deviate as authority figures offer few controls or moral direction
 - Tends to emphasize punitive measures as opposed to moral direction
 - Ex: Authority figure engages in illegal act and expects citizens not to
- Control Theory
 - Individuals engage in criminal activity because it is profitable, enjoyable, and serves a purpose
 - Key component is that there are reasons as to why individuals commit crimes

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Theories of Crime

- Rational Choice Theory¹⁰
 - Crime is influenced by criminal penalties associated with act
 - Targets are carefully selected before deciding on a course of action
 - Cost-benefit analysis
 - Predatory, premeditated, calculated as opposed to reactive
- Routine Activities Theory⁴
 - Crime is etched in everyday life
 - Time, space, target, and guardians are considered
 - Since individuals have routines, this impacts how, when, where, and to whom crime may occur
 - Focus is on reviewing different routine activities that create opportunities for crime

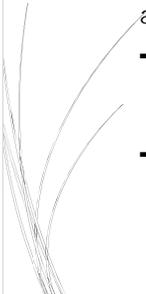
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Intimate Partner Violence and...

- The algebra of aggression
- Risk factors for violence
- Modes of violence
- Theories of violence
- Warning behaviors of targeted violence
- Crime and theories of crime

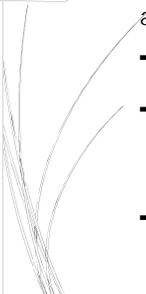
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Clinical Considerations in Social Work and Recommendations

- "Violent offender"
 - Ex: Drug treatment courts
 - Advocacy
 - Micro: with your client
 - Meso: Family, friends, work, etc.
 - Macro: Larger society and policy
- The intervention impasse
 - Psychopathology vs. Forensic Rehabilitation
 - Mental illness solely is not a predictor for violence
 - RNR and GLM
 - Minimal communication between the two fields
 - Call for an integrated approach

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Clinical Considerations in Social Work and Recommendations

- Historical conception and treatment of IPV/DV
 - Power-control
 - The Duluth Model
- Consider couple-focused interventions
 - Among couples who report physical violence in the relationship, at least 45% report mutual violence¹¹
 - Appropriate when:
 - Violence is low
 - Victim is not fearful
 - Couple wants to stay together
- Intervention on "violence" versus the actual issue
 - Offender typology and victimology

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Clinical Considerations in Social Work and Recommendations

- Study the definition of IPV
- General violence and IPV are incredibly complex
 - IPV is more affective/reactive
 - Violence is interactional
 - Emphasis on situation and environment
 - Dynamic and evolving
 - Individual has their own unique characteristics
- Social work ethics
 - 1.04 & 4.01: Competence
 - 5.01: Integrity of the Profession
 - 6.01: Social welfare

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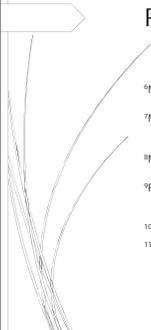
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