

Testing predictions from the male control theory of men's partner violence

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Overview

- To give a brief overview of the background literature
- To present the results of a study that was part of my PhD with a large student sample ($N = 1104$)
- To discuss the implications and future directions

Intimate Partner Violence Research

- IPV Stereotypical view – dominant male perpetrator
- Typologies – to influence treatment
- Male Victims – Steinmetz “Battered Husband Syndrome”



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LIVE it WOMAN REAL LIFE

EXCLUSIVE

Fiancée stubbed cigs out on me, poured boiling water in my lap and held a steam iron on my arm.. I never hit back

By STAFF REPORTERS

Published: 05 May 2009

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BATTERED Ian McNicholl revealed today how he lied for his twisted fiancée - who subjected him



12 months of hell ... Ian shows burn mark inflicted on his left shoulder with a steam iron

One in five men suffer

myView

By MARK BROOKS

Chairman, The Mankind Institute

IF a mate you share a pint with at the

Sex Differences in Aggression

- Differing pattern of sex differences (e.g. Archer, 2000; Archer, 2004)
- Feminists (e.g. Dobash & Dobash, 1979) believe these two types of aggression are etiologically different – a “gender perspective”
- Others (e.g. Felson, 2002, 2006) take the “violence perspective”.
- Dual Belief Theory



Feminist Perspective

- IPV is perpetrated by men driven by patriarchal values and control
- Patriarchal society tolerates this
- Women's aggression is expressive and motivated mainly by self-defence.
- IPV male perpetrators are different from other offenders
- Similar to evolutionary theories in predictions, different reasons



Felson (e.g. 2002) and Chivalry

- IPV not “special”, like other types of aggression rather than having different motives
- Society doesn't tolerate it, quite the opposite
- Originating at early age where boys don't hit girls
- Suggests norms of chivalry cause men to inhibit their aggression towards women
- Women have no such inhibitions as there are few social sanctions to their aggression
- Studies (e.g. Harris & Cook, 1994) suggest men's violence is condemned much more

Johnson's Theory of IPV

- Johnson (1995) tried to bridge feminist and family violence research.
- “Patriarchal terrorism” vs. “common couple violence”
- Later added “violent resistance” and “mutual violent control”
- Evidence for the typology:
- Graham-Kevan and Archer (2003)

Same-Sex Aggression

- Sex difference usually in favour of men
- Archer (2004) Sex differences in real world settings confirmed this
- Supported by crime statistics – 19% of 16-25 commit violent crimes compared to 10% women.
- Felson (2002) men are most at risk for being victims of violence
- Why? Women and fear?



Do women increase, or men decrease, their violence from same-sex to partner?

- Tee & Campbell (2009) had participants rate the likelihood of using physical & verbal aggression to a same-sex and opposite sex target
- Found women were more likely to be aggressive to partner and men more likely to be aggressive to same-sex.
- Men's decrease was greater than women's increase
- Richardson & Green (2006)

Aim of Study

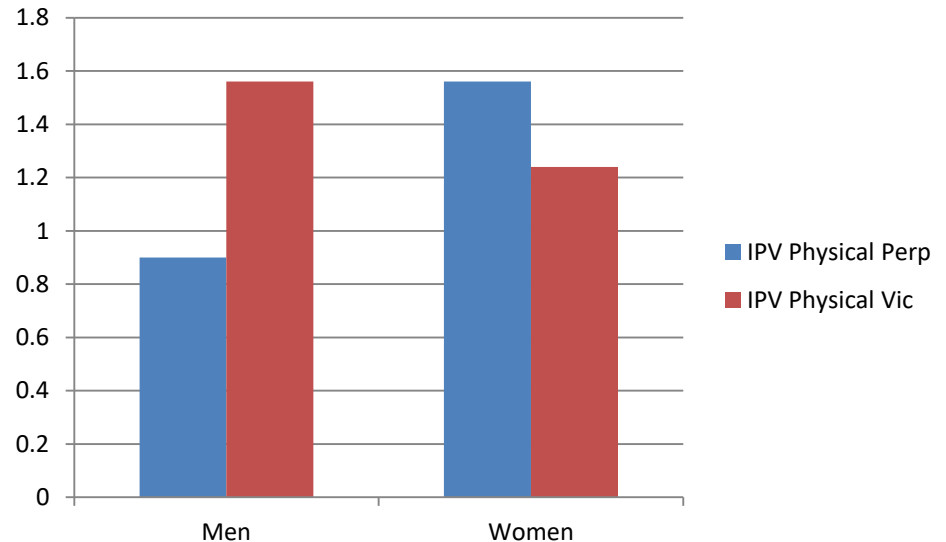
- To test the male control theory (feminist perspective) of IPV
 - Men would show more controlling behavior to partner
 - Controlling behavior to a partner would be linked to IPV for men but not for women;
 - Men's controlling behavior to a partner would be unrelated to their physical aggression to same-sex non-intimates
- Additionally test assumptions from Johnson's Typology:
 - Similar proportions of men and women are to be found among perpetrators of low-level non-controlling physical aggression ("situational couple violence"),
 - Men are to be found disproportionately among the perpetrators of high-level controlling physical aggression ("intimate terrorists").

Method

- 1104 participants were recruited with 706 women and 398 men. There was an average age of 23.55
- Some online and some paper version
- The following measures were used:
 - Conflict Tactics Scale (Straus, 1979) – Perpetration and Victimisation for IPV, Perpetration for aggression to same-sex non-intimates
 - Controlling Behaviour Scale (CBS-R: Graham-Kevan & Archer, 2005) – Perpetration and Victimisation

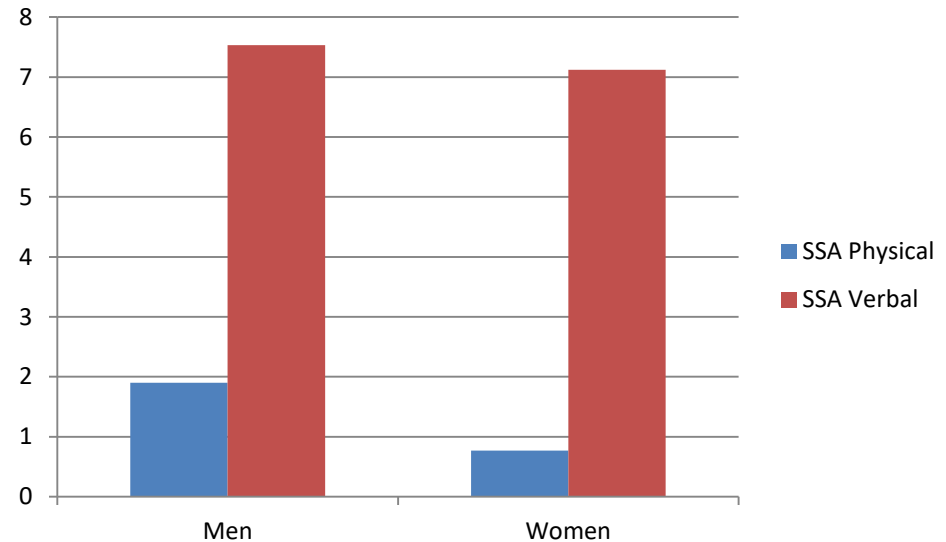
Results

- Women perpetrated significantly more physically and verbally aggression
- Women reported more verbal aggression from partner but no difference for physical



Results

- Men used significantly more verbal and physical aggression to same-sex non intimates

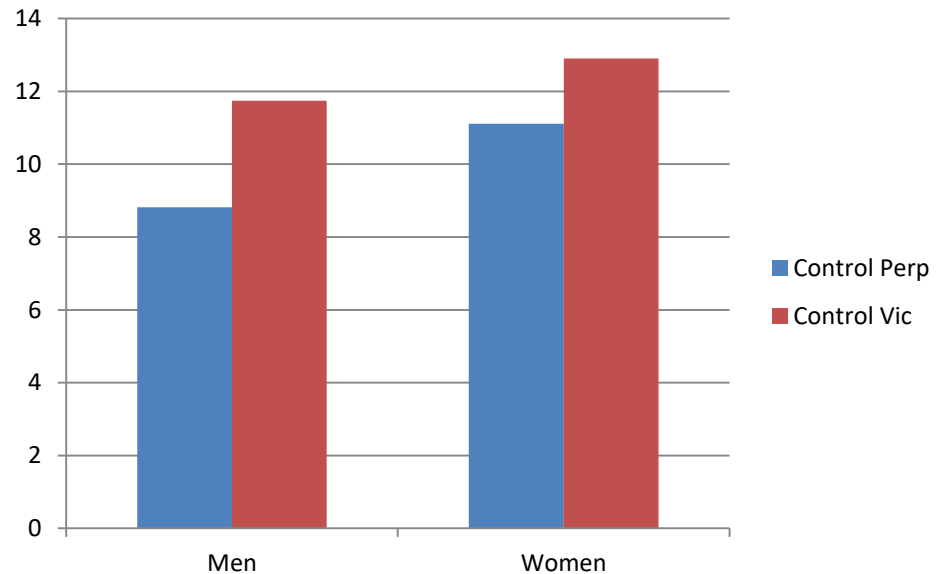


Results

- Within-subjects analyses of d values were performed to ascertain the extent to which men and women were raising or lowering their aggression from same-sex non-intimates to their partners
- The within-subjects effect size for physical aggression was $d = -.22$ ($t = -4.21$, $p < .001$) for men, and $d = .20$ ($t = 5.21$; $p < .001$) for women.
- This indicates that men lower their aggression from same-sex non-intimates to their partners whereas women raise their aggression from same-sex non-intimates to partner to a similar extent.

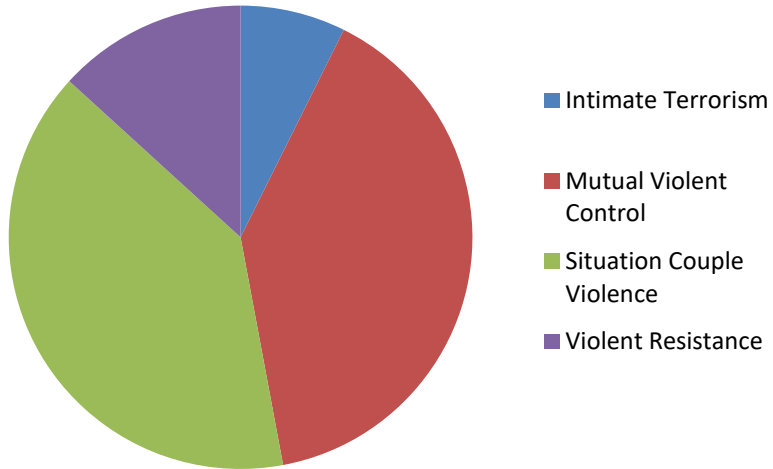
Results

- Women perpetrated significantly more controlling behaviour but similar victimisation scores

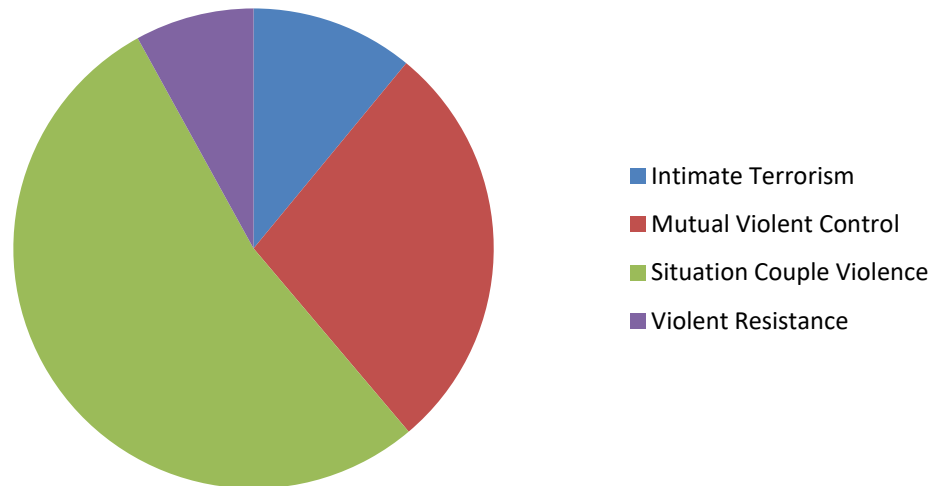


Johnson's Typology

Men



Women



IPV and Aggression to Same-Sex Others

- IPV, aggression to same-sex others and control were all strongly associated
- These were strongly associated for both men and women
- Men and women had similar predictors
- In correlation and regression analysis
- Similar magnitude
- Contradicts several aspects of the theory

Hypotheses

- Men would show more controlling behavior to partner
- Controlling behavior to a partner would be linked to IPV for men but not for women;
- Men’s controlling behavior to a partner would be unrelated to their physical aggression to same-sex non-intimates
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Summary of Findings

- Sex differences in both types of aggression
- Partial support for Johnson's typology
- Very little support for male control theory
- Similar findings for men and women
- Association of control and same-sex aggression
- Men inhibited their aggression towards their partners

Implications for Research

- Supports studying IPV within context of other types of aggression – focus on perpetrator characteristics not societal values
- Control and same-sex aggression - controlling IPV perpetrators have a coercive interpersonal style rather than being patriarchal
- Support for chivalry theory and normative protection of women

Implications for Policy and Practice

- Current IPV interventions in UK, US and Canada, roots in feminist research and theory
- The Duluth Model (Pence & Paymar, 1993) designed to protect women from controlling and abusive men – curriculum based on power and control, perceived to be male problem
- Other models (e.g. Finkel, 2009) argue self regulatory training would be more useful, framework for both IPV and other aggression
- Affects resources – 4000 refuges for women, 78 for men (some actually available for both)

Thank you for listening!

- Any questions?
- Bates, E. A., Graham-Kevan, N. & Archer, J. (under review) Testing predictions from the male control theory of men's partner violence. Manuscript Submitted to Aggressive Behavior
- Copies available on request, please take a card with my email address on.