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**Who else are the aggressors?**

- Bosses
- Coworkers
- Friends
- People in the community
- Children
- Adolescents
- Sports parents



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**Why do we allow them to get away with this?**

- He's always been like this.
- That's just how he is.
- She's going through a lot; she just can't express herself
- You could go pretty far if you just learn to deal with it.
- Please don't start with him, you know it will get no where
- I'm sure he didn't mean it, that's just his way.
- He doesn't mean what he says
- She's been through a lot, you'd act that way too if you had her experience
- He didn't get to where he is today by being nice...

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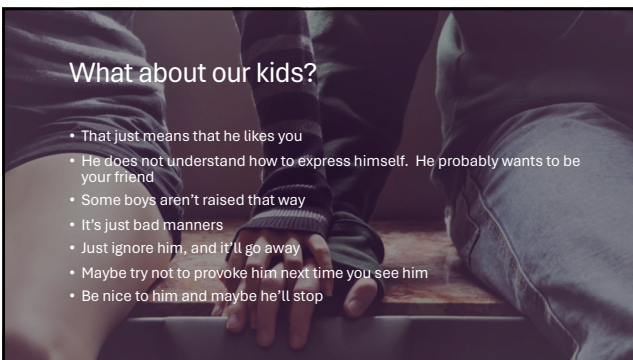
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**What about our kids?**

- That just means that he likes you
- He does not understand how to express himself. He probably wants to be your friend
- Some boys aren't raised that way
- It's just bad manners
- Just ignore him, and it'll go away
- Maybe try not to provoke him next time you see him
- Be nice to him and maybe he'll stop



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• <https://www.tiktok.com/@mix965houston/video/7343250727030197550>

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### Messages to our Children

- This normalizes aggression
  - Masks violence as a way of showing admiration or affection
- Distorts Boundaries
  - We teach kids to ignore their own discomfort and accept that another child's interest or poor emotional control justifies violating their safety
  - We are devaluing our children in the process
- Social Conditioning
  - This relates to a "Coercive Dominant Discourse" where young girls are conditioned to find aggressive boys attractive

Lopez, et al. 2024

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We try to act normal around abnormal people



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### The Six Stages of Bullying

- Bullying Begins – Physical, hazing, intimidation, online, rumors, etc.
- Identifying Victims – 25% of all students will experience bullying
- Fueling the Fire – Bullies crave a reaction from
- Effects of Bullying – physical, emotional ways, can spiral
- Coping Mechanisms – Some healthy, some not so much
- PUTTING A STOP TO BULLYING

TrueSport, 2017

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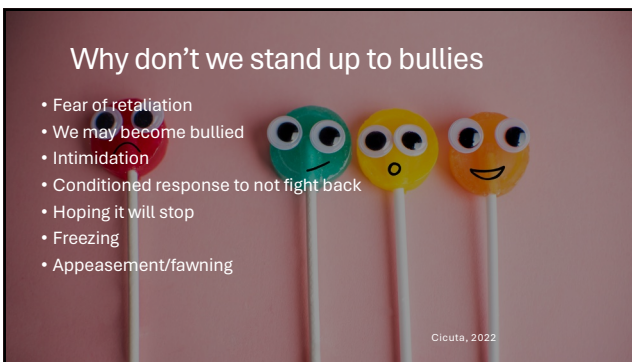
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### Why don't we stand up to bullies

- Fear of retaliation
- We may become bullied
- Intimidation
- Conditioned response to not fight back
- Hoping it will stop
- Freezing
- Appeasement/fawning

Cicuta, 2022

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### #MeToo and When we Stand Up to Abusers

- Started by Tarana Burke in 2006
- Gained acclaim in 2017 with Alyssa Milano
  - 85 million posts in 45 days
- Increased public awareness about sex crimes
- Increased reporting of sex crimes
- Challenged and changed workplace dynamics
- Firing of high-profile executives
- Survivors found validation and community

Lisnek et al. 2022

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**The #MeToo Backlash**

Bae, et al. 2021

- Backlash is when a dominant group responds to a threat to their power
- Increased visibility of Men's rights groups #HimToo
- Increased media coverage of false allegations
- Increase in policy shifts that protect survivors
- Systemic discrimination that reinforces gender inequality
- System embracing rape myths

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**Adams-Clark, et al. (2026) and the #MeToo Backlash**



- Denial of the severity and reality of rape
  - Disbelief/Discredit
  - Victim blaming
  - Minimization
  - Siding with the abuser
- Repercussions of Disclosure/Activism
  - Retaliation
  - Interpersonal Consequences
- Threats to "Traditional" Power Structures
  - Defensiveness among men
  - Fear of False Accusations
- Dissatisfaction with #MeToo movement
  - Victims shouldn't post, they should go to the police/their employers
  - More harm than good

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**Identification With the Aggressor**



- This occurs when someone adopts the traits of an aggressive, intimidating individual
  - Defense mechanism to avoid confrontation and reduce anxiety
- Sometimes subconscious, other times overt
- Bullied children begin bullying other children
- Employees identify with their aggressive superiors
- People identify with an aggressive athlete, politician, or leader

Delboy, S. 2025

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### Identification With the Aggressor

- First explored by Sigmund Freud and his daughter Anna Freud
  - Anna's work with children facing hostility
  - Stanford Prison Experiment
- Types of Aggressive Identification
  - Defensive
  - Survival
  - Adaptive
- Similar to Stockholm Syndrome
- Trauma Bond

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### Identification With the Aggressor in IPV

- Purposes behind this identification
  - Protects self
  - Adaptability
  - Conflict avoidance
- Problems associated with this identification
  - You can lose yourself
  - Strains relationships
  - Perpetuate or normalize aggression in your own life

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### Why do we identify with them?

- Relationships with abusers
  - To feel safe, we sometimes have to put ourselves in the minds of the abusers
  - Appeasement, submission, caretaking
  - Disconnect our own needs in service of them
- Children often mimic their abusers
- Many of us are conditioned to subordinate ourselves to the abuser
- Conditioned to anticipate the POTENTIAL for aggression
  - Do what we can to avoid the conflict
  - Feeling powerless to stop it.

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**How family dynamics can reinforce these power distortions**

- Violence and aggression within the home create a sense of "aggressive normalcy."
  - Children may be raised to be aggressive
  - Other children may be raised to accept victimization as a part of relationships and life
- Process vs. Content communication
  - When our actions differ from our words
  - When others learn from our behaviors, not what we say



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**Demands for loyalty**

- Often related to alignment or allegiance
- The abuser demands that others yield to him, so they can avoid aggression
  - They will not hold the abuser accountable
  - Develops into a "cult of personality."
- The abuser gains perceived strength through the masses
- People lose their identity
- The aggressor is put in a position of complete power



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# Fascism

*noun \ 'fa-, shi-zəm- \*

1. A governmental system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting all industry, commerce, etc., and emphasizing an aggressive nationalism and often racism.
2. A tendency toward or actual exercise of strong autocratic or dictatorial control.

"Fascism is capitalism in decay."

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## Hitler and Fascism

- Encouraged mass propaganda and extreme nationalism
- Used propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, to propel him to a God-like leader
- Scapegoating others (Jews and communists) to explain Germany's problems
- Used an emergency decree to arrest political opponents
- The Night of Long Knives
- Appealing to nationalism and economic despair

National WWII Museum, 2026

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## Essential Elements of Fascism

- Extreme Conservatism
  - Maintain values solely with a national identity
  - Halts progress unless it is first offered by Nationalism
- Extreme Anti-Liberalism
  - Opposition to Liberal values
  - Secular, national, or religious unity
  - "Traditional Values"
- Extreme Anti-Democracy
  - Increase Authoritarianism
  - Increase polarization
  - Increase executive power
- Extreme Anti-Secularism
  - Removal of the separation of religions
  - Allow religions to have more influence on government and public policy

Zatirovski, M, 2023

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**Essential Elements of Fascism**

- Anti-Rationalism
  - Emphasize traditional values and "what feels right" over progress and reason
- Anti-Egalitarianism
  - Opposition of equality
  - Call for a hierarchical structure based on status, merit, or other factors
- Anti-Universalism
  - Opposition to religious doctrines related to equal status and salvation for all
  - Distorts religion and faith to support the fascist state
- Anti-cosmopolitanism
  - No more unique identities, prioritize nationalism as the sole identity

Zafirovski, M. 2023

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**Essential Elements of Fascism**

- Enacting absolute rule and power
  - Placing the full power of a society into the hands of one person or a party of individuals
- Severe Coercion
  - Control the media or how information is disseminated
  - Repress any opinions that counter the controlling body
  - Justify use of violence
- Overt Aggression
  - Anti-pacifism
  - Embrace militaristic state
  - War/Conquest of others

Zafirovski, M. 2023

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**How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them**

- Mythic Past
- Propaganda
- Anti-intellectualism
- Unreality
- Hierarchy
- Victimhood
- Law and Order
- Sexual Anxiety
- Scapegoating or "Us" vs. "Them"
- The Cult of the leader

Stanley, J. 2018

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## Scapegoating

- Rooted in prejudice, when the in-group finds ways to blame out-groups and minorities
- Creates an "Us vs. Them" dynamic
- Shifts the focus to smaller groups and individuals
- Over-simplifies the issue and projects the blame
- This is a way of deflecting responsibility
- Allows the aggressor to stay in power by blaming the scapegoat
- Different types
  - Political
  - Family
  - Workplace

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## Impact on the Scapegoat

- Causes psychological distress
  - In many families, a child is scapegoated
  - Internalized shame and relationship struggles
  - Self-doubt and self-esteem issues
- Can contribute to long-term PTSD that is difficult to identify and treat
  - Many internalize the blame, especially children
- Forces the individual further out of the in-group, leading to isolation

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## How offenders manipulate our perceptions

- They can be aggressive and demanding in their views
- They demand validation from others
  - They can wear down someone who resists or direct their aggression towards them
- They validate and commend others who agree with their views
- People get caught in the "cult of personality."
- By the time many realize how deep they are, they may feel it is too late to escape.
  - Identity associated with the offender

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## Coercive Control

- A form of abuse
- Deprives the person of their right to safety
  - Isolate them
  - Degrade them
- Keeps victims in a state of constant terror
- Restricts victim's access to
  - Education
  - Supports from others
  - Finances
  - Appropriate medical/mental health care

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## Coercive Control

- Is often a factor in IPV
- Reflects a distortion with IPV, such as, "Why doesn't she just leave?"
  - Because she can't.
- Coercive control in the workplace
  - More than just a "bad boss."
  - Micromanagement
  - Gaslighting
- Constant threats to job security
- Unattainable performance goals

Lohmann, et al. 2023

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Method	Effect and Purpose	Variants
Isolation	Deprives victim of all social support of their ability to resist. Develops an intense concern with self (this could be home environments). Makes victim dependent.	Complete solitary confinement Complete or partial isolation Group isolation
Monopolization of Perception	Fixes attention upon immediate predicament. Eliminates information not in compliance with demands. Punishes independence and/or resistance.	Physical isolation Darkness or bright light Restricted movement Monotonous food
Humiliation and Degradation	Makes resistance more "costly" than compliance. "Animal level" concerns.	Personal hygiene prevented Demeaning Punishments Insults and taunts Denial of Privacy
Exhaustion	Weakens mental and physical ability to resist.	Semi-Starvation Sleep deprivation Prolonged interrogation Overexertion
Threats	Creates anxiety and despair. Outlines cost of non-compliance.	Threats to kill Threats of abandonment/home-return Threats against family Vague Threats Mysterious changes of treatment.
Occasional Indulgences	Positive motivation for compliance. Hinders adjustment to deprivation.	Occasional favours Rewards for partial compliance Promises
Demonstrating Omnipotence	Suggests futility of resistance.	Confrontation Showing complete control over victims face
Forcing ritual demands	Develops habit of compliance.	Enforcement of "rules"

© 2006 by Biderman et al.

## Biderman's Chart of Coercion

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## How do abusers control victims in relationships

- Gaslighting and Lies
- Negging
- Emotional manipulation
- Icing them out/cold shoulder
- Love bombing
- Social Restriction
- Sleep deprivation
- DARVO

Pitman, 2016

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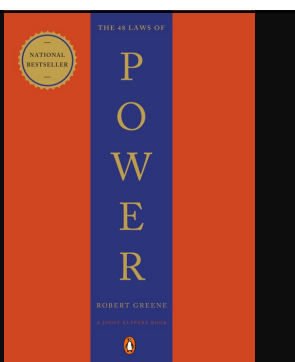
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## 48 Laws of Power

- "The feeling of having no power over people and events is generally unbearable to us – when we feel helpless we feel miserable. No one wants less power; everyone wants more."
- Self-help book designed for business, relationships, and life
- 3,000 years of wisdom and literature distilled into 48 laws.
- Psychological concepts about personality and power



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## THE 48 LAWS OF POWER

ThePowerMoves.com

Never outshine the master	Don't trust friends, use enemies	Mask your intentions	Protect your reputation	Always say less than necessary	Court attention at all costs	Win thru' action, not argument	Let others work and take the credit
Make yourself indispensable	Make people come to you	Feign honesty & generosity	Stay away from losers	Appeal to selfishness not virtue	Gather intelligence	Know your opponents	Crush your enemy totally
Use absence to raise your value	Stay unpredictable	Don't isolate yourself	Keep your independence	Surrender to recover	Let your victims feel smarter	Create your own identity	Be a masterful courtier
Concentrate your forces	Act with boldness	Keep your hands clean	Always seem effortless	Create a cult-like following	Control the options	Find your rivals weakness	Plan until the end
Master the art of timing	Play to people's fantasies	Pretend to be like them	Act like a long to become one	Ignore what you can't have	Don't fill a great man's shoes	Create compelling spectacles	Despise the free lunch
Stir up water to catch fish	Strike the opponent's leader	Win both wars and minds	Introduce change gradually	Don't seem too perfect	Use the mirror effect	Don't push too far in victory	Assume formlessness

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### Controversy of the 48 Laws of Power

- Banned in the prison systems of at least 18 states
- Banned in the federal prison system
- Is one of the most stolen books in book stores
- Considered to be a guidebook to many gangs
- Teaches people how to reinforce controlling, toxic relationships
  - "Honesty is a blunt instrument, which bloodies more than it cuts."
  - "Lay honesty aside, conceal your intentions."
- Has been linked to fascism, domestic abusers, violence, and criminality



Joppich, S. 2022

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### The Laws of Power associated with Facism

- Law 15 – Crush you enemy totally
- Law 27 – Play on people's need to believe to create a cultlike following
- Law 37 – Create compelling spectacles
- Law 42 – Strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter
- Law 43 – Work on the hearts and minds of others

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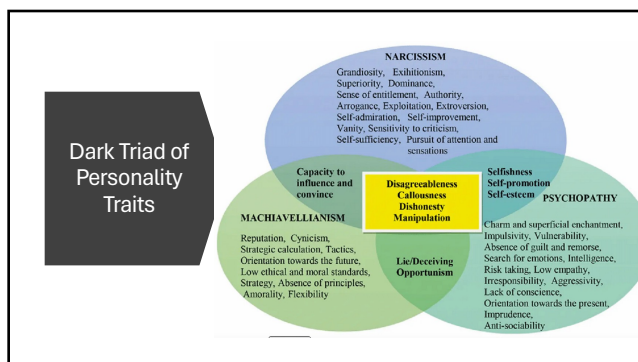
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### Characteristics of the Dark Triad

- Ego-centric/self-centered
- Superficial Charm
- No genuine attachments/relationships
- Deception
- Impulsivity/risk taking
- Callousness
- Greed
- Jealousy
- Bullying/abuse of others



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### Dark Triad in the Workplace



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### DARVO

Deny	Attack	Reverse
<p>Deny – The offender denies the abuse ever occurred</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims feel manipulated, gaslit, and question their perceptions and reality</li> </ul>	<p>Attack – Offenders will attack the victim when held accountable for their actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offender attacks victim, their values, friends, supports, etc</li> </ul>	<p>Reverse Victim and Offender – The attacker presents self as the real victim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manipulates others to believe are the victim</li> </ul>

Freyd, J. 1997

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**DARVO and the Dark Triad**  
**Associations between DARVO Use and Narcissism, Machiavellianism, and Psychopathy**

Center For Institutional Courage

Sarah Harsanyi<sup>1,2</sup> & Jennifer Freyd<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Center for Institutional Courage, <sup>2</sup>University of Oregon, <sup>3</sup>Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University

**DARVO (Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender) is a manipulative response commonly used by wrongdoers to deflect blame.**<sup>1,2</sup>

It depicts the emerging societal attack-victim, and shows the persistence in the high-victim blame rates and offender blame. DARVO is a manipulative and advanced response, so we might be inclined to attribute personality traits.

**The Dark Triad is a cluster of antisocial traits rooted in callous manipulation.**<sup>3</sup>

- Narcissism: grandiosity, entitlement
- Psychopathy: callousness and impulsivity
- Machiavellianism: lack of morality, manipulativeness, strategic opportunistic

**Is DARVO related to Dark Triad traits?**

**Findings**

Self-reported DARVO use during a confrontation was positively correlated with:

- Narcissism ( $r = .46, p < .001$ )
- Psychopathy ( $r = .35, p < .001$ )
- Machiavellianism ( $r = .38, p < .001$ )

Attack and Reverse Victim and Offender resulted in the largest correlations with the Dark Triad.

People who use DARVO responses are more likely to have Dark Triad traits.

Dark Triad traits are associated with DARVO responses.

Response	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Machiavellianism
Deny	.46***	.35***	.38***
Attack	.48***	.37***	.40***
Reverse	.47***	.36***	.39***

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**DARVO and Trump**

**2022 FBI seized boxes from Mar-a-Lago**

His "beautiful home" was "under siege" by "the radical left democrats."

"What is the difference between this and Watergate, when an operative broke into the Democratic National Committee? Here, in reverse, Democrats broke into the home of the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States."

**E. Jean Carroll lawsuit**

- "She said that I did something to her that never took place."
- "She's not my type" and "I know nothing about this nutjob."
- "If anyone has information that the Democratic Party is working with Ms. Carroll or New York magazine, please notify us as soon as possible. The world should know what's really going on. It is a disgrace, and people should pay dearly for such false accusations."

Blumenthal, S. 2024

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Donald J. Trump  
 @realDonaldTrump

The Federal Government, under my auspices as President of the United States of America, has stepped into the complete criminal mess that was Washington, D.C., our Nation's Capital. Because of this, D.C. has gone from one of the most dangerous and murder ridden cities in the U.S.A., and even around the World, to one of the safest - in just a few weeks. The "place" is absolutely booming, with restaurants, stores, and businesses packed and, for the first time in decades, virtually NO CRIME. It has been a beautiful thing to watch but, now, under pressure from the Radical Left Democrats, Mayor Muriel Bowser, who has presided over this violent criminal takeover of our Capital for years, has informed the Federal Government that the Metropolitan Police Department will no longer cooperate with ICE in removing and relocating dangerous illegal aliens. If I allowed this to happen, CRIME would come roaring back. To the people and businesses of Washington, D.C., DON'T WORRY, I AM WITH YOU, AND WON'T ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN. I'll call a National Emergency, and Federalize, if necessary!!! Thank you for your attention to this matter. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!! President DJT

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## Personality Traits

- Supported by many psychologists as this was developed over the past 50 years
- Big Five:
  - Openness
  - Conscientiousness
  - Extraversion
  - Agreeableness
  - Neuroticism




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## Agreeable

- More focused on fitting in
- Emphasis on conformity
- Reduce conflict, reinforce harmony in social situations
- "Go with the flow"
- Without realizing it, our focus on being agreeable is actually our attempt to conform to the world around us.
- We worry about being judged by others
- We don't want to disrupt the current stasis




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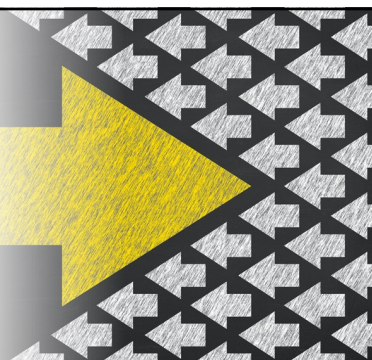
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## Disagreeableness

- This has recently been the most studied of the big five
- Misconceptions about this as well
- Disagreeable does not always mean "difficult."
- Disagreeable are skeptical, blunt, competitive, independent, and have a lower concern for social harmony
- Often have or are perceived to have low empathy
- Abusers may justify destructive behavior under the umbrella of "authenticity."
- Abusers can justify their narcissism through the disagreeable lens




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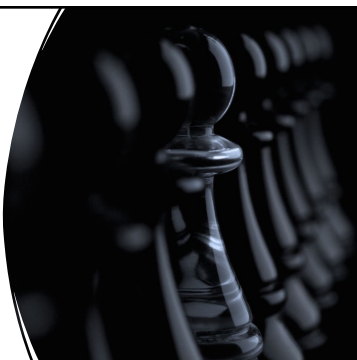
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### Benefits and Drawbacks of Disagreeing

- Effective leaders surround themselves with disagreeable people
- Disagreeable individuals have been proven to be more effective in business settings
- Often earn more money and are promoted more often than their harmonious peers
- It can be lonely to be disagreeable
- There is a tipping point where disagreeing turns into becoming contrarian

Maples & Ziebelman, 2024



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### Not deterred by social norms

- Social norms can be subjectively interpreted
- Can be influenced by our status, community, race, religion, etc
- Offenders value their needs over the social norms
- Feel justified to act aggressively or abusively
- Many are not even aware



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### How do we respond to aggression or trauma?



<b>FIGHT</b> - TEMPER AND ANGRY OUTBURSTS - AGGRESSIVE COMMENTS AND CONFRONTS OTHERS - DEMANDS PERFECTION FROM OTHERS - HUNTERS POWER AND CONTROL - IMPULSIVE DECISION MAKING - AGGRESSIVE, "BULLY" - NECESSARY CRITICIZING AND RAGING	<b>FLIGHT</b> - FEELINGS OF PANIC AND ANXIETY - "BROKAWAY" - OBSSIVE AND/OR COMPULSIVE BEHAVIORS - ALWAYS ON THE GO AND STAYING BUSY - OVER WORKING - PERFECTIONIST & OVER SENSITIVE - HYPERACTIVE - OVER ANALYTICAL
<b>FREEZE</b> - DEPRESSION - ISOLATION - BRAIN FOG - AVOIDS HUMAN CONTACT - DETACHED - STRUGGLES WITH MAKING DECISIONS - HYPERSWEATING - LIFELESS/FEELING DEAD INSIDE - FEELING SPACED OUT - ISOLATION	<b>FAWN</b> - PEOPLE PLEASING - CO-DEPENDENT - PEEK A-HAND TIME STANDING UP - FEEL FEARFUL OR SAYING "NO" - LACK OF BOUNDARIES - GETS TO OTHERS IN DECISION MAKING - AVOIDS CONFLICT - HIGHLY CONCERNED WITH FITTING IN

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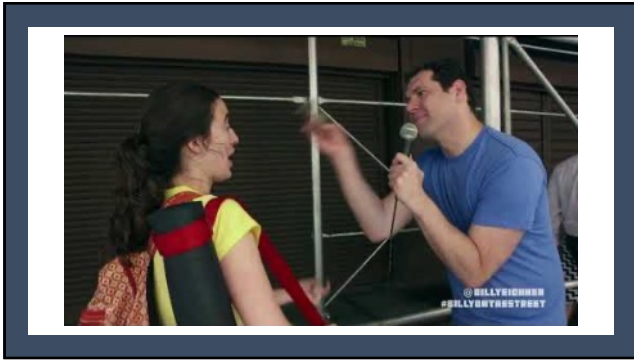
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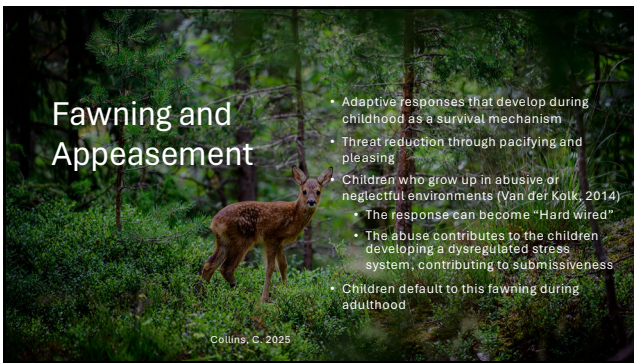
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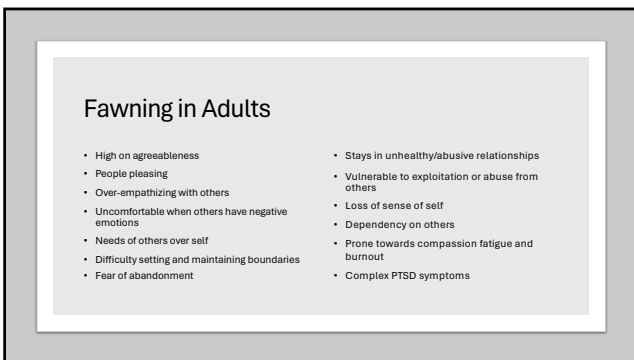
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**When we are afraid, we revert to entrenched behavior**

- We may avoid perceived danger and not hold the person accountable
- Fear is a motivator. Many flee, freeze, or fawn
- We can be overwhelmed by our emotions and not process information accurately
- "That just means that he likes you."
- We make excuses to justify our inaction or continued alignment

Porges, S. 2011

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**The Murder of Catherine "Kitty" Genovese**

- March 13, 1964
- 28-year-old bartender from Brooklyn.
- Brutally raped and murdered, and many residents of her apartment building did not intervene
- Killer, Winston Mosely, left then returned to finish the murder

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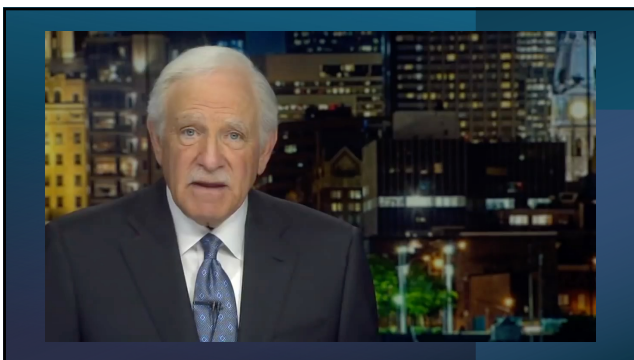
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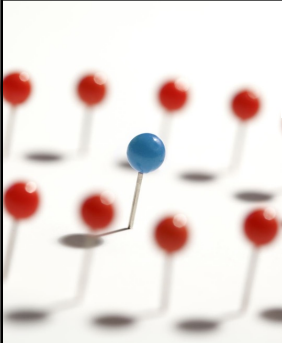
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### The Bystander Effect

- Bystanders witness an emergency and do not take action
  - Coined in 1970 by Bibb Latane and John Darley
- Factors that prevent assistance
  - Audience inhibition, or the presence of others
  - Evaluation apprehension
  - Social influence
  - Pluralistic ignorance
  - Diffusion of responsibility
- Factors influencing intervention
  - Ambiguity
  - Cohesiveness
  - Severity

Nida, S. 2024; & Hortensius, R. & Gilder, B. 2018

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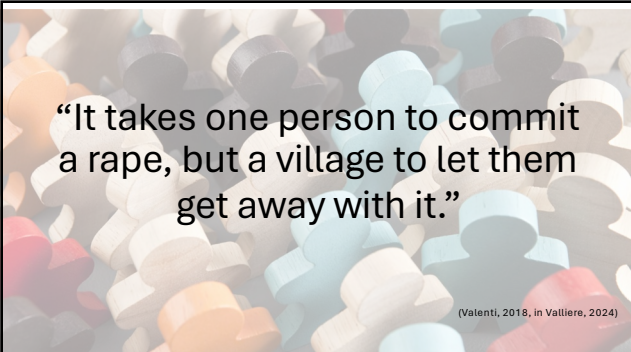
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“It takes one person to commit a rape, but a village to let them get away with it.”

(Valenti, 2018, in Valliere, 2024)

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### Five-Step Model for Bystanders to Intervene

- They must notice the situation
- They must interpret the situation as an emergency
- They must assume responsibility
- They must know how to help in an emergency
- They must implement the help

Serengeti, A. 2024

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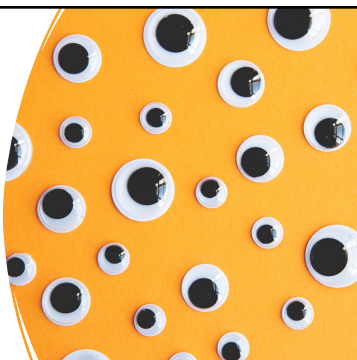
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### The Five Ds of Bystander Intervention

- Distract
- Delegate
- Delay
- Document
- Direct

Right To Be, 2026



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### Motivated Reasoning

- We want to live in a world without violence
  - This makes us predisposed to not hold offenders accountable
- Psychologically, our minds often attempt to reject or explain anything that differs from how we see the world
- If we perceive something as negative or against our beliefs, we are likely to question or even reject it.
- This makes us susceptible to conspiracy theories, groupthink/identification, and offender manipulation
- Confirmation Bias



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### How we are biased to support offenders

- Confirmation Bias – We only look for or believe things that support our belief system.
  - The most common form of bias
  - Applies to nationalism, team affiliation, political parties, religions, etc.
  - Can be used to reinforce negative perceptions
    - Racism
    - Misogyny
  - Offenders can manipulate this to overpower our reasoning



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## Denialism

*Denialism is an expansion, an intensification, of denial. At root, denial and denialism are simply a subset of the many ways humans have developed to use language to deceive others and themselves* (Kahn-Harris, 2018 page 2)

- Denial is an ordinary response, denialism is combative
- Creates an environment of hate and suspicion
- Facts will always be refuted. The existence of denialism is a victory for the denialist
- A reaction to inconvenience
- A way to level the playing field
- Some skeptical of a topic, others of all knowledge

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## How we are Impacted by Denialism in Offenders

- It can feel like an assault on your senses
- Many of us question our own sanity
  - "Is he delusional? No one is doing anything. Is this normal? Am I delusional????"
- Is this real life?
- "Denialism is not a barrier to acknowledging a common moral foundation; it is a barrier to acknowledging moral differences." (Kahn-Harris, 2018, page 10)



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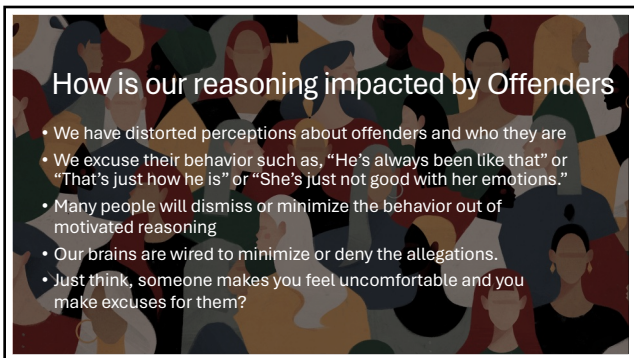
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## How is our reasoning impacted by Offenders

- We have distorted perceptions about offenders and who they are
- We excuse their behavior such as, "He's always been like that" or "That's just how he is" or "She's just not good with her emotions."
- Many people will dismiss or minimize the behavior out of motivated reasoning
- Our brains are wired to minimize or deny the allegations.
- Just think, someone makes you feel uncomfortable and you make excuses for them?



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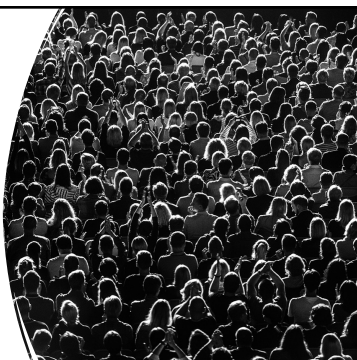
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### Are We Blind to Offenders?

- We attempt to avoid seeing them for who they are
- We are more likely to make excuses for their behavior to avoid confronting them or having to address the behavior
- It is easier for us to believe that a victim is the problem or that they lied or have mental health issues, rather than accept that an offense occurred
- Why is it easier for us to believe that a child, woman, or victim lied about the offense?
- Why is it easier to "Just keep walking" than intervening?



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### Why do People Defend Offenders?

<p><b>Pre-offense</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I live in a safe neighborhood</li> <li>• My friends/family are all good people</li> <li>• I am a good judge of character</li> <li>• I can relax and not worry when around others</li> </ul>	<p><b>Post-offense</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People get hurt where I live</li> <li>• Some people close to me have hurt others</li> <li>• I can't tell the difference between an abuser and a good person</li> <li>• Am I ever safe? Is my family?</li> </ul>
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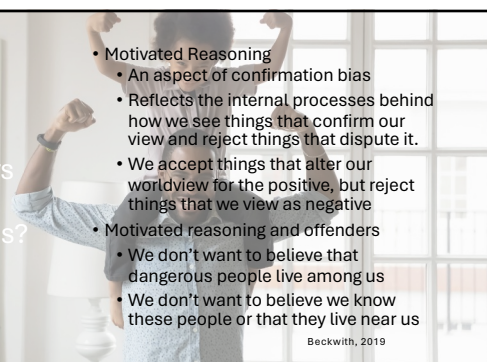
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### How do Offenders use this against us?

- Motivated Reasoning
  - An aspect of confirmation bias
  - Reflects the internal processes behind how we see things that confirm our view and reject things that dispute it.
- We accept things that alter our worldview for the positive, but reject things that we view as negative
- Motivated reasoning and offenders
  - We don't want to believe that dangerous people live among us
  - We don't want to believe we know these people or that they live near us

Beckwith, 2019



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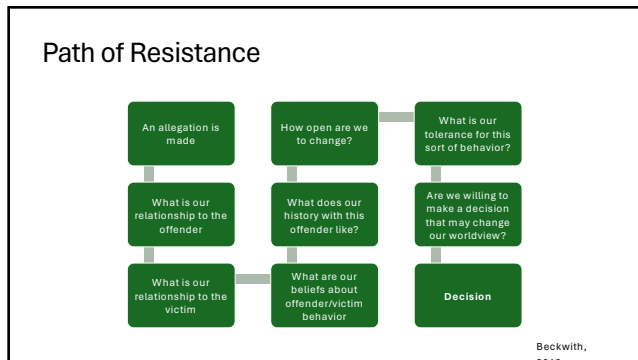
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