

Abstract

The present study aimed at constructing a model for explaining anger in response to provocation, based on the relationship between dimensions of norm violation, attribution of responsibility of the harmdoer, emotional responses, motivational intentions and behavioral outcome. One hundred and forty-three undergraduates (58 male and 85 female) were asked to recall an episode in which they had been harmed. A model was developed from the data that showed attribution of responsibility of the harmdoer and emotional responses jointly predicted both types of motivational intentions (intention to retaliate/restore identity). Only intention to retaliate was found to predict verbal assertiveness as the behavioral outcome. Gender, perceived status, independent self-construal, as well as honor were tested for the differential strength of correlations among the links in the model and the levels of each dimension, but no significant differences were found. Relationship with the harmdoer and interdependent self-construal, however, demonstrated moderating effects in the model. Acquaintances felt more hostile and had higher intended responses than intimates, whereas the association between hostile feeling and intention to retaliate was stronger for individuals with lower interdependent self-construal than those of higher interdependent self-construal. Results were discussed in terms of the limitations and implications of the present study and potential extensions of future research.