

Psychology: Social Psychology – Pro and Anti Social Behaviour

There are three sections within the topic of pro and anti social behaviour:

- **Nature and causes of aggression** – social and psychological theories of aggression (e.g. social learning theory, deindividuation, relative deprivation) including research studies relating to these theories. Research into the effects of environmental stressors on aggressive behaviour.
- **Altruism and bystander behaviour** – explanations (e.g. empathy altruism, negative state relief) and search studies relating to human altruism and bystander behaviour. Cultural differences in pro-social behaviour.
- **Media influences on pro and anti social behaviour** – explanations and research relating to media influences on pro and anti social behaviour.

Aggression defined by Aronson (1999):

“intentional behaviours aimed at causing either physical or psychological pain”.

Berkowitz suggests that there are two types of aggression:

- **Hostile aggression** – “an act of aggression arising from feelings of anger and aimed at inflicting pain.”
- **Instrumental aggression** – “aggression as a means to some goal rather than inflicting pain.”