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Appraisal, emotion and coping in victims of peer-aggression and victimization

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Peer-aggression and victimization

Aggression:
• Within-species attacks or hostility

Peer-victimization:
• Repeated aggression

Prevalence (Hunter, Boyle & Warden, 2004):
• Peer-victimization: 12%-28%
• Peer-aggression: a further 16%-39%
The coping process (Lazarus & Colleagues)

Person Variables

Situation Variables
The coping process (Lazarus & Colleagues)

Person Variables → Appraisals → Situation Variables
The coping process (Lazarus & Colleagues)

- Person Variables
- Situation Variables
- Appraisals
- Coping Strategy Use
The coping process (Lazarus & Colleagues)

Person Variables → Situation Variables

Emotional Reaction

Appraisals

Coping Strategy Use
Aims

1. How well does the transactional model account for the coping processes of children experiencing peer-aggression and peer-victimization?

2. What are the effects of appraisals and emotions upon use of coping strategies?

3. Are developmental differences evident between late-childhood and early-adolescence?
Methodology

- N = 830 pupils in P6, S2, or S3 (9 to 14 years old).
- Self-report questionnaire, with items on:
  - peer-aggression/ victimisation (Hunter, Boyle & Warden, 2004)
  - coping strategy use (individual coping strategies)
  - control and threat appraisals (Hunter & Boyle & Warden, 2004)
  - emotions (anger, sadness, fear: individual emotion items)
Analysis - Structural equation model for each coping strategy:

Individual Coping Strategy
Common to each SEM was the core appraisal/emotion aspect of the process, and across the coping strategies the pattern of covariances was as follows:
Direct standardised regression weights from appraisals and emotions to individual coping strategies were as follows:

NB. correlations between appraisals and emotions not shown here for clarity of presentation.
Direct standardised regression weights from appraisals and emotions to individual coping strategies were as follows:

**Threat**

**Control**

**Angry**

**Scared**

**Sad**

*Stood up to them, told them to stop*

NB. correlations between appraisals and emotions not shown here for clarity of presentation.
Direct standardised regression weights from appraisals and emotions to individual coping strategies were as follows:

**NB. correlations between appraisals and emotions not shown here for clarity of presentation**
Summary

• Distinct relationships between appraisals and emotional reactions

• Also, certain patterns of appraisal and emotion are linked to use of certain strategies

• Potential for new/improved interventions by focusing on appraisals and emotion regulation

• New ways of *influencing* strategy choice, but still unclear what the best strategies actually are

• No developmental differences evident

• Only one gender difference (*Threat* predicted Crying for girls but not boys)