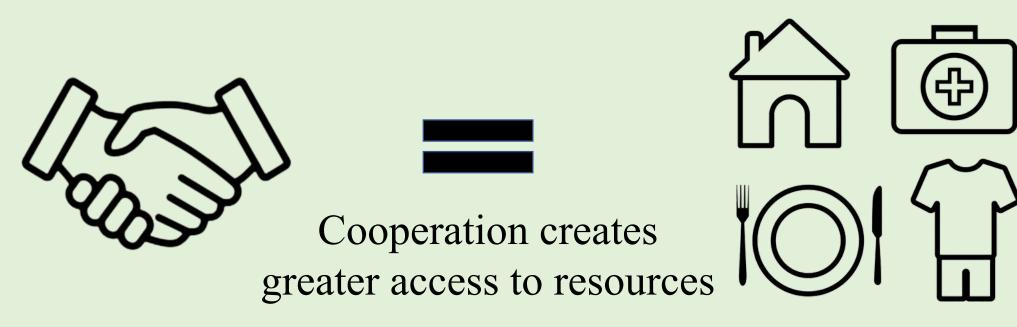


# Mechanisms that promote cooperative behavior in groups

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#### Introduction

Cooperation is crucial for human success. People cooperate with close friends and family, their community, and even complete strangers



- One mechanism that promotes cooperation is punishment.
- The consequences associated with punishment include:
- Preventing future wrongdoings
- Setting a precedent of unacceptable behavior
- Another (understudied) mechanism that may increase cooperation is compensation or reward which can:
- Redeem the victim
- o Promote behavior that is favorable







# Method Phase 1 Phase 2 Victim Victim Dictator Dictator Punisher Punisher

- Participants completed dominance and prestige scales
- Participants learned about third-party altruistic punishment task
- Random assignment to public versus private condition





• Participants then chose punishments and/or reward decisions for other members of group

n=81

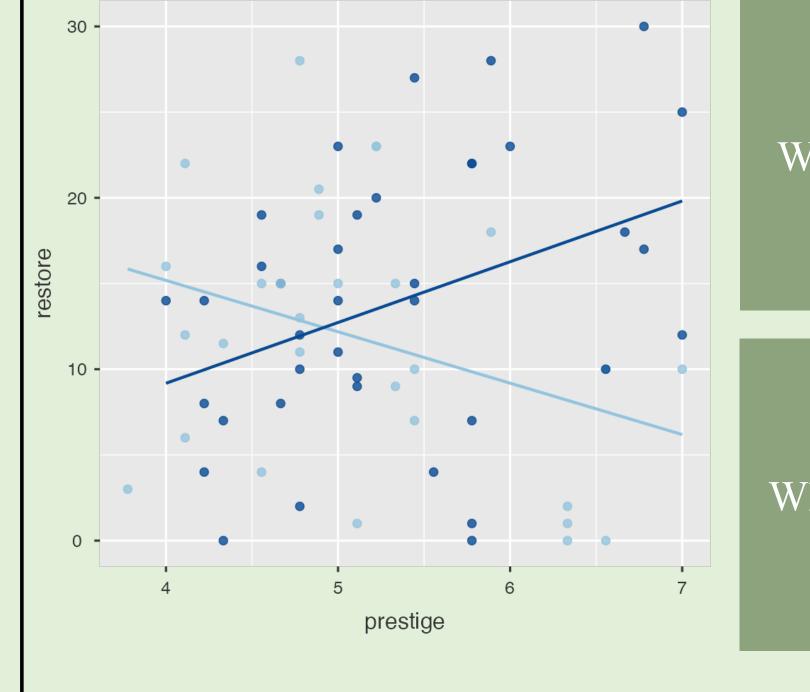
#### Conclusion

- Punishment is one useful mechanism for increasing cooperation and deterring selfishness.
- The current work finds evidence that compensation (of victims) is another useful tool for increasing cooperation.
- Results are tentative (data collection is still in progress) but suggest that the use of punishment and/or reward may be influenced
  - o (1) one's trait levels of dominance and prestige
  - o (2) whether decisions were made in public (when social approval is at stake) or private

### Preliminary Results

Key DVs (outcomes): average punishment (to dictator) and average compensation (to victim)

Key IVs (predictors): trait dominance and prestige, in public versus private





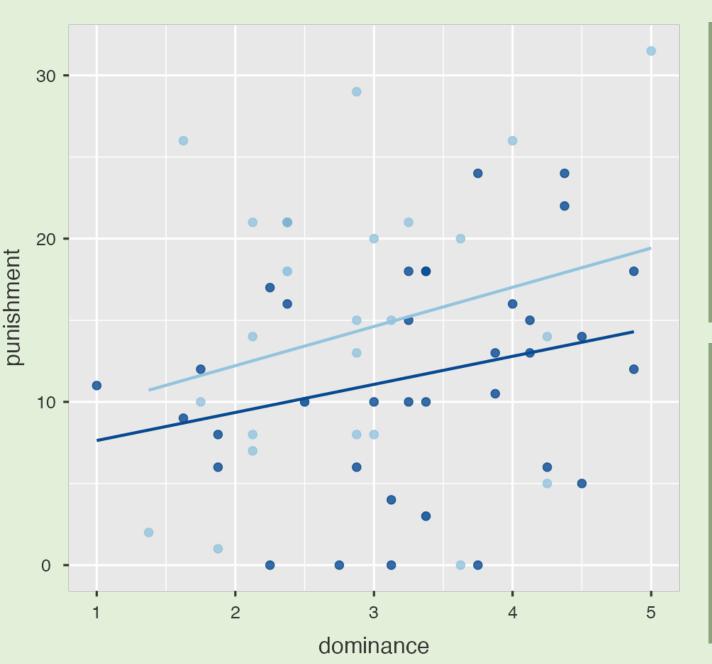
When making decisions in **public**: Those higher in prestige compensated a victim **more** 

## DIGITIZE

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS When making decisions in private: Those higher in prestige compensated a victim <u>less</u>

Dominance main effect: b=-1.966, p=.048Prestige in public: b=3.260, p=.026Prestige in private: b=-3.298, p=.042

Dominance did **not** interact with condition (i.e., effect of dominance did not depend on public/private context)



Dominance (again) did **not** interact with condition (i.e., effect of dominance did not depend on public/private context)

Dominance was positively associated with punishment, regardless of condition.

Dominance main effect: b=2.030, p=.058Prestige: b=0.239, p=.845

- Prestigious individuals may only engage in costly decisions such as compensation of a victim if done publicly when social approval and reputation are at stake.
- Although the association between dominance and punishment was nonsignificant, it suggested that dominant individuals engage in costly punishment regardless of whether social approval was at stake or not.

#### References

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