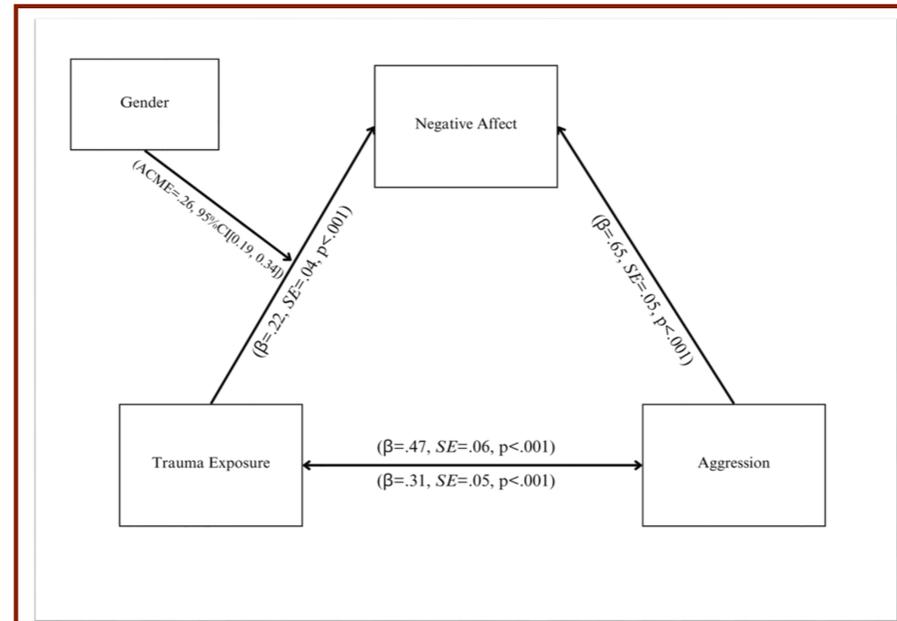


Gender Differences in Trauma Type and Aggressive Behavior: Examining the Role of Negative Affect

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Introduction

- Prior research indicates an association between **trauma exposure** and **violent behavior** (Song LY, Singer MI, & Anglin TM, 1998).
- **Sex differences** have been observed in the **expression of aggression and motivation of the behavior**. (Clements, C. M., Clauss, K., Casanave, K., & Laajala, A. 2018).
- **Sex differences** have been observed in **negative affect (NA)** and has been associated with **aggressive behaviors** (Verona & Curtin 2006). Few studies have examined **gender differences or trauma type** in this relationship.
- The aim of this study is to examine the **gender differences** in the role of **negative affectivity** in the relationship between **trauma exposure** and **aggressive behavior**.



Results

- **Direct trauma**, but not indirect trauma, was a **significant predictor of negative affect** ($\beta=0.44, p < .001, 95\%CI [0.20, 0.68]$).
- There were **significant differences in total aggression by gender** ($p < .05$); **men reported greater physical** ($p < .05$) and **verbal** ($p < .05$) aggression than women but **no significant differences in hostility or anger**.
- Examination of an **indirect relationship** between trauma and aggression through negative affect **was not significant** (ACME = .26, 95% CI [0.19, 0.34]). **Gender did not moderate the indirect effect of trauma exposure on aggression through negative affect** (ADE = .32, $p < .001, 95\%CI [-0.08, 0.58]$).

Method

- 435 **trauma-exposed** adults were recruited from Amazon's Mechanical Turk (MTurk) Cloudresearch Platform
- The sample had an average age of 45 years, was predominately white (75.4%, $n=328$) and gender (42.1%, $n=183$) men and (57.9%, $n=252$) women.
- Participants completed self-report measures on **traumatic events** during their lives (Life Events Checklist for DSM-5), **NA** (Positive Affect Negative Affect Scales), and **aggression levels** (Buss Perry Aggression Questionnaire).
- **Univariate regression** was used to examine **trauma type** on **negative affect**. Several **one-way ANOVAs** used to examine **gender differences** in **type of aggression**. **Moderated mediation** was used to examine in indirect effect on **trauma exposure** on **aggression** through **negative affect**, **moderated by gender**.

Table 1. Analysis of Variance for Aggression Types by Gender

	Marginal Means			
	Physical	Verbal	Anger	Hostility
Male	7.93	6.59	3.73	7.15
Female	6.81	7.79	3.34	7.20
F				

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$.

Conclusions

- **Men and women have differential expression of aggression**, with men exhibiting more direct aggression (physical and verbal)
- **Further examination into types of direct trauma** could provide insight to negative affectivity and aggression.
- Further research should be conducted to determine other **mechanistic links between trauma exposure and aggression**.

