

Introduction

Literature Review

Exclusion Bullying (ExB)

- Many youth experience bullying with short- and long-term negative consequences for victims and victimizers (Wolke et al., 2013)
- Peer exclusion is often used as a means to bully (Seals & Young, 2003), particularly individuals who differ from the majority, such as ethnic minorities (Mendez, et al., 2012; Rigby, 2008)

Response Strategies

- Effectively responding to bullying can reduce the duration of bullying and the associated negative outcomes (Kochenderfer-Ladd, 2004)
 - However, youth often utilize *ineffective* strategies (e.g. aggression)
- Previous research has identified:
 - Which response strategies are most effective
 - How certain groups of adolescents respond to bullying
- But has failed to:
 - Represent diverse populations and individuals most likely to be targeted by bullies
 - Examine whether endorsement of different response strategies differs for same- versus cross-ethnic bullying scenarios

The Current Study

- Examined the role of participant, excluder, and victim ethnicity in participants' responses to same- and cross-ethnicity ExB scenarios

Hypothesis

- Selection of different response strategies would relate to the ethnic composition of the victim and excluder dyad, reflecting stereotyped beliefs about how victims of a particular ethnicity should, or do, respond

Methods

Participants

- 219 9th graders ($M_{age} = 14.84, SD = 0.68$) from schools in a large, ethnically diverse metropolitan region in the Mid-Atlantic U.S.

| | Male | Female | Total |
|-------------------|------|--------|-------|
| African-American | 46 | 38 | 84 |
| European-American | 81 | 54 | 135 |
| Total | 127 | 92 | 219 |

Measures

Peer Relationship Survey (Margie, 2007)

- Self-reported participant demographic information (gender, ethnicity)
- Assessed participants' responses to four ExB Scenarios

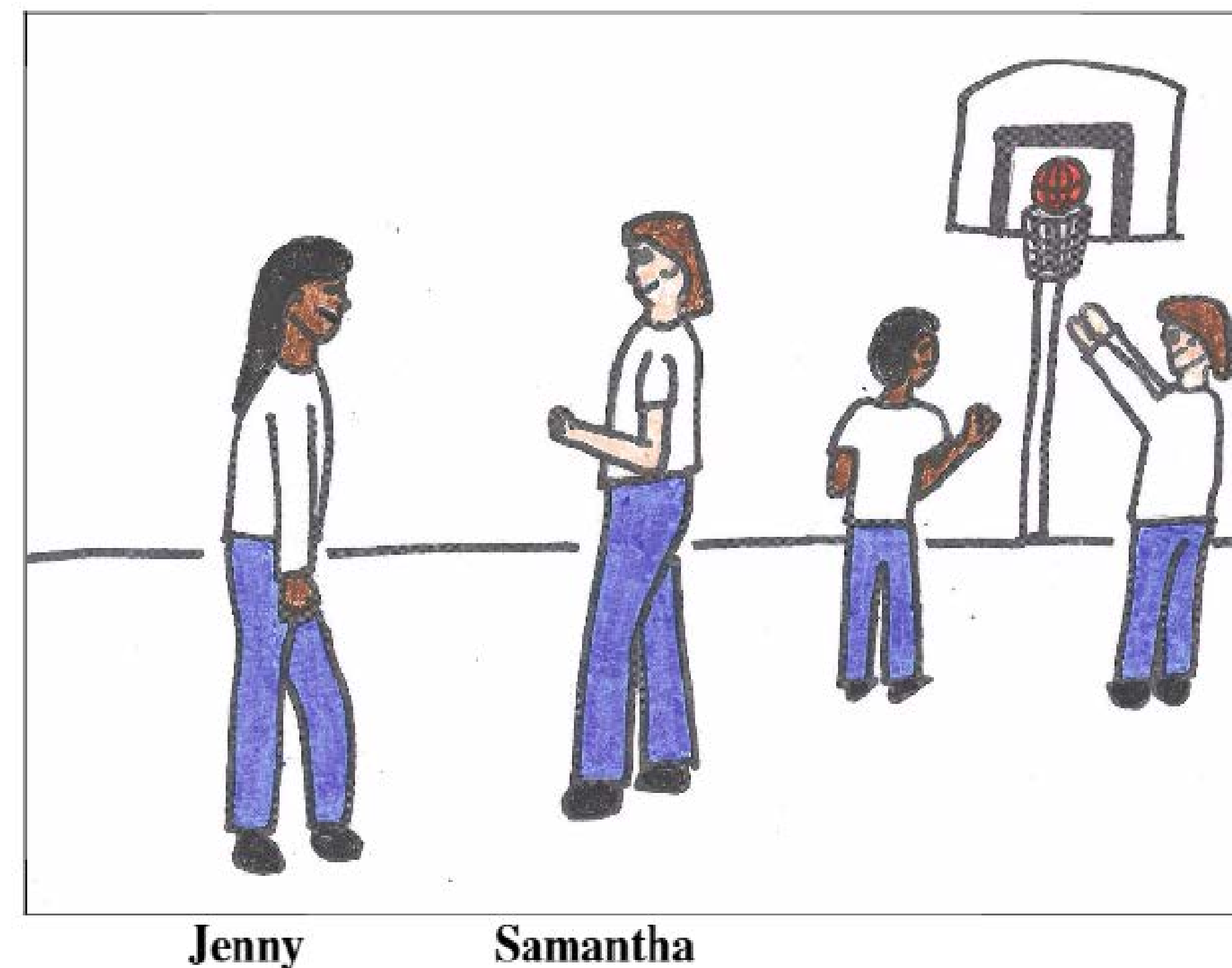
Methods

Measures cont'd

ExB Scenarios

- Four scenarios: an actor purposefully excluded a victim from social event
- All combinations of excluder-victim ethnicity pairs with European- American (Eu-Am) and African-American (Af-Am) actors were presented

- **Scenario 1:** Eu-Am Excluder, Af-Am Victim (see example below)
- **Scenario 2:** Af-Am Excluder, Af-Am Victim
- **Scenario 3:** Eu-Am Excluder, Eu-Am Victim
- **Scenario 4:** Af-Am Excluder, Eu-Am Victim



"At recess, Jenny sees a group of kids playing basketball. Jenny walks up to them and asks if she can play too. Samantha, one of the players, says "no way". Samantha has been doing this to Jenny for the past few weeks."

Self-Reported Response Strategies

- Following the scenario, participants cited what they would do if they were the victim of the ExB:

"What would you do if you were Jenny [the victim]?"

- 1) *I would call Samantha a name (Verbal Aggression)*
- 2) *I would tell Samantha it's not her decision and ask the other players (Assertive)*
- 3) *I would hit Samantha (Physical Aggression)*
- 4) *I would tell a teacher (Adult Assistance Seeking)*
- 5) *I wouldn't ask to play anymore (Avoidance)*

(Note: due to low frequencies, verbal and physical aggression were combined into one category)

Analyses: Repeated Measures ANOVA

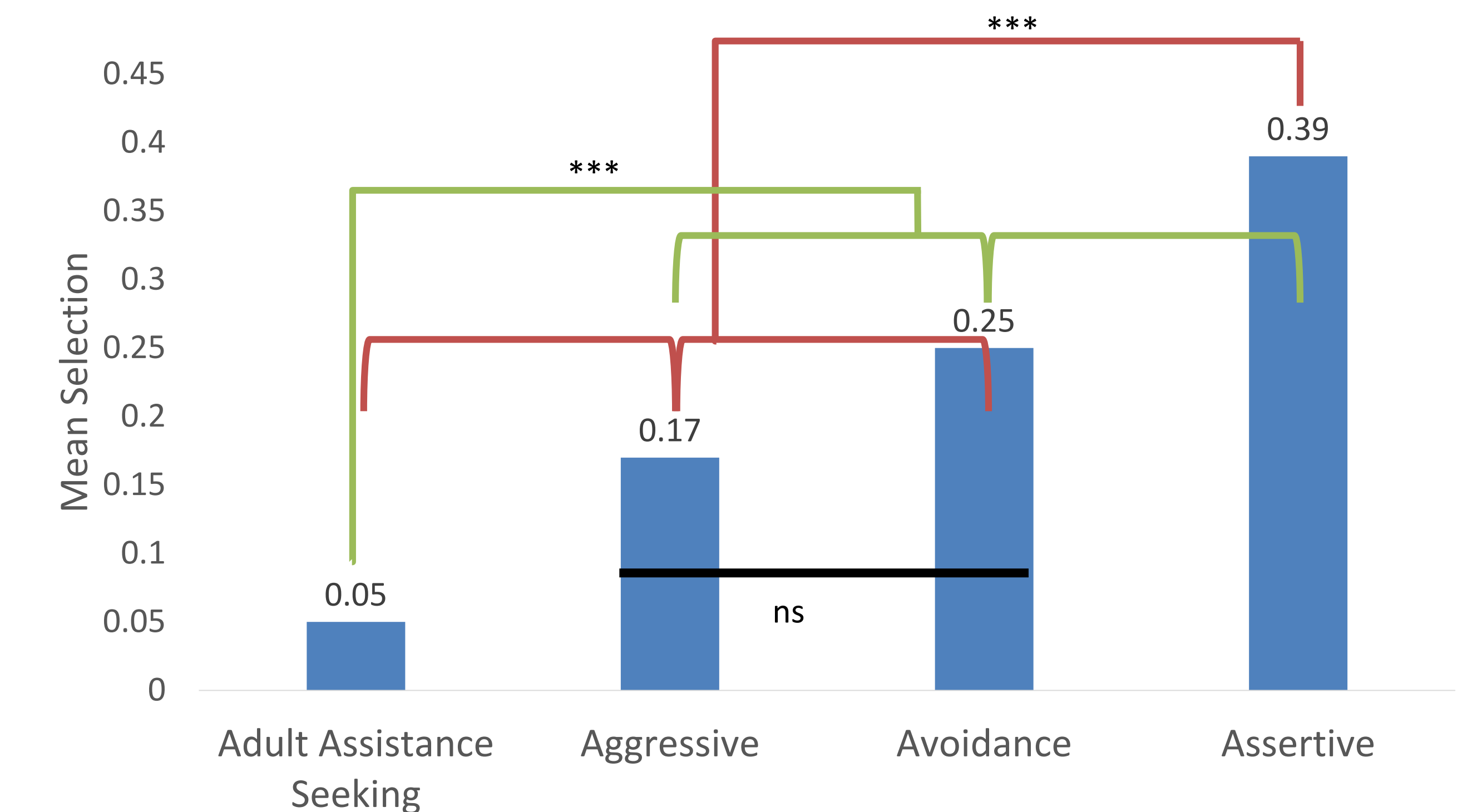
- 2 (participant gender: male, female)
- x 2 (participant ethnicity: Af-Am, Eu-Am)
- x 4 (scenario/character ethnicity)
- x 4 (response selection: aggressive, assertive, adult assistance, avoidant)
- Scenario/character ethnicity and response selection were within-subjects factors

Results & Discussion

Results

Main Effect

Response Selection: $F(3, 594)=41.74, p < 0.001, \eta_p^2 = 0.17$



Interaction Effects

Response Selection x Gender: $F(3, 594) = 7.79, p < 0.001, \eta_p^2 = 0.04$

- Follow-up: Independent samples t-test ($t(200) = -4.89, p < 0.001$) revealed that males selected aggressive response strategies significantly more often than females

Response Selection x Scenario: $F(9, 1782) = 6.46, p < 0.001, \eta_p^2 = 0.03$

- Follow-ups: Univariate ANOVAs and pairwise comparisons with Bonferroni adjustments revealed the following significant findings:
 - **Assertive Response Selection:** $F(3, 603) = 7.79, p < 0.001, \eta_p^2 = 0.04$
 - Assertive responses selected more often in scenarios in which the excluder was Eu-Am than in the scenario in which the excluder was Af-Am and the victim was Eu-Am
 - **Avoidance Response Selection:** ($F(3, 603)= 0.693, p < 0.001, \eta_p^2=0.052$)
 - Avoidant responses selected significantly more often in scenarios with Af-Am excluders than Eu-Am excluders

Discussion

- Societal and peer norms about social hierarchy and group stereotypes may influence the responses deemed appropriate in given ethnic contexts
- There is a need for prevention and intervention programs to consider the nuanced role of ethnicity in responding to bullying
- Future research should assess whether bystander interventions might also differ depending on ethnic composition of bullying dyads

References

- Kochenderfer-Ladd, B. (2004). Peer Victimization: The Role of Emotions in Adaptive and Maladaptive Coping. *Social Development, 13*(3), 329-349. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9507.2004.00271.x
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- Seals, D., & Young, J. (2003). Bullying and victimization: Prevalence and relationship to gender, grade level, ethnicity, self-esteem, and depression. *Adolescence, 38*(152), 736-747.
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