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<td><strong>Author(s)</strong></td>
<td>Tan, Poh Long</td>
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<td><strong>Citation</strong></td>
<td>Tan, P. L. (2011, March). Influence of parenting on adolescents’ aggression. Presented at Discover URECA @ NTU poster exhibition and competition, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td><strong>URL</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10220/8974">http://hdl.handle.net/10220/8974</a></td>
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Influence of Parenting on Adolescents’ Aggression

2 forms of aggression displayed by adolescents were researched. **Reactive aggression** is consistently associated with a tendency to misinterpret ambiguous or neutral stimuli as hostile provocation or threat, and thus evoking an angry response. On the contrary, **proactive aggression** has been linked to a tendency to use aggression as an instrumental means to reach goals, and is usually unprovoked.

### Hypothesis

Females are more likely than males to display reactive aggression, while vice-versa for proactive aggression. Parenting styles may have interactive effects on the type of aggression displayed. This study explores the interaction between gender and parenting styles on reactive and proactive aggression separately.

### Scales

- Parenting Authority Questionnaire (PAQ)
- Reactive-Proactive Aggression Questionnaire (RPQ)

### Participants

N = 1193: 559 Girls, 634 Boys, students of secondary school aged between 12-17 (M = 13.26, SD = 0.93).

### Permissive

The parent is **responsive** but **not demanding** – very involved with their children but place few demands or controls on them, thus spoiling the child.

At medium and high level of permissive parenting, females display significantly higher RA than males.

At high low and medium level of permissive parenting, males display significantly higher PA than females.

### Authoritarian

The parent is **demanding** but **not responsive** – exhibits restrictive, punitive style in which parents exhort the child to follow their directions and to respect their work and effort.

As level of authoritarian parenting increases, RA displayed by adolescents significantly increases. At low and medium level of authoritarian parenting, females display significantly higher RA than males.

Adolescents display significantly higher PA at medium than low level of authoritarian parenting. At low and medium level of authoritarian parenting, males display significantly higher PA than females.

### Authoritative

The parent is **demanding** and **responsive** – encourages children to be independent but still places limits and controls on their actions.

At low level of authoritative parenting, males display higher RA than females, though not significant. At medium and high level of authoritative parenting, males display significantly lower RA than females.

At low and medium level of authoritative parenting, males display significantly higher PA than females.

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Project Title: Adolescents’ Aggressive Behavior, Delinquency, and Conduct Problem – Study of Influence of Parenting

Supervisor: Asst Prof Joyce Pang Shu Min