OBSERVER REACTIONS TO VICTIMS:
AN EQUITY THEORY APPROACH

by

Trina Georgette Bogle

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APPROVED:

Dr. Danny K. Axsom, Chairman

Dr. Neil M. A. Hauenstein

Dr. E. Scott Geller

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Committee Chair: Danny K. Axsom

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(ABSTRACT)

Among the many problems that victims may face in the aftermath of victimization, a commonly noted yet infrequently studied phenonmenon is that of victim disregard. Victims are often ignored by the people they would normally look to for assistance. It was proposed that equity theory might provide a useful framework for understanding this phenomenon. Equity theory suggests victims are ignored because helping is sometimes equity-based rather than victim-need based. According to equity theory, learning of victimization threatens an observer's sense of equity. Helping (in the present case, compensation) is only one way of reducing inequity; if other methods of inequity reduction are used (in this case, perpetrator punishment), equity may be restored without the victim being assisted. In five studies, victim compensation (the dependent variable) was hypothesized to vary as a function of perpetrator punishment. In Studies 1, 2, and 3,

male and female subjects were asked to read a victimization scenario which manipulated severity of perpetrator punishment. In the same manner, Study 4 examined only females and Study 5 similarly tested only males. Studies 1, 2, 3, and 4 were very similar with some variation in the scenario description and the recommended compensation scale. Study 5 was identical to Study 4 except victim gender was male instead of female. We predicted recommended victim compensation would decrease as severity of the perpetrator punishment increased. In Study 1, female subjects responded as predicted whereas males did not respond differentially across levels of punishment. In Study 2, female responding patterns partially supported the hypothesis; male subjects, on the other hand, responded opposite to the predicted direction. Study 3 suggested a trend in the predicted direction for females and partial support for the hypothesis for male subjects. In Study 4, females responded consistently with the hypothesis; similar results were found for males in Study 5. Although statistically significant support was not obtained in all instances, the pattern of responding was consistent across studies for females (and in Study 5 for males). For example, as predicted, correlational data revealed inverse relationships between victim compensation and both rated punishment severity and perceived punishment appropriateness. Possible reasons for

variations in results from study to study, as well as possible alternative hypotheses and directions for future research are addressed.

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Introduction

The plight of victims often includes experiencing the reality of being violated, either physically or psychologically, by another person. Victims suffer not only the consequences of the event but also the problems which emerge in its aftermath. For instance, victims typically experience a feeling of threat to their belief systems (Bard & Sangrey, 1986). A sense of trust in others and control over one's life might be endangered (Steinmetz, 1984). Victims may also face counseling needs due to difficult adjustment and feelings of unworthiness (Taylor, Wood, & Lichtman, 1983). Additionally, victims may combat legal, financial, and medical concerns following a victimizing event (Bard, 1984).

Another very distressing consequence of victimization is the occurrence of negative reactions from others. Victims may not get the help they need from others (Rodino, Jr., 1985; Shapland, 1984); for example, this might take the form of defensive reactions from persons from whom the

victim may expect help (Bard & Sangrey, 1986; Taylor, Wood, & Lichtman, 1983). Additionally, victims may experience "secondary victimization", that is, negative social reactions of hostility, derogation, and rejection that can follow as a reaction to the initial victimizing circumstances (Taylor, Wood, & Lichtman, 1983). In short, victims face both lack of helping and, at times, active harm from others.

The neglect of victims' needs has been observed frequently. In the words of one burglary victim:

> "There was no one to turn to. Every time I tried to get help I just got more trouble. I had a screaming fight with some cop on the phone because they wouldn't come to the house to take the report. The insurance company lost my claim form, and they didn't give me half of what the stolen stuff was worth. The new lock I bought didn't fit right. There just didn't seem to be any way to get through."
>
> (Bard & Sangery, 1986, p. 139)

Professionals have also recognized the unfortunate disregard of victims. The President's Task Force on Victims of Crime (cited in Rodino, Jr., 1985) stated that "innocent

victims of crime have been overlooked" and suggested that their cries for help have gone unanswered. Similarly, Morton Bard stated, while acting as chair of the APA Task Force on Victims of Crime and Violence, that victims have been "nearly invisible" and "suffered the additional indignity of seeing an enormous investment by society in those who did harm and virtually none for those who were its object" (Bard, 1984). Subsequently, the victim rights movement has arisen out of the failure to recognize the plight of victims in society (Sales, Rich, & Reich, 1987).

The attribution of victim disregard to observers' reactions is an intriguing domain of study (Bard, 1984; Bard & Sangrey, 1986; Rodino, Jr., 1985). More specifically, observers from whom the victim expects help tend to focus on the details of the event and the prosecution rather than confronting the victim's coping (Bard & Sangrey, 1986). Observers might also attempt to minimize the victimization by implying it has not occurred or encouraging victims to reevaluate the situation more favorably. The mechanism behind these observations warrants further investigation.

Why Don't Victims Get the Help They Need from Others?

The observance of this problem leads to the question of why victims do not receive the help they need from others. Prior research has accomplished few solid studies thus no

compelling conclusions have been reached; however, some speculations have been posed. One suggestion is that when a victimization occurs, victims are ignored partially because the media focuses attention on the perpetrator instead of the victim (Bard & Sangrey, 1986). This focus may serve several functions. First of all, criminals are probably perceived as more exciting than the typical crime victim because they deliberately deviate from the norm. Although this might explain the media's motivation, that is, increasing enthusiasm for their product, extending this logic to explain individual motivations becomes rather difficult. Individual observers do not receive similar benefits by focusing on the perpetrator. Individuals have little reason to sensationalize the crime, unless they do so in derogating the victim (see below). Therefore, the media's focus does not seem to be an adequate explanation for understanding individual observers' reactions.

Focusing on the criminal may also help maintain one's perception of invulnerability, that is, the belief that bad things are more likely to happen to people other than oneself (Miller & McCann, 1979; Taylor, Wood, & Lichtman, 1983; Weinstein, 1980). In other words, concentrating on the innocent victim, particularly a randomly chosen victim, makes an observer's vulnerability very salient and has fear-

invoking potential (Bard, 1984). On the other hand, one might argue that focusing on the perpetrator of the victimization, and thereby confronting the possibility of an attack, might be just as likely to instill fear and vulnerability in an observer.

A third speculation suggests dealing with a victim's pain is simply not pleasant. This proposition also has several bases. In this instance, dealing with a victim forces one to address his or her vulnerability (Bard & Sangrey, 1986). Additionally, victims are perceived as repulsive to others; they are stigmatized and generally lose self-esteem thereby making them unpleasant to be around (Bard & Sangrey, 1986; Taylor, Wood, & Lichtman, 1983). Finally, the loss of status, resources, and control that a victim represents can be very disturbing for those around him or her (Bard & Sangrey, 1986). Although this idea seems reasonable, it does not account for situations in which victims are helped by others; therefore, the process or processes operating during observers' responses to victims would be interesting to identify.

An Equity Theory Explanation

Although the above explanations have some merit, they do not adequately explain why victim disregard occurs. Because we are concerned with the plight of victims, the

consideration of fairness and justice issues would seem appropriate; yet previous explanations have not emphasized justice concerns. Equity theory, because it deals specifically with fairness issues, may be useful for understanding victim disregard.

Equity theory is a theory of distributive justice that has often been used to study psycho-legal issues (Walster, Walster, & Berscheid, 1978). Distributive justice refers to the distribution of the conditions and goods which tend to affect individual well-being, such that the profits of each party are proportional to the party's investments (Deutsch, 1975; Homans, cited in Adams, 1965).

Equity theory would suggest victims are ignored because helping is equity-based rather than victim-need based. Methods of inequity distress reduction may vary depending on an individual's standards of distributive justice, some of which may be culturally prescribed (e.g., punishment). If inequity distress is reduced by some method other than increasing victim outcomes (e.g., helping), this may lead to ignoring victim needs. In order to clarify these ideas, some background regarding equity theory is helpful.

A Brief Explanation of Equity Theory

Equity theory is a theory of social exchange that makes comparisons between two parties with respect to the fairness

with which they are rewarded (Walster et. al, 1978). Equity is defined as equal ratios of profits to investments for both parties.

Equity theory consists of four major premises.

Premise 1. Individuals try to maximize outcomes where outcomes are defined as rewards minus costs.

Premise 2. Societies create rules for allocating resources; members are rewarded for treating others equitably and punished for treating others inequitably.

Premise 3. Inequitable relationships create distress. Greater inequity causes greater distress.

Premise 4. Individuals experiencing inequity distress try to relieve it by restoring equity.

For the purposes of this study, it is necessary to expand on Premise 4. Equity may be restored, and inequity distress therefore reduced, in several ways. For instance, one may choose to ignore the distress. Secondly, one may take action to restore an equitable relationship. Changing one's assessment of the perceived equity or inequity in the relationship may be another alternative to reducing distress. Any one method of distress reduction may be sufficient for relief; however, the actual restoration of equity is probably preferred over psychological restoration of equity (Walster, et. al, 1978).

Victimization from an Equity Viewpoint

To examine victimization in terms of equity theory, Premises 3 and 4, as stated above, are particularly useful.

When a person is victimized, the ratio of profits to investments becomes unequal from that of unvictimized others (Adams, 1965). This relationship can be illustrated with a commonly used formula

$$\frac{P_V}{I_V} < \frac{P_O}{I_O}$$

where P is profits, I is investments, V is the victim, and O is the Perpetrator. Investments refer to anything that is believed to entitle the party to rewards, costs, and profits (Brown, 1986). The ratio, therefore, is not in the victim's favor. Viewing a victimizing event or becoming aware of a victimizing event creates a state of inequity distress in the perceiver. This inequity distress must be relieved to regain a sense of equity.

Speculations

According to equity theory, observation or knowledge of a victimizing event leads perceivers (third party observers) to focus on relieving <u>their own</u> inequity distress. Victim compensation may be one way of reducing this inequity distress (i.e., increasing P_V to make the ratios relatively equal); however, it is not the only possible mode of

reduction. If the observer chooses a method other than victim compensation to reduce inequity distress or if another method is made available or culturally prescribed (e.g., trial and punishment which decreases P_o), the victim may be ignored.[1]

Lerner and Miller's (1978) speculation regarding the "ignored victim" gives additional support to the ideas suggested above. These researchers touched on this topic in their extensive review of research examining the "Just World Hypothesis".

The Just World Hypothesis is defined as one's need to believe that people generally get what they deserve and deserve what they get (Lerner & Miller, 1978). This belief is functional because it allows the individual to address his or her environment as an orderly somewhat predictable place. Without this belief, commitment to long range goals or day to day life would be difficult because one would necessarily admit to one's vulnerability. For example, the Just World Hypothesis supports the contention that a clean life pays off whereas laziness and sin are punished.

Lerner and Miller (1978) specifically address the problem of ignoring victims' needs with the following observation:

> "If one's reaction to the injustice is for one reason or another initially directed at the perpetrator rather than the victim of an injustice, the successful punishment of the inflictor may end one's concern with the incident, even though the victim is still in need."
>
> (p.1040)

It is important to note how equity theory and the Just World Hypothesis are related. The Just World Hypothesis is subsumed under the equity framework discussed in this paper. The Just World Hypothesis focuses on a specific way of restoring equity that would reduce victim investments, that is, through victim derogation (e.g., the victim deserves what he/she got because the victim is bad). The focus in the proposed studies is reducing perpetrator outcomes. In either case, the results are the same, that is, the victim's outcomes are ignored.

Empirical Evidence

Although little research has addressed our speculation that victim disregard occurs because helping is sometimes equity-based, some studies provide tangential support.

Maintaining Justice Versus Reducing Guilt

Regan (1971) argued that perpetrators and observers were motivated to help victims by two different processes.

Harm-doers assisted victims to relieve guilt feelings associated with causing the victimization. Witnesses, on the other hand, were believed to help in order to restore justice, that is, the witnesses' belief in a just world had been threatened. To examine these ideas, Regan arranged for subjects to participate in a bogus experiment that was "ruined" part-way through the session; in this study, the experimenter was the supposed victim. Some subjects were led to believe they had caused the mishap (Responsible condition) while other subjects were assured they were not to blame (Witness condition). In the control conditions, the subjects were simply told the experimental equipment was acting "slightly crazy". Half of the subjects from each group (Responsible, Witness, and Control) were given an opportunity to discuss the incident in an interview, thereby allowing perpetrators the opportunity to rationalize their role.

The dependent variable was a request from subjects to contribute to a fund that supported experimental research. Both the experimental and the witness groups contributed to the fund (which was loosely related to the victim) more than controls. Analysis of the data revealed a Level of Responsibility X Interview Condition interaction

such that perpetrators who had been given the interview (which supposedly provided an opportunity to alleviate guilt) helped less than perpetrators who had not been given the interview, whereas the interview phase did not affect the helping behavior of witnesses. Regan suggested witnesses focus on the victim to maintain justice whereas perpetrators focus on the self to reduce guilt.

Regan's study provided a basis for studying perpetrators' and witnesses' reactions to victims. However, while it proposed the existence of two processes, guilt and justice, it only examined the guilt process. Since that time, the concept of the observers' need to restore justice in a victimizing situation has not been examined thoroughly, except in the focused area of reducing victims' investments (Just World research).

Equity Restoration Through Victim Derogation

In order to examine inequity distress reduction, a study must incorporate an equity restoration device that is strong enough to restore equity in subjects. Evidence from Kenrick, Reich, & Cialdini (1976) suggested that derogation of the victim may be a rather weak device for restoring equity. They suggested that, even if the victim is derogated, a subsequent opportunity to compensate will be used to restore equity.

Kenrick et al. (1976) examined this idea by allowing experimental subjects to view another "subject" (victim) receiving electric shocks for incorrect responses during a learning task. A similar procedure had been previously found to induce high levels of derogation (Lerner & Matthews cited in Kenrick et al., 1976). Control subjects observed the learning tasks but the learners were not subject to the shock conditions. Each subject was then given the opportunity to compensate the victim either before or after completing personality assessments of the victim. Therefore, subjects were given the opportunity to derogate the victim, via the personality assessments, either before or after recommending compensation. The results revealed suffering/no suffering main effects for the derogation scores and the compensation scores; subjects who observed the shocking procedure helped more than controls regardless of when they had filled out the personality assessment. In general, derogation had little effect on subsequent helping. Therefore, derogation may not be a very powerful equity restoring device. This research does not incorporate a very powerful design because it argues for the lack of an effect (i.e., arguing for the null hypothesis). Other research, however, has suggested punishment might be a potentially useful equity restoration technique.

Influence of Outcomes on Punishment and Compensation

Ugwuegbu and Hendrick (1974) examined how the severity of outcomes influences witness recommendations regarding punishment of the perpetrator and award to the victim (in this case, compensation). Subjects were given information which was presented as a transcript from the jury trial of a bank robber. The transcripts included information manipulating the severity of the victim's outcome; subjects in the Mild Outcome condition were told the victim was hit in the arm by a bullet whereas subjects in the Severe Outcome condition were told the victim was crippled for life by a bullet. All subjects were subsequently asked questions regarding their recommendations for both perpetrator punishment and victim compensation based on the given information. The results showed that more severe consequences for the victim resulted in more recommended punishment for the perpetrator as well as more recommended compensation for the victim. These results suggest a possible direct relationship (versus inverse) between perpetrator punishment and victim compensation. However, Uguewgbu and Hendrick did not instruct the subject to base his or her compensation judgment on the assumption that the recommended punishment would actually occur. Punishment may not be an effective inequity reduction device if the

perceiver is unsure whether the punishment will actually be inflicted. Therefore, giving subjects the opportunity to recommend victim compensation and perpetrator punishment allowed them to consider all possible scenarios. Since it would be unusual for one person to have the opportunity to punish both the perpetrator and compensate the victim, the proposed studies manipulate punishment and assess compensation.

Effect of Punishment on Sympathy Reactions

The research most closely related to the present hypothesis was conducted by Miller and McCann (1979). Using a sample of children, these researchers wanted to test "sympathy reactions" to victims. They suggested, based upon Piaget's theory of moral development, sympathy reactions would be weakened if the perpetrator had already received some punishment. Miller and McCann proposed the second hypothesis that children were more concerned with perpetrators being punished than with victims being compensated. Children (ages 6.6 years to 10.3 years) were presented with a scenario describing a victimizing event. Prior punishment was manipulated in the last sentence of the story. Some subjects were told the perpetrator received a spanking while other subjects were not given any punishment information. Compensation and punishment recommendations

were collected on a five-point scale designed for and thoroughly explained to the children. As predicted, Miller and McCann found children punished less and distributed less compensation if the perpetrator had already received some punishment. They also found support that children were more concerned with perpetator punishment than with victim compensation; in a forced choice procedure, more subjects chose perpetrator punishment over victim compensation as the preferred course of action. According to Miller and McCann, this finding implied perpetrator injustices may have been more threatening to a belief in a just world than victim injustices. In other words, the fear associated with perpetrators' availability to harm was stronger than the identification occurring with victims who did not receive just compensation. Society serves itself better to attend to perpetrators (e.g., rehabilitation) than to victims because unsatisfied victims are less likely to disrupt society. Therefore, fear of becoming a victim would increase if a perpetrator goes unpunished.

Predictions

The proposed studies investigated the impact of severity of perpetrator punishment on recommended victim compensation by observer-subjects. In general, we hypothesized that as level of punishment increased, the

recommended amount of victim compensation would decrease. The following specific predictions were proposed based on equity theory:

> Individuals in the Severe punishment condition will recommend lower victim compensation than individuals in the Appropriate punishment condition. In turn, subjects in the Appropriate punishment condition will recommend less compensation than subjects in the Lenient punishment condition. Also, victim compensation should be inversely correlated with measures of both perceived punishment severity and perceived punishment appropriateness (i.e., as perceived severity increases, recommended compensation decreases).[2]

Pilot Testing

Two pilot tests were conducted to construct the victimization scenario and the compensation scale used for the initial studies.

Pilot 1

In order to create the scenario for Study 1, preliminary data regarding people's perceptions of criminal sentences and corresponding recommendations for victim compensation were collected. Pilot 1 determined how

severity of the crime influenced recommended punishment and recommended compensation.

Fifteen Developmental Psychology students (6 males, 7 females and 2 subjects who did not report their gender) were given a questionnaire and told that the experiment involved identifying factors which influence recommendations for victim compensation (Miller & McFarland, 1986). The instructions were followed by legal definitions of the terms "robbery" and "malicious wounding" (See Appendix A for Pilot 1 Questionnaire). They were then asked to read a scenario in which a victimizing event, its parties, and its outcomes were described.

Following the scenario, the instructions for the dependent variable asked the subject to assume the assailant would receive some time in prison. Each subject was required to answer the following six questions:

1. What would you consider to be a LENIENT sentence for this assailant?
2. What would you consider to be an APPROPRIATE sentence for this assailant?
3. What would you consider to be a SEVERE sentence for this assailant?
4. If the assailant received the LENIENT sentence noted above, how much compensation would you

award the victim?

5. If the assailant received the APPROPRIATE sentence noted above, how much compensation would you award the victim?
6. If the assailant received the SEVERE sentence noted above, how much compensation would you award the victim?

Questions 1, 2, and 3 were used to determine the approximate values the sample would consider lenient, appropriate, and severe punishments for the crime(s) described. These values were used to manipulate punishment in the scenario for Pilot 2. The subjects' mean punishment values for lenient, moderate and severe sentences were 5, 15, and 25 years, respectively.

Questions 4, 5, and 6 were used to determine the approximate victim compensation values that the population would suggest under conditions of lenient, appropriate, and severe punishment for the crime(s) described. These values were used to formulate a compensation scale in Pilot 2. Subjects responses in Pilot 1 revealed recommendations for victim compensation ranging from approximately one to 50,000 dollars.

Pilot 2

In Pilot 2, a between-subjects approach was used with two changes in the scenario-questionnaire. First, a sentence was added to the end of the scenario to provide punishment information. Twenty-six Psychology of Personality students (16 male and 10 female) were told the assailant's sentence and whether the sentence was generally considered to be lenient, appropriate, or severe compared to what others were normally sentenced for this crime. Second, the dependent variable was changed to the following question, "How much compensation would you award this victim?" Subjects were asked to respond on an 11-point scale with anchors of 1,000 and 50,000 dollars (anchor values guided by Pilot 1 responses).

It was hypothesized that as punishment increased, recommended compensation would decrease. Unfortunately, the responses on the dependent variable resulted in a somewhat bipolar distribution such that a large percentage of the responses fell toward the scale anchors. Even though the sample size was small, some trends were evident in the predicted direction. Specifically, male subjects recommended less compensation in the Appropriate Punishment condition than in the Lenient Punishment condition; in a similar fashion, female subjects recommended more

compensation in the Appropriate Punishment condition than in the Severe Punishment condition. These relationships followed our predictions. However, recommended compensation values for the other cells were not as expected. In an attempt to eliminate the bimodal nature of the compensation responses, subsequent studies eliminated extremely large compensation scale values, thereby restricting the available range of responses.

Study 1

Study 1 tested whether recommended compensation decreases as punishment severity increases.

Method

Subjects

Subjects were 84 Introductory Psychology students (53 males and 31 females) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University who received one extra credit point for participation.

Design

A 3 (Degree of Perpetrator Punishment: Lenient, Appropriate, or Severe) X 2 (Gender) design was used. Each experimental session tested approximately 25 subjects and all conditions were represented within each session. The experimenter was blind to the subjects' Perpetrator

Punishment condition.

Materials

The scenarios used in this study were constructed by the author and a colleague (see Appendix C); they were based loosely upon scenarios used by Miller and McFarland (1986). Modifications were based on pilot research (see above).

Procedure

Subjects were solicited by going into Introductory Psychology discussion sections and asking students to participate in the experiment. No students refused to participate in the experiment. Subjects were given the scenario-questionnaire to complete at that time; thus, the experiment was run in groups of approximately 25 subjects.

The author or a trained research assistant acted as the primary experimenter for each session. While the experimenter instructed the subjects, two additional research assistants administered and retrieved the materials. Subjects were given as long as they needed to complete the task (which varied from approximately 10 to 15 minutes).

The format of the questionnaire was similar to that of Pilot Test 2; however, three questions were added after the compensation question (see Appendix C, Questions 3, 4, and 5). First, a perceived perpetrator punishment severity

manipulation check asked subjects to make a scaled rating of the severity of the perpetrator's sentence. Second, a perceived punishment appropriateness manipulation check asked subjects to make a scaled rating of the fairness of the perpetrator's sentence. Third, subjects were asked to list the factors they considered in making their compensation recommendation. Finally, the experimenter asked subjects to write down what they thought the experiment was attempting to study. Upon completion, subjects were debriefed and asked not to discuss the experiment with anyone else.

Results

Data were analyzed using a 3 (Lenient, Appropriate, or Severe Level of Perpetrator Punishment) X 2 (Subject Gender) analysis of variance.[3]

Manipulation Checks

The manipulation check for perceived punishment severity showed a main effect for Punishment Severity, F (2, 66)= 23.29, $p < .001$. As punishment severity increased, the means for this measure likewise increased across conditions (see Table 1). Newman-Keuls comparisons indicated significant differences ($p < .05$) between each of the three punishment conditions. Neither the gender main effect nor the Punishment Severity X Gender interaction were significant on this measure. The Bartlett-Box F test was

Table 1

Mean Perceived Severity, Perceived Punishment Appropriateness, and Recommended Compensation Ratings for Study 1

Measure		Condition		
		Len	App	Sev
Perceived Severity				
Overall	M	1.82_a	3.13_b	3.73_c
Females	M	1.64_a	3.22_b	3.64_b
	SD	1.29	0.83	0.67
Males	M	1.94_a	3.07_b	3.77_b
	SD	1.03	0.62	1.41
Perceived PunishApp				
Overall	M	1.96_a	3.22_b	3.67_b
Females	M	1.45_a	3.11_b	3.55_b
	SD	0.82	0.78	0.69
Males	M	2.29_a	3.29_b	3.73_b
	SD	1.11	0.99	1.24
Recommended Compensation				
Overall	M	3.64_a	2.91_a	2.64_a
Females	M	5.00_a	$3.56_{a,b}$	2.55_b
	SD	1.79	2.35	1.44
Males	M	2.76_a	2.50_a	2.68_a
	SD	1.39	1.51	2.06

[a]Means that do not share a common subscript differ at $p < .05$ as determined by the Newman-Keuls test.

significant, indicating heterogeneity of variance among groups, F (5, 6320) = 2.81, p = .016.[4]

The measure of perceived punishment appropriateness (assumed to be affected by the severity manipulation) also showed a strong main effect for punishment severity, Newman-Keuls comparisons revealed significant differences between the Lenient and Appropriate conditions and between the Lenient and Severe conditions; the differences between groups were consistent with the proposed hypothesis, $p < .05$ (see Table 1). Again, neither the gender main effect nor the Punishment Severity X Gender interaction were significant.

Victim Compensation

Analysis of the main effect for Level of Perpetrator Punishment revealed that it approached significance, F (2, 66)= 2.40, $p < .10$. A significant gender main effect also emerged, F (1, 66)= 6.46, $p < .02$. Females recommended more victim compensation overall than males, Ms = 3.71 and 2.66, respectively (see Table 1). The Punishment Severity X Gender interaction was also significant, F (2, 66)= 3.37, $p < .05$.

Males did not show significantly different responses across levels of punishment severity where females did, F (2, 66)= 5.67, $p < .01$. Newman-Keuls comparisons revealed

significant differences between the Lenient and Severe punishment conditions for females, $p < .05$. Subsequent examination of the cell means suggested a punishment severity effect for females in a direction consistent with the hypothesis posed in this study. No such effect was evident for males (see Table 1).

Correlations

Pearson correlations between the measures of compensation, perceived severity, and perceived punishment appropriateness suggested relationships consistent with predictions, at least for female subjects (see Table 2). Overall, inverse relationships existed between compensation and perceived severity, r (82)= -.26, $p < .01$, and between compensation and perceived punishment appropriateness, r (82)= -.29, $p < .01$. Also, a direct relationship was evident between perceived severity and perceived punishment appropriateness, r (82)= .72, $p < .01$. However, when controlling for gender, the inverse relationships noted above were significant only for females.

Factors Question

Subjects responses to the Factors Question were also examined. This question asked subjects to list the factors they considered in making their compensation

Table 2

Pearson Correlations Between Perceived Severity, Perceived Punishment Appropriateness, and Recommended Compensation for Study 1

	PerSev	PerPA	RecComp
Overall			
Perceived Severity	1.0	.72**	-.26**
Perceived Punishment Appropriatness	-	1.0	-.29**
Females			
Perceived Severity	1.0	.55**	-.35*
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	-	1.0	-.48**
Males			
Perceived Severity	1.0	.79**	-.22
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	-	1.0	-.19

*$p < .05$ **$p < .01$

recommendations. Each different factor was coded as a positive response, and many subjects responded with more than one factor. Factors were coded by the author and a research assistant who constructed categories based on who constructed categories based on a preliminary examination of the responses. Each response was then identified as falling into one of the categories by the first coder. The second coder repeated this process for a Subset of the sample to determine agreement. Interrater reliability, assessed by percent agreement, for the sample was sufficiently high at .93.

Across conditions, hospitalization / extent of injury concerns were the most important, followed by loss of income and mental anguish. Some gender differences were evident in the factors considered. Females more frequently mentioned mental anguish (55% in the Lenient condition, 44% in the Appropriate condition, and 36% in the Severe condition) and the fact that the victim was a mother (27% in the Lenient condition). Males considered loss of income a more important factor in the Lenient and Appropriate conditions (41% and 36%, respectively) and sentencing concerns were more important in the Severe punishment condition (36%). Table 3 is a complete listing of responses and total percentages for both genders.

Table 3

Reported Factors and Percentage of Subjects that Considered Each When Recommending Compensation for Study 1

Factor	Condition					
	Len		App		Sev	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Hospitalization/ Extent of Injury	71	82	86	89	73	91
Mental Anguish	29	55	29	44	14	36
Loss of Income	41	18	36	22	9	
Childcare	24	27		22	5	18
Property Damage/ Stolen Items	18	27	21	44	23	27
Sentence	12	9	7		36	9
No previous record	6				18	
No permanent or severe injuries		9			36	
Age of victim	6				5	
Type of crime	6	9				18
Lawsuits too common	6					
Chose middle value			14			9
Victim inconvenience/ disregard of rights			7			

Table 3 (coun.)

Factor	Condition					
	Len		App		Sev	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Victim was mother		27	7		23	
Money awarded for less crimes			7			
Man hurt woman					5	
Personal reasons				11		

Discussion

We predicted subjects in the Lenient perpetrator punishment condition would recommend more victim compensation than subjects in the Appropriate punishment. condition; in turn, subjects in the Appropriate punishment condition would recommend more compensation than subjects in the Severe punishment condition. No specific hypotheses regarding gender effects were posed; however, evaluation of this factor suggested a difference between male and female responses on victim compensation. Females responded in the predicted direction, as evidenced by the recommended compensation responses and the direction of correlational results. Males, however, showed no consistent pattern.

Interpretation of this gender difference is difficult. One possibility is that males and females responded differently to the severity manipulation. But results on measures of both severity and punishment appropriateness indicated similar responding by males and females; no Punishment Severity X Gender interactions emerged on either measure. Therefore, differential interpretation of punishment severity and punishment appropriateness does not explain the gender difference on recommended compensation.

Another possibility is that males and females considered different factors in making their victim

compensation recommendations. These factors (see Table 3) suggest that males are more likely than females to report factors that justify recommending more compensation; this effect is found more frequently in the Appropriate and Severe perpetrator punishment conditions. For instance, 23% of the males reported consideration of the victim as a mother in the Severe condition where no females reported this consideration. The fact the victim was a mother has many connotations for increasing compensation (children to take care of, housework to do, female hurt by male, etc.) however the victim's status as a mother would probably not generate reasons to decrease compensation. In the Appropriate condition, males were more interested in the victim's loss of income (36% for males, 22% for females). Since the victim was hospitalized, the loss of income may be substantial, thus this concern might likewise argue for more compensation.

Although these types of evidence suggest logic in the male responses, the question of why males consider different factors than females is unanswered. One possibility is that males may feel responsible or protective for the female victim. This might be a function of stereotypical machoism or heroism ideals society holds of the male gender. This might also operate because the

stereotypical female gender role is weak and dependent; because the victim is described as a divorced woman, she may be seen as even more helpless because she has no husband.

Although our results suggest perceived severity is differentiated between the three levels of Perpetrator Punishment, perceived punishment appropriateness is not differentiated in the Appropriate and Severe conditions. Study 2 was proposed to replicate Study 1 while attempting to strengthen the punishment severity manipulation across all three groups.

Study 2

Method

Subjects

Subjects were 102 Introductory Psychology students (47 males and 55 females) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University who received one extra credit point for participation.

Procedure

The design, materials, subject selection, and procedure were similar to Study One (see above). However, two changes were made to the victimization scenario (see Appendix D). First, the Factors Question from Study 1 suggested subjects might be interpreting punishment sentences differently. For instance, some subjects interpreted 5 years in jail (Lenient

condition) as with parole and other subjects interpreted this as without parole. For clarity, all conditions were changed to the relevant numbers of years without the possibility of parole. Second, severity manipulation data from Study 1 suggested the Appropriate and Severe conditions were not being sufficiently discriminated. To increase the difference, the number of years prison time in the Severe condition was increased from 25 years to 40 years.

Results

Data were analyzed using 3 (Lenient, Appropriate, or Severe Level of Perpetrator Punishment) X 2 (Subject Gender) analyses of variance.

Manipulation Checks

First, the severity measure was analyzed to determine if the punishment severity was manipulated successfully (see Table 4). The ANOVA revealed a strong main effect for perceived severity, F (2, 78) = 41.43, $p < .001$. Newman-Keuls comparisons revealed significant differences between all three levels of perpetrator punishment, as expected, $p < .05$. However, separate Newman-Keuls comparisons for males and females revealed that the means for the Appropriate and Severe groups were not significantly different for female subjects. Therefore, even though some discrimination problems were evident between the Appropriate

Table 4

Mean Perceived Severity, Perceived Punishment Appropriateness, and Recommended Compensation Ratings for Study 2

Measure		Condition		
		Len	App	Sev
Perceived Severity				
Overall	M	1.79_a	3.24_b	3.97_c
Females	M	1.53_a	3.35_b	3.85_b
	SD	1.06	0.88	1.18
Males	M	2.00_a	3.07_b	4.14_c
	SD	0.75	0.83	1.29
Perceived PunishApp				
Overall	M	1.94_a	2.76_b	3.79_c
Females	M	1.87_a	2.80_b	4.10_c
	SD	1.06	1.11	0.97
Males	M	2.00_a	2.71_b	3.36_b
	SD	1.00	0.73	1.01
Recommended Compensation				
Overall	M	3.32_a	4.76_a	4.18_a
Females	M	3.47_a	4.75_a	3.25_a
	SD	2.26	2.40	2.29
Males	M	3.21_a	4.79_a	5.50_a
	SD	1.96	3.33	2.82

[a]Means that do not share a common subscript differ at $p < .05$ as determined by the Newman-Keuls tests.

and Severe groups for female subjects, the manipulation of punishment severity was largely successful. Neither the gender main effect nor the Punishment Severity X Gender interaction for this manipulation were significant.

Similarly, the perceived punishment appropriateness measure was analyzed to determine if the perception of sentence-to-crime inequity was established (Table 4). Again, the ANOVA revealed a strong main effect, F (2, 78) = 27.93, $p < .001$. Newman-Keuls analyses indicated significant differences between all three levels of perpetrator punishment on this measure, $p < .05$. However, for male subjects, the means between the Appropriate and Severe groups were not significantly different. Therefore, this manipulation appears to have been successful, except for some problems in discrimination for the male subjects between the Appropriate and Severe groups. Like the severity manipulation, neither the gender main effect nor the Punishment Severity X Gender interaction were significant for this measure.

Victim Compensation

Responses on the compensation measure were analyzed to determine if, as predicted, compensation decreased as punishment increased (see Table 4). The ANOVA revealed a main effect for punishment severity that was marginally

insignificant, F (2, 78) = 3.01, $p < .06$. However, an examination of the cell means suggested only partial support for the hypothesis. Compensation was higher in the Appropriate than the Severe condition (as expected) thereby supporting our prediction, but compensation was not highest in the Lenient condition. This relationship is contradictory to our hypothesis. The Gender main effect and the Punishment Severity X Gender interaction were not significant, but the patterns of responding for males and females showed some differences (see Table 4). Analyses of variance conducted separately for each gender revealed a significant main effect for males on punishment severity, F (2, 78)= 3.52, $p < .04$, while this effect was not significant for females. Furthermore, male responses revealed a direct punishment-compensation relationship such that compensation increased as punishment severity increased. This finding was opposite to the hypothesis of this study (and different from Study 1). However, females recommended more compensation in the Appropriate than in the Severe condition (as expected), but compensation in the Lenient condition was lower than in the Appropriate condition, contrary to predictions. Although the pattern of results for the Appropriate and Severe groups was in line with our predictions, the observed differences were not

significant.

Correlations

Recommended victim compensation was predicted to be negatively correlated with responses on the perpetrator punishment severity and perceived punishment appropriateness manipulation checks. We also expected responses on the punishment severity and punishment appropriateness manipulation checks to be positively correlated with one another.

Pearson correlations for the total sample revealed a non-significant positive correlation between victim compensation and punishment severity (Table 5). Correlations between these two measures were also non-significant when males and females were examined separately.

Between victim compensation and perceived punishment appropriateness, the overall correlation was significant in the predicted direction, r (100) = -.24, $p < .05$. For females, this correlation was highly significant in the predicted direction, r (53) = -.37, $p < .01$, whereas the correlation for males was in the predicted direction but not significant.

Perceived severity and perceived punishment appropriateness were positively correlated overall, r (45) = .61, $p < .01$, for males, r (45) = .61, $p < .01$, and for

Table 5

Pearson Correlations Between Perceived Severity, Perceived Punishment Appropriateness, and Recommended Compensation for Study 2

	PerSev	PerPA	RecComp
Overall			
Perceived Severity	1.0	.66**	.06
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	-	1.0	-.24*
Females			
Perceived Severity	1.0	.70**	-.04
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	-	1.0	-.37**
Males			
Perceived Severity	1.0	.61**	.16
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	-	1.0	-.05

*$p < .05$ **$p < .01$

females, r (53) = .70, p < .01.

Factors Question

In Study 2, subjects were asked to list the factors that they considered in determining their compensation value, beginning with the most important factor. This qualifier reflects a change from Study 1. Responses were coded in the same manner as Study 1. Interrater reliability was sufficiently high at .92. The most common factor listed for both genders was hospitalization, paralleling the results in Study 1 (see Table 6).

However, in this study, we know hospitalization was classified as the most important factor chosen. Females noted sentence considerations as more important than males, particularly in the Appropriate and Severe conditions. This finding was interesting because these two group means were in the predicted direction.

Regarding secondary responses, males were more interested than females in the type of crime and extent of property damage, particularly in the Lenient condition. Males were also more likely than females to mention factors that were not crime related such as victim background, perpetrator background, and victim age. Refer to Table 6 for a complete listing of these findings.

Table 6

Reported Factors and Percentage of Subjects that Considered Each When Recommending Compensation for Study 2

	Condition					
	Len		App		Sev	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Primary Factors						
Hospitalization/ Extent of Injury	58	40	50	55	50	40
Mental Anguish	5		7			
Loss of Income						5
Property Damage/ Stolen Items			14	5	7	5
Sentence				15	7	15
No previous record	5	13	7			10
Age of victim				5	7	
Type of crime	21	13	14	10		10
Victim inconvenience/ disregard of rights					7	
Victim was mother	11	20			14	15
Victim background			7		7	
Number of children		7		5		

Table 6 (coun.)

	Condition					
	Len		App		Sev	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Secondary Factors						
Hospitalization/ Extent of Injury	11	33	36	40	29	45
Mental Anguish	21	13	21	35	21	15
Loss of Income	11	20	21	10	7	20
Childcare	16	13	21	40	21	15
Property Damage/ Stolen Items	26	7	14	10	29	15
Sentence	11	13	14	15		15
No previous record	21	7	21	25	7	25
Age of victim	11		14	10	7	10
Type of crime	26	7	14	10	14	20
Evidence					7	
Victim was mother	11	7	7	5	7	10
Reason for crime					7	
Kind of weapon						5
Location of crime		7				5
Victim background	16			5		
Perpetrator background	11		7			5
Number of children	5	7				

Table 6 (coun.)

	Condition					
	Len		App		Sev	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Female Victim					7	
Innocent Victim					7	
Age of Perpetrator			7			

Discussion

We hypothesized recommended victim compensation would decrease as perpetrator punishment severity increased, but the compensation data only partially supported this hypothesis. For males, recommended victim compensation increased as perpetrator punishment increased. However, female subjects showed mixed results. Recommended victim compensation was larger in the Appropriate than the Severe condition, as predicted. Contrary to our hypothesis, recommended compensation was less in the Lenient than in the Appropriate condition.

These results were quite different from those in Study 1, especially for males. This suggests: (1) subjects may have been focusing on different types of information than in Study 1, (2) the scenario was not yet fined tuned and was not adequately testing our hypothesis (e.g., the punishment conditions described may not be sufficiently differentiated) and/or (3) the seemingly minor changes made in the scenario after Study 1 influenced the responses. The addition of the phrase "without the possibility of parole" to each punishment severity manipulation may have changed the connotation of the sentence. This wording might imply more severity across conditions than was intended. For instance, a 5 year prison sentence (the Lenient condition) without the

possibility of parole was probably perceived as a stronger sentence than the unqualified 5 year prison sentence described in Study 1. Since this phrase probably increased severity across all conditions, it may have raised the absolute level of severity in all conditions but not relative severity, which is necessary to achieve discriminability.

Additionally, because the sentence was increased in the Severe condition, the Appropriate and Severe conditions were predicted to be more distinct. The results suggested females were not making this discrimination. The weakness in the punishment severity manipulation suggested modification of this variable. A similar problem existed in the responses of male subjects on the perceived punishment appropriateness manipulation check. The discrimination was not strong between the Appropriate and Severe groups, indicating that these manipulations must be strengthened to give a fair test to our hypothesis. For these reasons, a third study was conducted.

Study 3

Study 3 was a partial replication of Studies 1 and 2 that incorporated four modifications into the scenario in an attempt to strengthen the punishment severity manipulation.

Its design was identical to the earlier studies.

Method

Subjects

The subjects in this study were 140 Introductory Psychology students (50 males and 90 females) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University who received one extra credit point for their participation.

Procedure

The design, materials, subject selection, and procedure were similar to Studies 1 and 2; however, four changes were made to the victimization scenario (see Appendix E). First, the description of the crime was changed from "malicious wounding" to "robbery and assault" on the contention that the term "malicious" may be suggesting an excessively severe crime. The definitions of the crime terminology were deleted since "robbery and assault" are frequently used and understood terms. Second, responses to the Factors Question suggested the word "hospitalization" might be leaving the severity of the crime open to interpretation based on the sentence imposed. Therefore, the injuries were described as only minor in Study 3. Third, the phrase "without the possibility of parole" was omitted from the Lenient and Appropriate punishment manipulations. This phrase may have

increased the perception of severity across all conditions in the previous study, so it was included only in the Severe condition. Finally, data from Study 2 indicated that the Severe Punishment condition was not being discriminated clearly from the Appropriate condition. Therefore, the punishment manipulation for the Severe condition was increased to 50 years in jail.

Results

A 3 (Lenient , Appropriate, or Severe Level of Perpetrator Punishment) X 2 (Subject Gender) analysis of variance was conducted on each manipulation check and the recommended compensation measure.

Manipulation Checks

An ANOVA revealed a strong main effect for perceived severity, F (2 ,134) = 61.68, $p < .001$. An examination of the cell means indicated differences between groups consistent with the hypothesis (See Table 7). Newman-Keuls comparisons revealed significant differences between all three levels of perpetrator punishment, $p < .05$.

Neither the Gender main effect nor the Punishment Severity X Gender interaction for this manipulation were significant. Newman-Keuls comparisons revealed significant differences between mean punishment severity in all three conditions when males and females were examined separately,

Table 7

Means Perceived Severity, Perceived Punishment Appropriateness, and Recommmended Compensation Ratings for Study 3

Measure		Condition		
		Len	App	Sev
Perceived Severity				
Overall	M	2.13_a	3.53_b	4.57_c
Females	M	2.06_a	3.53_b	4.44_c
	SD	1.03	0.86	0.96
Males	M	2.33_a	3.53_b	4.71_c
	SD	0.89	1.18	1.27
Perceived PunishApp				
Overall	M	2.40_a	3.70_b	4.50_c
Females	M	2.43_a	3.73_b	4.20_b
	SD	0.98	0.69	1.04
Males	M	2.33_a	3.65_b	4.86_c
	SD	1.07	1.06	1.11
Recommended Compensation				
Overall	M	2.53_a	2.02_a	1.76_a
Females	M	2.49_a	2.10_a	1.64_a
	SD	1.90	1.73	1.44
Males	M	2.67_a	1.88_a	1.90_a
	SD	3.11	2.74	1.61

[a]Means that do not share a common subscript differ at $p < .05$ as determined by the Newman-Keuls test.

$p < .05$. Therefore, this manipulation was largely successful for both genders in all three conditions.

Similarly, responses on the perceived punishment appropriateness measure were analyzed to determine if the perception of sentence to crime inequity was established (see Table 7). Again, the ANOVA revealed a strong main effect, F (2 ,134) = 51.34, $p < .001$. An examination of the cell means indicated a pattern of responding consistent with the hypothesis. Newman-Keuls comparisons revealed significant differences between all three levels of perpetrator punishment on this measure, $p < .05$.

Like punishment severity, neither the Gender main effect nor the Punishment Severity X Gender interaction were significant for this measure. However, unlike male subjects, females showed no significant differences between the Appropriate and Severe conditions. Therefore, this manipulation appears to have worked rather well except for some problems in discrimination for female subjects between the Appropriate and Severe groups.

Victim Compensation

Responses on the recommended compensation measure were analyzed to determine if compensation decreases as punishment increases (see Table 7). The ANOVA revealed a non-significant main effect for punishment severity, F (2,

134) = 1.80, $p < .17$. Although the overall pattern of results was as expected, the differences between groups were not significant. Additionally, no significant main effects for punishment severity were found when the data were examined separately for males and females. An examination of the cell means indicated mean responses in the predicted direction for female subjects across groups. Males showed more compensation in the Lenient than in the Appropriate condition, as expected; however, recommended compensation was essentially the same in the Appropriate and Severe groups. Newman-Keuls comparisons suggested that none of the cell differences were significant for either gender. Again, neither the main effect for gender nor the Punishment Severity X Gender interaction was significant. The Bartlett-Box F test revealed heterogeneity of variance among cells, $p < .005$.

Thus, unlike the previous studies, this study showed similar (albeit non-significant) response patterns for males and females, particularly in the Lenient and Appropriate conditions.

Correlations

Compensation was predicted to be negatively correlated with perpetrator punishment severity and perceived punishment appropriateness, whereas the punishment severity

and perceived punishment appropriateness measures would be positively correlated with one another.

Correlations for the total sample revealed a non-significant negative correlation between compensation and perceived punishment severity, indicating a trend in the predicted direction (see Table 8). Correlations between these two measures were also non-significant for the sub-samples of males and females; however, the correlation for females was negative and consistent with our hypothesis.

Between recommended victim compensation and perceived punishment appropriateness, the overall correlation was significant in the predicted direction, r (138) = -.23, p < .01. For males, this correlation was in the predicted direction but not significant, whereas the correlation between these two measures for females was significant in the predicted direction,
r (88) = -.31, p < .01.

The correlations between perpetrator punishment severity and punishment appropriateness were positive and significant in the total sample, r (138) = .82, p < .01, in males, r (48) = .85, p < .01, and in females, r (88) = .79, p < .01.

Table 8

Pearson Correlations Between Perceived Severity, Perceived Punishment Appropriateness, and Recommended Compensation for Study 3

	PerSev	PerAP	RecComp
Overall			
Perceived Severity	1.0	.82**	-.09
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	-	1.0	-.23**
Females			
Perceived Severity	1.0	.79**	-.17
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	-	1.0	-.31**
Males			
Perceived Severity	1.0	.85**	.02
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	-	1.0	-.14

*$p < .05$ **$p < .01$

Factors Question

Subjects were asked the same question as in Study Two and responses were coded identically. Interrater reliability, computed by percent agreement, was sufficiently high at .94. Because the scenario was changed in this study, subjects were not given any indication that the victim's injuries required hospitalization. Consequently, the most important factor listed by both genders was not hospitalization (as in Study 2) but the severity of the victim's injuries (see Table 9). Male subjects in the Appropriate condition were more concerned with the amount of property loss or damage while females were more influenced by the fact the perpetator had no previous criminal record (particularly in the Lenient and Severe conditions).

Regarding secondary responses, females considered extent of the victim's injuries more than males (e.g., in the Severe condition, 52% for females and 38 % for males). In the Severe punishment condition, males reported more concern with property damage (33%) than did females (16%). Refer to Table 9 for a complete listing of these findings.

Discussion

Recommended victim compensation was hypothesized to decrease as perpetrator punishment severity increased. For female subjects, cell means followed this pattern; however, the differences between groups were not significant. The

Table 9

Reported Factors and Percentage of Subjects that Considered Each When Recommending Compensation for Study 3

	Condition					
	Len		App		Sev	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Primary Factors						
Extent of Injury	42	46	53	53	33	36
Mental Anguish	8				14	4
Loss of Income						4
Childcare		3			5	
Property Damage/ Stolen Items	8	6	18	7	5	12
Sentence	8	3			14	8
No previous record	8	17	12	7	10	20
No permanent or severe injuries				3		
Victim inconvenience/ disregard of rights		9	6			
Victim was mother		9		10		4
Gender of Parties				3		

Table 9 (coun.)

	Condition					
	Len		App		Sev	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Type of crime	8	9		7	14	8
Victim background			6		5	
Property returned					5	
Court costs	8					
<u>Secondary Factors</u>						
Extent of Injury	25	29	35	23	38	52
Mental Anguish	25	23	12	13	5	28
Loss of Income	17	14	6	13	14	4
Childcare			6	3		
Property Damage/ Stolen Items	33	34	18	27	33	16
Sentence	17	14	18	10	29	32
No previous record	17	14	18	27	19	28
No permanent or severe injuries		3				4
Type of crime	25	11	24	17	10	16
Evidence		9	6			
Victim inconvenience/ disregard of rights	8	3	12	3	5	8
Victim was mother		17	35	20	19	12

Table 9 (coun.)

	Condition					
	Len		App		Sev	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Victim background	8	3		3	14	4
Security precautions	17					
Perpetrator background	17		6	7	5	16
Reason for crime	8	3		7		8
Property returned			12	3		
Lawyer & Court costs				3	14	
Children not involved			6			
Unmarried Victim		3	6			
Perpetrator Salary			6			
Nothing actually stolen						4
Children threatened		3		3		

pattern of responding for male subjects was not as clear cut. In the Lenient and Appropriate conditions, recommended victim compensation measures followed the predicted trend; however, the measures for the Severe condition were not as expected.

Consistent with Studies 1 and 2, female responses followed a trend in the predicted direction. Additionally, the correlational data between perceived punishment appropriateness and recommended compensation revealed an inverse relationship (as predicted) that is similarly found in Studies 1 and 2. However, male responses were rather different from those of Study 1 and Study 2.

As in Study 2, we increased punishment severity in the Severe condition, anticipating clearer differentiation between the Appropriate and Severe conditions. Again, female subjects were not making this distinction as evidenced by the perceived punishment appropriateness manipulation check.

At this point, still further fine tuning of the scenario seemed warranted to accomplish sufficient distinctions between the punishment conditions. One approach to this obstacle was to increase the range of responses, as the recommended victim compensation values in the previous studies have generally fallen on the low side

of the continuum scale. Although some gender differences appeared possible, this disparity was predicted to become clearer after further tests were conducted on an improved scenario.

One persistent difficulty in the previous three studies was distinguishing between the Appropriate and Severe levels of perpetrator punishment. As opposed to modifying the scenario any further, we opted to eliminate the Appropriate condition. The relationship between the Lenient and Severe groups was similar in Studies 1, 2, and 3 (more recommended compensation in the Lenient versus the Severe condition); therefore, we used only those levels of punishment for subsequent studies.

Study 4

Study 4 was a partial replication of the first three studies. It included modification in the victimization scenario and the compensation scale (see below, Procedure). Only female subjects were tested, and only the Lenient and Severe Punishment conditions were run.

Method

Subjects

Subjects were 56 female Introductory Psychology students from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State

University who received one extra credit point for participating.

Procedure

The design, materials, subject selection, and procedure were similar to Studies 1, 2, and 3; however, two changes were made in the recommended compensation scale and one change was made in the victimization scenario (see Appendix F). First, the bottom anchor on the compensation scale was lowered from 3000 dollars to 0 dollars. This change was intended to create more variance in the compensation scores because data from the previous studies suggested a possible floor effect (zero compensation was not a response option). Additionally, previous studies revealed a limited range of responses such that most subjects recommended dollar amounts on the lower half of the compensation scale. Therefore, we also changed the increments of the scale (from 3000 dollar increments to 2000 dollar increments) which led to a lesser top anchor for the scale (18,000 dollars as opposed to 30,000 dollars in previous studies).

A minor change was made in the scenario to encourage slightly higher compensation values such that the description of the crime was changed from "robbery and assault" to "armed robbery and assault". In summary, all changes were made to increase the range of compensation

values and to avoid a floor effect on the compensation measure.

Results

A t-test between Lenient and Severe Perpetrator Punishment groups was conducted on each manipulation check and the recommended compensation measure.

Manipulation Checks

The manipulation check for perceived punishment severity showed an effect for Punishment Severity, t (54) = 8.71, $p < .001$. The mean for perceived punishment severity was higher in the Severe condition than in the Lenient condition, as predicted (see Table 10).

The measure for perceived punishment appropriateness also showed a strong main effect for punishment severity, t (54) = 9.09, $p < .001$. The difference between groups was consistent with the proposed hypothesis such that the mean was higher in the Severe punishment condition than in the Lenient punishment condition (see Table 10).

Victim Compensation

Analysis of the compensation measure revealed borderline significance, t (54) = 1.92, $p < .06$. As predicted, subjects in the Lenient punishment condition recommended more compensation than subjects in the Severe punishment condition (see Table 10).

Table 10

Mean Perceived Severity, Perceived Punishment Appropriateness, and Recommended Compensation Ratings for Study 4

Measure		Condition	
		Lenient	Severe
Perceived Severity	M	2.18_a	4.64_b
	SD	0.98	1.13
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	M	2.29_a	4.71_b
	SD	0.94	1.08
Recommended Compensation	M	4.04_a	2.96_a
	SD	1.73	2.40

[a]Means that do not share a common subscript differ at $p < .05$ as determined by the Newman-Keuls test.

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Correlations

Pearson correlation between the measures of compensation, perceived severity, and perceived punishment appropriateness revealed relationships consistent with predictions, though non-significant (see Table 11).

As predicted (and seen in Studies 1, 2, and 3) inverse relationships existed between compensation and perceived severity, r (54) = -.23, ns, and between compensation and perceived punishment appropriateness, r (54) = -.23, ns. The correlation between perceived punishment severity and perceived punishment appropriateness revealed a strong direct relationship, r (54) = .86, $p < .01$, as expected.

Factors Question

Subjects were asked the same question as in Studies 2 and 3 and responses were coded identically. Interrater reliability, computed by percent agreement between coders, was sufficiently high at .96. The most important factors considered were the extent of injury (18% in the Lenient condition and 25% in the Severe condition) and the fact the perpetrator had no prior criminal record (14% in both Lenient and Severe conditions) (see Table 12). Subjects in the Lenient condition also emphasized the fact that no severe or permanent injuries were incurred to the victim (21%).

Table 11

Pearson Correlations Between Perceived Severity, Perceived Punishment Appropriateness, and Recommended Compensation for Study 4

	PerSev	PerPA	RecComp
Perceived Severity	1.0	.86**	-.23
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	-	1.0	-.23

*$p < .05$ **$p < .01$

Table 12

Reported Factors and Percentage of Subjects Who Considered Each When Recommending Compensation for Study 4

	Condition	
	Lenient	Severe
Primary Factors		
Type of crime	11	7
Extent of injury	18	25
Loss of perpetrator's income	4	
Number of children	4	
No prior record	14	14
Mental anguish		7
How convincing was evidence		4
Court costs		4
Property damage/ Stolen items		11
Victim Age	4	
Victim was mother	11	
Sentence	7	4
No severe/permanent injuries	21	7
Medical costs	4	11
Harm to woman/ children	4	

Table 12 (coun.)	Condition	
	Lenient	Severe
Were stolen items returned	4	
Victim's insurance		4
Secondary Factors		
Harm to woman/ children	7	
Victim Age	7	
Extent of Injury	32	18
Property damage/ Stolen Items	29	36
Mental anguish	32	25
Victim was mother	11	
No prior record	25	14
Perpetrator convicted	4	14
Type of crime	7	7
Number of children	14	4
Medical costs	11	7
Crime in home	7	
Evidence		4
Victim Insurance		4
Sentence	11	32
No severe/ permanent injuries	7	14
Perpetrator background		7
Loss of income		11

Table 12 (coun.)

	Condition	
	Lenient	Severe
Possible self-inflicted injuries		4
Reason for crime	4	4
Assailant armed	4	
Childcare	4	
Loss of security	4	
Court costs	4	4
Were stolen items returned	4	4
Amount robber could have taken		4

Important secondary considerations included the extent of injury (32% in the Lenient condition and 18% in the Severe condition), property damage/ stolen items (29% in the Lenient condition and 36% in the Severe condition), mental anguish (32% in the Lenient condition and 25% in the Severe condition), and the
fact the perpetrator had no prior record (25% in the Lenient condition and 14% in the Severe condition). Subjects in the Severe condition also considered the sentence (32%) more often than subjects in the Lenient condition (11%). Refer to Table 12 for a complete listing of these findings.

Discussion

We predicted subjects in the Lenient perpetrator punishment condition would recommend more victim compensation than subjects in the Severe perpetrator punishment condition. A trend in the predicted direction was evident.

To this point, the trend observed in this and the previous studies has not been similarly evident for males. One possible explanation is males are less interested in the scenario and the compensation task when the victim is female. Because female victims have been depicted in this study and the previous three studies, the pattern may be more evident for female subjects because they

are more interested in the scenario. To explore this possibility, Study Five was conducted.

Study 5

Study 5 was a replication of Study 4 using male subjects and a scenario concerning a male victim.

Method

Subjects

Subjects were 65 male Introductory Psychology students from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University who received one extra credit point for their participation.

Procedure

This experiment was conducted in the same manner as Study 4 with two exceptions (see Appendix G). First, only males were used as subjects. Second, the scenario used in Study 4 was changed so the victim was described as a male instead of a female. This change was an attempt to explore the possibility that males might respond in the predicted pattern if the scenario was made more involving for them.

Results

A t-test was conducted between the Lenient and Severe Perpetrator Punishment conditions on each manipulation check and the recommended compensation measure.

Manipulation Checks

The manipulation check for perceived severity showed a strong effect for punishment severity, t (63) = 9.94, $p < .001$. Examination of the cell means revealed subjects in the Severe punishment condition judged the punishment more severe than subjects in the Lenient punishment group, as predicted (see Table 13).

The measure of perceived punishment appropriateness also showed a strong main effect for punishment severity, t (63) = 9.29, $p < .001$. Again, the mean was higher in the severe punishment condition than in the Lenient punishment condition, as expected (see Table 13).

Victim Compensation

The analysis performed on the victim compensation scores did not reach significance, t (2, 63) = 1.40, $p < .17$; however, the cell means indicated a trend in the predicted direction (see Table 13).

Correlations

Pearson correlations between the measures of perceived punishment severity, perceived punishment appropriateness, and recommended compensation revealed relationships consistent with predictions (see Table 14). As predicted, inverse relationships existed between compensation and perceived punishment severity,

Table 13

Mean Perceived Severity, Perceived Punishment Appropriateness, and Recommended Compensation Ratings for Study 5

Measure		Condition	
		Lenient	Severe
Perceived Severity	M	2.03_a	4.76_b
	SD	1.23	0.97
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	M	2.13_a	4.70_b
	SD	1.01	1.21
Recommended Compensation	M	3.50_a	2.73_a
	SD	2.29	2.17

[a]Means that do not share a common subscript differ at $p < .05$ as determined by the Newman-Keuls test.

Table 14

Pearson Correlations Between Perceived Severity, Perceived Punishment Appropriateness, and Recommended Compensation for Study 5

	PerSev	PerPA	RecComp
Perceived Severity	1.0	.82**	-.27*
Perceived Punishment Appropriateness	-	1.0	-.34**

*$p < .05$ **$p < .01$

r (63) = -.27, p < .05, and between recommended victim compensation and perceived punishment appropriateness, r (63) = -.34, p < .01. A strong direct relationship was evident between perceived severity and perceived punishment appropriateness, r (63) = .81, p < .01.

Factors Question

Subjects were asked the same question as in Studies 2, 3, and 4 and responses were coded identically. Interrater reliability, computed by percent agreement, was sufficiently high at .98. Subjects indicated the extent of injury (19% in the Lenient condition and 24% in the Severe condition) and the type of crime (22% in the Lenient condition and 12% in the Severe condition) as the most important considerations in recommending victim compensation (see Table 15).

Regarding secondary considerations, the sentence (16% in the Lenient condition and 30% in the Severe condition), the extent of injury (31% in the Lenient condition and 21 % in the Severe condition), and the fact the perpetrator had no prior record (25% in the Lenient condition and 21% in the Severe condition) were reported most frequently. See Table 15 for a complete listing of these findings.

Table 15

Reported Factors and Percentage of Subjects Who Considered Each When Recommending Compensation for Study 5

	Condition	
	Lenient	Severe
Primary Factors		
Type of crime	22	12
Extent of injury	19	24
Number of children	3	3
No prior record	6	6
Mental anguish	6	
Property Damage/ Stolen items		18
Victim background	3	
Medical costs	9	
Arbitrary	3	
No permanent/ severe injuries	3	15
Amount robber could have taken		3
Possible self-inflicted injuries	3	
Victim Age	9	3
Sentence	3	3
Armed assailant	3	

Table 15 (coun.)	Condition	
	Lenient	Severe
Victim was father		3
Defense of victim		3
Crime in home		3
<u>Secondary factors</u>		
Mental anguish	9	18
Sentence	16	30
Property Damage/ Stolen Items	22	9
Type of crime	16	9
Loss of income	3	6
Extent of injury	31	21
No prior record	25	21
Victim Age	3	6
Victim was father	13	9
Crime in home	6	6
Medical costs	3	9
Were stolen items returned		6
Assailant armed	6	9
Perpetrator Age	3	
Number of children	13	9
Victim insurance	3	

Table 15 (coun.)

	Condition	
	Lenient	Severe
No severe/ permanent injuries	6	3
Perpetrator background	9	
Reason for crime	3	6
Evidence	3	
Middle value		3
Conviction		3

Discussion

Males were predicted to recommend more compensation in the Lenient punishment condition than in the Severe punishment condition. The pattern of responding lended support to this hypothesis; however, this finding was not significant. Unlike the data for male subjects in Studies 2 and 3, the correlations revealed significant inverse relationships between each manipulation check and victim compensation. This finding suggested that, when the victim was male, males responded similarly to females. Male responses did not follow this pattern in the scenarios depicting a female victim.

General Discussion

The five studies reported predicted victim compensation would vary based on the amount of punishment given to a perpetrator. Specifically, higher amounts of punishment were suggested to elicit lower amounts of victim compensation than would lesser amounts of punishment. Although, in terms of mean group differences, statistical significance was not attained in many instances, a pattern of responding consistent with this hypothesis occurred in Studies 1, 3, and 4 for female subjects. Correlational results provided significant support across Studies 1, 2, and 3 for inverse relationships between the victim

compensation and the manipulation checks, as expected; Study 4, though non-significant, was also in a similar direction. In contrast, male subjects' responding was rather unpredictable in studies depicting female victims; however, when the victim was depicted as a male (Study 5), the male pattern of responding became similar to that of the females in the previous studies. Strong correlational support in the predicted direction between victim compensation and the manipulation checks was also acheived in Study 5 for males, unlike Studies 2 and 3.

Although statistical significance was not reached in many of these studies, the fact the results seem generally consistent across studies (particularly for female subjects) suggested our hypothesis has some merit. Thus, one goal is to propose reasons for this lack of statistical significance. First, the perception of punishment severity probably varies from one person to another depending on their history as a victim of crime, their experience with the court system, etc. Therefore, manipulating this variable to mean the same thing for different subjects is difficult.

Additionally, as the punishment severity manipulation was changed to acheive statistical discrimination between conditions (in Studies 1, 2, and 3), the description of the

punishment became rather unreasonable in some instances (e.g., in the Severe condition for Study 3, punishment of 50 years in jail without the possibility of parole for an assault and battery charge). That is, the realism of the Lenient and Appropriate condition manipulation was rather good; however, to acheive discrimination between the Appropriate and Severe conditions, the description of the Severe punishment became more and more unrealistic.

Although punishment realism was not specifically assessed in these studies, some subjects did indicate (in the Factors Question responses) that the punishment manipulation, particularly in the Severe condition, was extremely harsh. Most of these subjects further indicated excessive punishment as a cue implying the crime was very violent. Since the crime was described similarly in all conditions, this type of differential interpretation based on the independent variable may have elicited elevated compensation values in the Severe condition. This type of responding, of course, works against our hypothesis.

Another possible explanation for the consistent pattern of responding but lack of statistical significance might be the use of a scenario paradigm. A scenario study may be a more difficult medium to elicit subject involvement and attention. For instance, subjects may be more involved if

information is given via audiotape or if a mock trial similation is used. As evidenced in Study 5, male subjects produce results consistent with the hypothesis when a male subject is depicted instead of a female subject (as in Studies 1, 2, and 3). This result may mean that changing the victim gender produced more involvement in male subjects (though this, of course, is speculation). Therefore, an attention eliciting medium, as suggested above, may produce stronger results. Involvement was not assessed in our studies; however, an incorporation of this measure would be a feasible addition to future studies of this type.

Finally, responses to the Factors Question suggested that the source of the compensation money was unclear for some subjects. Subjects might have responded differently if they perceived the compensation to be coming from the perpetrator as opposed to the court system / government. If a subject perceived compensation from the perpetrator, this would factor into the equity relationship whereas compensation from a third party would create a different set of conditions.

Alternative Hypotheses

One reasonable hypothesis contradictory to the one examined in this study is the contention that perpetrator punishment and victim compensation share a direct

relationship such that compensation would increase as perpetrator punishment increased. One might expect this pattern of results because the scenario-questionnaire asks for a victim compensation recommendation even though the subject has little information to base this judgment on. Severity, in this case, is a potentially salient cue. Even though our results were not always statistically significant, the pattern of responding across studies is certainly more indicative of our hypothesis as opposed to the direct relationship hypothesis.

Other than the equity explanation offered here, one might also interpret victim disregard in terms of Durkheim's focus on the group-maintenance value of punishment (Miller & McCann, 1979). Specifically, allowing the perpetrator to go unpunished may be disruptive to society; he or she may continue to victimize others or act as a negative role model. The victim, however, can go unattended without disrupting society. The choice between perpetrator punishment or victim compensation (as was done in Miller & McCann, 1979) was not examined in these studies.

Future Directions

To examine further the equity theory explanation proposed in this series of studies, one might conduct research varying other aspects of the victim/perpetrator

relationship. For example, instead of varying perpetrator punishment, the perpetrator could be described as incurring some misfortune as a proximal result of the victimizing event. The degree of outcome would vary and the level of perpetrator punishment would remain constant. This type of study would again vary perpetrator outcomes, but in a different manner. However, the same overall relationship would be expected.

Additionally, the relationship between the use of equity considerations and victim/observer identification mechanisms should be examined further. Barnett, King, Esper, and Freighny (1984) suggested the existence of gender effects in perpetrator punishment and victim compensation decisions by a sample of children. Although they varied victim and perpetrator gender, subject-observer gender effects were not assessed in their study. As is suggested by Study 5, responses change when the victim and subject are the same gender. Therefore, subsequent studies should investigate how victim-subject gender relationships influence helping victims and why.

In summary, the results from five studies suggested equity theory may have some explanatory power when considering why victim disregard occurs. Further examination is warranted (1) to determine how strong this

relationship appears to be, and (2) to determine if another experimental paradigm might prove more useful in exploring this phenomenon.

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Appendix A

Scenario-Questionnaire for Pilot 1

This study looks at the factors that influence recommendations for victim compensation. First read the definitions following this paragraph. Then read the passage that describes a case in which the victim has applied for monetary compensation. When you have finished, please answer the six questions below.

DEFINITIONS:

A. Robbery is the felonious or forcible taking of the property of another against his will by violence or by putting him in fear.

B. Malicious Wounding is malicious bodily injury to another with intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill.

The victim in this case is a 41-year old mother of two. During a robbery at her home, the victim sustained injuries requiring hospitalization.

The assailant is a 33-year old construction worker with no previous criminal record. During the criminal proceedings for this case, the assailant was convicted of robbery and malicious wounding largely by the introduction of physical evidence.

ASSUMING THAT THE ASSAILANT RECEIVES SOME TIME IN PRISON:

1. What would you consider to be a LENIENT sentence for this assailant? _____ years in prison

2. What would you consider to be an APPROPRIATE sentence for this assailant? _____ years in prison

3. What would you consider to be a SEVERE sentence for this assailant? _____ years in prison

4. If the assailant received the LENIENT sentence noted above, how much compensation would you award the victim? _____dollars

5. If the assailant received the APPROPRIATE sentence noted above, how much compensation would you award the victim? _____dollars

6. If the assailant received the SEVERE sentence noted above, how much compensation would you award the victim? _____dollars

Appendix B

Scenario-Questionnaire for Pilot 2

Gender: _____M _____F Form (A)

This study looks at the factors that influence recommendations for victim compensation. First read the definitions following this paragraph. Now imagine that you are a member of a compensation board that determines the monetarial awards given to crime victims. Then read the passage that describes a case in which the victim has applied for such compensation. When you have finished, please indicate the amount of compensation you would recommend on the scale below.

DEFINITIONS:

A. Robbery is the felonious or forcible taking of the property of another against his will by violence or by putting him in fear.

B. Malicious Wounding is malicious bodily injury to another with intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill.

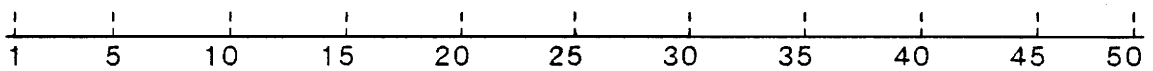
The victim in this case is a 41-year old mother of two. During a robbery at her home, the victim sustained injuries requiring hospitalization.

The assailant is a 33-year old construction worker with no previous criminal record. During the criminal proceedings for this case, the assailant was convicted of robbery and malicious wounding largely by the introduction of physical evidence. The assailant received a sentence of (5 years in jail which is considered lenient) compared to what people are normally sentenced for this crime.

AGAIN IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COMPENSATION BOARD CONSIDERING THIS CASE:

How much compensation would you award this victim?

(Please indicate you answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below in the blank below it. Use only the numbers that you see listed on the scale. THE NUMBERS ON THE SCALE INDICATE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS.)



I would recommend _____thousand dollars compensation.

Appendix C

Scenario-Questionnaire for Study 1

Form (A)

This study looks at people's reactions to various scenarios.The following scenario has been picked at random. First read the following definitions:

A. Robbery is the felonious or forcible taking of the property of another against his will by violence or by putting him in fear.

B. Malicious Wounding is malicious bodily injury to another with intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill.

Now imagine that you are a member of a compensation board that determines the monetary awards given to crime victims. Read the following passage that describes a case in which the victim has applied for such compensation. When you have finished, please indicate the amount of compensation you would recommend on the scale that follows the passage.

The victim in this case is a 41-year old mother of two. During a robbery at her home, the victim sustained injuries requiring hospitalization.

The assailant is a 33-year old construction worker with no previous criminal record. During the criminal proceedings for this case, the assailant was convicted of robbery and malicious wounding largely on the introduction of physical evidence. The assailant a sentence of (5 years in jail), which is considered lenient compared to what people are normally sentenced for this crime.

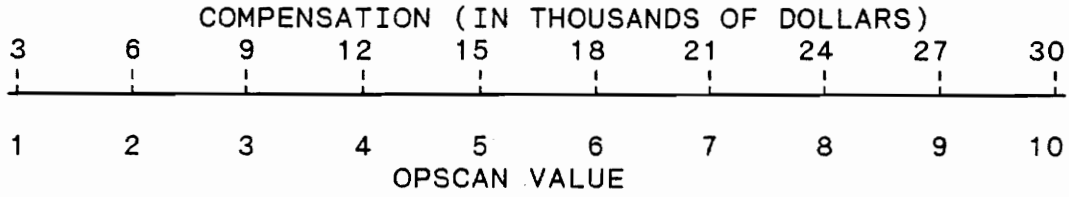
IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COMPENSATION BOARD CONSIDERING THIS CASE:

1. How much compensation would you award this victim?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #1-----

(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. THE COMPENSATION VALUES ARE LISTED ABOVE THE SCALE AND THEY INDICATE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. Use only the numbers that you see listed on the scale. To answer, select your compensation value from ABOVE the scale, then fill in the corresponding OPSCAN value from BELOW the scale.

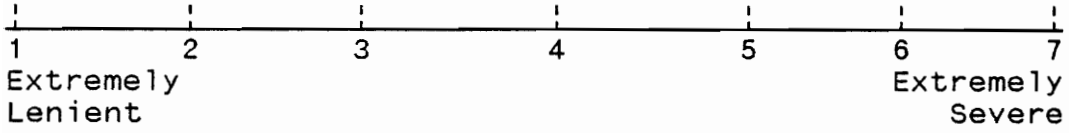
EX. If you award $3000, fill in the number 1 on the OPSCAN.)



2. How would you rate the perpetrator's punishment?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #2-----

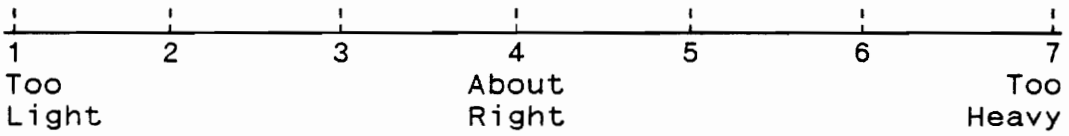
(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. Use only the numbers you see listed on the scale.)



3. Do you think the punishment fit the crime?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #3-----

(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. Use only the numbers you see listed on the scale.)



4. In the OPSCAN response area for Question #4, fill in:
#1 if you are a MALE
#2 if you are a FEMALE

5. On what basis did you make your compensation decision? Please respond in the space below.

Appendix D

Scenario-Questionnaire for Study 2

Form (A)

This study looks at people's reactions to various scenarios.The following scenario has been picked at random. First read the following definitions:

A. Robbery is the felonious or forcible taking of the property of another against his will by violence or by putting him in fear.

B. Malicious Wounding is malicious bodily injury to another with intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill.

Now imagine that you are a member of a compensation board that determines the monetary awards given to crime victims. Read the following passage that describes a case in which the victim has applied for such compensation. When you have finished, please indicate the amount of compensation you would recommend on the scale that follows the passage.

The victim in this case is a 41-year old mother of two. During a robbery at her home, the victim sustained injuries requiring hospitalization.

The assailant is a 33-year old construction worker with no previous criminal record. During the criminal proceedings for this case, the assailant was convicted of robbery and malicious wounding largely on the introduction of physical evidence. The assailant received a sentence of (5 years in jail without the possibility of parole), which is considered lenient compared to what people are normally sentenced for this crime.

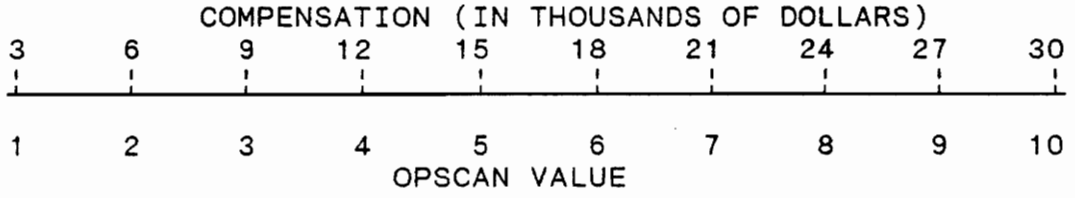
IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COMPENSATION BOARD CONSIDERING THIS CASE:

1. How much compensation would you award this victim?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #1-----

(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. THE COMPENSATION VALUES ARE LISTED ABOVE THE SCALE AND THEY INDICATE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. Use only the numbers that you see listed on the scale. To answer, select your compensation value from ABOVE the scale, then fill in the corresponding OPSCAN value from BELOW the scale.

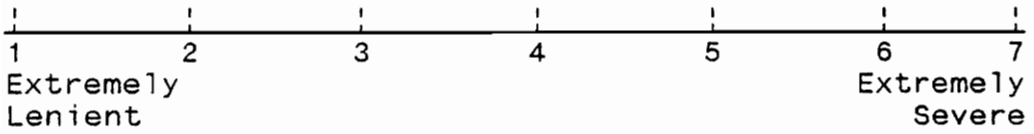
EX. If you award $3000, fill in the number 1 on the OPSCAN.)



2. How would you rate the perpetrator's punishment?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #2-----

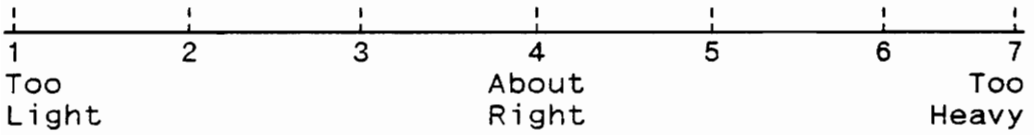
(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. Use only the numbers you see listed on the scale.)



3. Do you think the punishment fit the crime?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #3-----

(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. Use only the numbers you see listed on the scale.)



4. In the OPSCAN response area for Question #4, fill in:
#1 if you are a MALE
#2 if you are a FEMALE

5. Beginning with the most important, list the factors you considered in making your compensation decision. Please respond in the space below.

Appendix E

Scenario-Questionnaire for Study 3

Form (A)

This study looks at people's reactions to various scenarios.The following scenario has been picked at random:

Imagine that you are a member of a compensation board that determines the monetary awards given to crime victims. Read the following passage that describes a case in which the victim has applied for such compensation. When you have finished, please indicate the amount of compensation you would recommend on the scale that follows the passage.

The victim in this case is a 41-year old mother of two. She was robbed at her home, and during the robbery she sustained minor injuries.

The assailant is a 33-year old construction worker with no previous criminal record. During the criminal proceedings for this case, the assailant was convicted of robbery and assault based largely on the introduction of physical evidence. The assailant received a (5 year prison sentence), which is considered lenient compared to what people are normally sentenced for this crime.

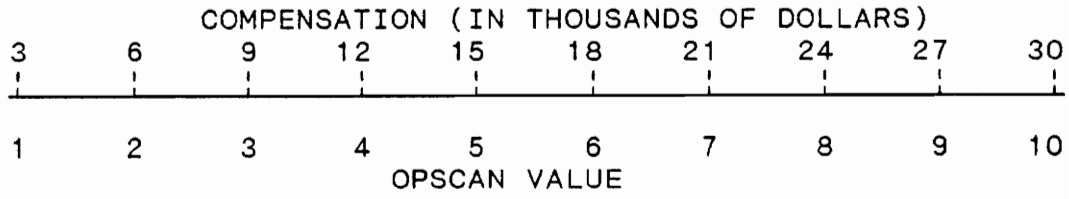
IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COMPENSATION BOARD CONSIDERING THIS CASE:

1. How much compensation would you award this victim?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #1-----

(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. THE COMPENSATION VALUES ARE LISTED ABOVE THE SCALE AND THEY INDICATE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. Use only the numbers that you see listed on the scale. To answer, select your compensation value from ABOVE the scale, then fill in the corresponding OPSCAN value from BELOW the scale.

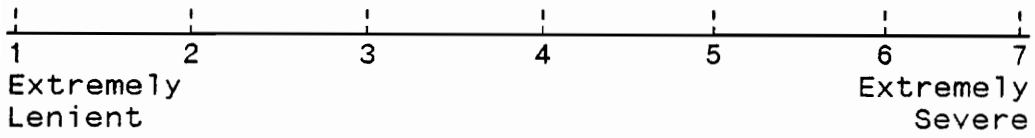
EX. If you award $3000, fill in the number 1 on the OPSCAN.)



2. How would you rate the perpetrator's punishment?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #2-----

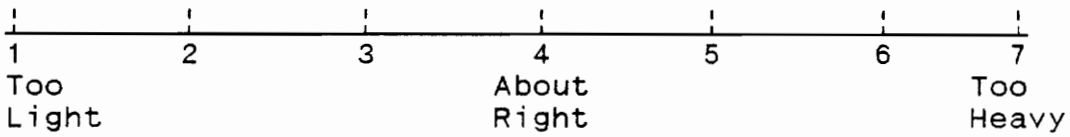
(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. Use only the numbers you see listed on the scale.)



3. Do you think the punishment fit the crime?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #3-----

(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. Use only the numbers you see listed on the scale.)



4. In the OPSCAN response area for Question #4, fill in:
#1 if you are a MALE
#2 if you are a FEMALE

5. Beginning with the most important, list the factors you considered in making your compensation decision. Please respond in the space below.

Appendix F

Scenario-Questionnaire for Study 4

Form (A)

This study looks at people's reactions to various scenarios.The following scenario has been picked at random:

Imagine that you are a member of a compensation board that determines the monetary awards given to crime victims. Read the following passage that describes a case in which the victim has applied for such compensation. When you have finished, please indicate the amount of compensation you would recommend on the scale that follows the passage.

The victim in this case is a 41-year old mother of two. She was robbed at her home, and during the robbery she sustained minor injuries.

The assailant is a 33-year old construction worker with no previous criminal record. During the criminal proceedings for this case, the assailant was convicted of armed robbery and assault based largely on the introduction of physical evidence. The assailant received a (5 year prison sentence), which is considered lenient compared to what people are normally sentenced for this crime.

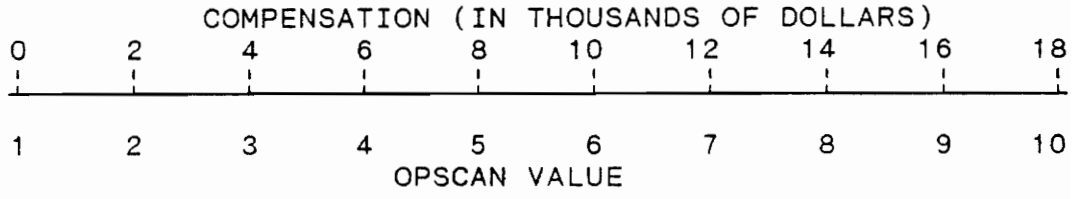
IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COMPENSATION BOARD CONSIDERING THIS CASE:

1. How much compensation would you award this victim?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #1-----

(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. THE COMPENSATION VALUES ARE LISTED ABOVE THE SCALE AND THEY INDICATE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. Use only the numbers that you see listed on the scale. To answer, select your compensation value from ABOVE the scale, then fill in the corresponding OPSCAN value from BELOW the scale.

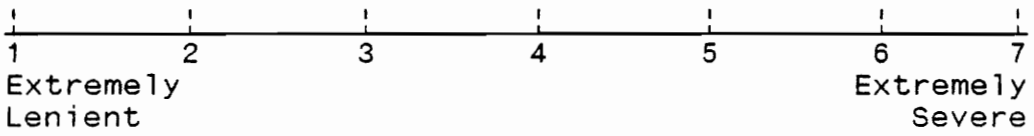
EX. If you award $10000, fill in the number 6 on the OPSCAN.)



2. How would you rate the perpetrator's punishment?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #2-----

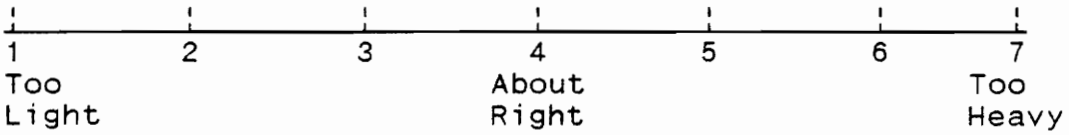
(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. Use only the numbers you see listed on the scale.)



3. Do you think the punishment fit the crime?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #3-----

(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. Use only the numbers you see listed on the scale.)



4. In the OPSCAN response area for Question #4, fill in:
#1 if you are a MALE
#2 if you are a FEMALE

5. Beginning with the most important, list the factors you considered in making your compensation decision. Please respond in the space below.

Appendix G

Scenario-Questionnaire for Study 5

Form (A)

This study looks at people's reactions to various scenarios.The following scenario has been picked at random:

Imagine that you are a member of a compensation board that determines the monetary awards given to crime victims. Read the following passage that describes a case in which the victim has applied for such compensation. When you have finished, please indicate the amount of compensation you would recommend on the scale that follows the passage.

The victim in this case is a 41-year old father of two. He was robbed at his home, and during the robbery he sustained minor injuries.

The assailant is a 33-year old construction worker with no previous criminal record. During the criminal proceedings for this case, the assailant was convicted of armed robbery and assault based largely on the introduction of physical evidence. The assailant received a (5 year prison sentence), which is considered lenient compared to what people are normally sentenced for this crime.

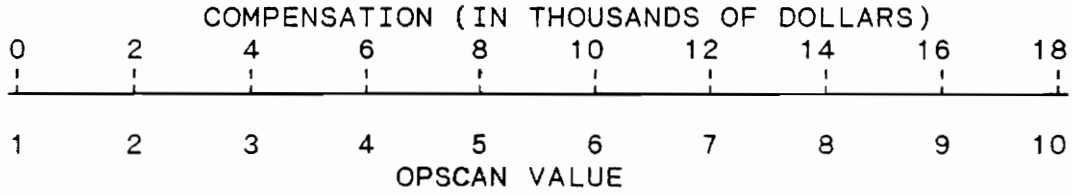
IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COMPENSATION BOARD CONSIDERING THIS CASE:

1. How much compensation would you award this victim?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #1-----

(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. THE COMPENSATION VALUES ARE LISTED ABOVE THE SCALE AND THEY INDICATE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. Use only the numbers that you see listed on the scale. To answer, select your compensation value from ABOVE the scale, then fill in the corresponding OPSCAN value from BELOW the scale.

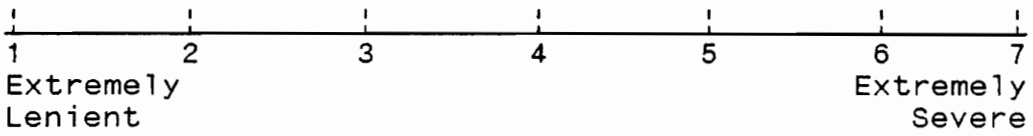
EX. If you award $10000, fill in the number 6 on the OPSCAN.)



2. How would you rate the perpetrator's punishment?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #2-----

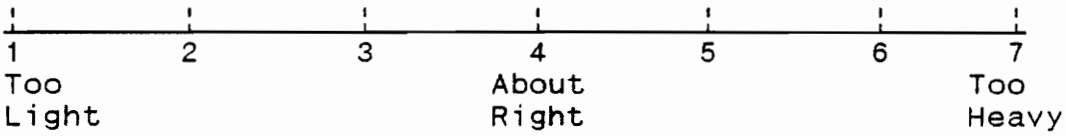
(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. Use only the numbers you see listed on the scale.)



3. Do you think the punishment fit the crime?

-----Answer in the OPSCAN response area for Question #3-----

(Please indicate your answer by placing the corresponding number from the scale below on the OPSCAN. Use only the numbers you see listed on the scale.)



4. In the OPSCAN response area for Question #4, fill in:
#1 if you are a MALE
#2 if you are a FEMALE

5. Beginning with the most important, list the factors you considered in making your compensation decision. Please respond in the space below.

Footnotes

[1]We would also like to suggest that inequity distress and dissonance arousal may be analagous processes. Both mechanisms involve negative state relief by several possible modes. In dissonance, if one method is used to reduce arousal, other methods of reduction are not necessary. Consequently, inequity distress may follow the same logic.

[2]Studies 4 and 5 included only the Lenient and Severe punishment conditions, but the predictions were similar to the previous studies (e.g., recommended compensation would be higher in the Lenient than the Severe condition).

[3]Preliminary analyses revealed a significant session effect, $F(3, 87) = 3.70$, $p < .02$, for the last experimental session. This session was run by a different experimenter than the other four sessions. Data from session four was not used in the final analysis, resulting in a sample size of 84.

[4]The Bartlett-Box F revealed heterogeneity of variance for Perceived Severity in Study 1 and the Victim Compensation Measure in Study 3. Otherwise, variance was homogeneous and this test is not reported.

VITA

Trina G. Bogle

Personal Information

Birthdate: September 2, 1965
Roanoke, Virginia

Marital Status: Single

Professional Address:

Department of Psychology
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
& State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061
(703) 231-6581

Home Address:

608 Center Street
Blacksburg, VA 24153
(703) 552-8491

Education

B.A.: Roanoke College
May 1987
Major field of study: Psychology

M.S.: Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (expected May 1991)
Thesis Title: "Observers Reactions to Victims: An Equity Theory Approach"
Major field of study: Applied-Experimental Psychology
Major Advisor: Dr. Danny K. Axsom

Professional Experience

August 1988 - present: Graduate Teaching Assistant
Department of Psychology, VPI & SU
Classroom responsibilities

June 1986 - Aug 1986: Student Mental Health Counselor
Roanoke Valley Psychiatric Center,
Salem, VA
Intern for mental health hospital

Research Experience

August 1988 - present	Research Assistant Data Collection & Analysis, VPI & SU -Persuasion in advertising -Coping on television -Coping of homicide survivor-victims -Observers reactions to victims Researcher & Advisor: Dr. Danny Axsom
Aug 1989 - Dec 1989	Survey Assistant Data Collection & Analysis, Applied Opinion Research Consumers reactions to advertising Supervisor: Dr. Dan Larsen
Aug 1987 - Aug 1988	Research Assistant Data Collection & Analysis, Roanoke College Social dilemmas Researcher & Advisor: Dr. Curt Camac
Jan 1987 - May 1987	Research Assistant Data Collection & Analysis, Roanoke College Persuasion and heuristics Researcher & Advisor: Dr. Curt Camac

Affiliations

August 1986 - present	Student Affiliate to the American Psychological Association
January 1989 - present	Student Affiliate to the Southeastern Psychological Association
January 1990 - present	Student Affiliate to the Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Manuscripts in Progress

Sirgy, M. J., Axsom, D. K., Mangelburg, T. F., & Bogle, T. G. A congruity model of advertising persuasion: Self-congruity versus functional congruity. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Bogle, T. G. Observers reactions to victims: An equity theory approach. Master's Thesis, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

References

Dr. Danny K. Axsom
Associate Professor of Psychology
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061
(703) 231-2872

Dr. Helen Crawford
Professor of Psychology
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dr. Curt Camac
Associate Professor of Psychology
Roanoke College
Salem, VA 24153
(703) 375-2478