

## Punishment Study - Codebook for PSY 2401

### Information about the study

This study was conducted in the 2003-2004 academic year at The Ohio State University. It is a survey of three groups:

- Undergraduate freshmen from introductory psychology courses: data collected in person from students who volunteered after hearing in-class announcements of an extra credit opportunity
- Members of the Association for the Treatment of Sex Abusers: included therapists, prison workers, probation officers, some researchers, etc. 500 people randomly selected from ATSA membership records were mailed surveys; 181 returned them)
- Members of APA's Division 12 (the clinical psychology division): these will almost all be practicing psychotherapists. 500 people randomly selected from Division 12 membership records were mailed surveys ; 101 returned them.

Although the study was done with surveys, it has some manipulated variables, which make it an experiment where those variables are concerned.

The format of the survey was that participants saw two vignettes (short story descriptions): one of a sexual offense (the word “fondling” was used) by a male of a certain age against a six-year-old female cousin, and one of a nonsexual offense (the word “hitting” was used) by a male of the same age as the male in the sexual offense, against a six-year-old female cousin. The males' ages ranged from 7 to 27, and were randomly assigned to participants. All participants saw both the sexual offense and the nonsexual offense vignette, though the order (which vignette was seen first) was random. Some of the items in the survey were presented in direct reference to whichever vignette had just been seen (therefore, they were presented twice—once in response to the sexual abuse vignette and once in response to the nonsexual abuse vignette). Other variables were general items about the participants' characteristics, attitudes, perceptions, etc., and were not presented in reference to the vignettes.

In this codebook, the variable names are in bold, followed by the variable label (from the SPSS file) in single quotes. After that, there may be a brief description or explanation of the variable. For the meaning of variable values, please see the value labels in the 'Variables' tab of the SPSS file.

***Important: You may use the data in this dataset for class projects, exploring data analyses, and class exercises. It is, however, research data, so please do not provide the dataset to individuals outside this class. If you wish to use these data for projects beyond the scope of this class, you must get permission for this from Dr. Rogers, who is responsible for managing this dataset.***

## Information about the variables

<b>sub.num</b>	<i>'Subject Number'</i> The participant number. If you scroll through this value, you will note that the numbers vary by participant group.
<b>sub.grp</b>	<i>'Participant Group'</i> Which of the three participant groups the participant was recruited from: <i>ugs</i> =undergraduate students, <i>atsa</i> =ATSA members, <i>apa</i> =APA therapists
<b>trt.pro</b>	<i>'Treatment Professional'</i> This is just a recoding of <i>sub.grp</i> —an indication of whether ( <b>y</b> or <b>n</b> ) each participant is a “treatment professional” (a member of ATSA or APA) or not (i.e., an undergraduate student).
<b>p.sex</b>	<i>'gender'</i> Self-reported sex/gender of the <i>participant</i> ( <b>m</b> or <b>f</b> )
<b>p.age</b>	<i>'age of participant'</i> Self-reported age of the <u><i>participant</i></u>
<b>p.ethn</b>	<i>'ethnicity'</i> self-reported ethnicity of the participant (White or Nonwhite)
<b>p.politaffil</b>	<i>'political affiliation'</i> Participant self-reported political affiliation on a Likert scale -2=Very Liberal, -1=Liberal, 0=Neutral, 1=Conservative, 2=Very Conservative
<b>first.o.type</b>	<i>'first offender type'</i> Which vignette the participant saw first: <i>s</i> =sex offense, <i>n</i> =nonsexual offense
<b>o.age</b>	<i>'offender age'</i> Age of the <i>offender</i> in the vignette. This was a randomly assigned (i.e., experimentally manipulated) value from 7 to 27. Note: the offenders in the two vignettes (sexual and nonsexual offense) presented to any participant were always the same age.
<b>o.dev.level</b>	<i>'Offender Developmental Level'</i> This is simply a recoding of <b>o.age</b> , combining the 28 possible ages to produce only 3 possible developmental levels for the offender depicted in the vignettes: child ( <b>1</b> ), adolescent ( <b>2</b> ), or adult ( <b>3</b> ). Note that this resulted in unequally-sized groups.

<b>pun.so</b>	<i>'punishment preference for SO'</i> Score from a 4-item punishment attitudes questionnaire presented after the sex offender/offense vignette. Higher scores indicate that the participant thought the offender should receive more punishment (i.e., prison time).
<b>pun.nso</b>	<i>'punishment preference for NSO'</i> Same as <b>pun.so</b> , but presented in reference to the nonsexual offender/offense vignette
<b>trt.so</b>	<i>'treatment preference for SO'</i> Score from a 4-item treatment/rehabilitation attitudes questionnaire presented after the sex offender/offense vignette. Higher scores indicate a stronger preference for treatment (e.g., therapy). Note that this scale is independent of the punishment attitudes scale, and therefore it is not necessary for high scores on this scale to be matched with low scores on <b>pun.so</b> , or vice-versa.
<b>trt.nso</b>	<i>'treatment preference for NSO'</i> Same as <b>trt.so</b> , but in response to a nonsexual offender/offense vignette
<b>acc.so</b>	<i>'accountability attributed to SO'</i> Score from a five-item questionnaire about attributions (i.e., perceptions or mental "assigning") of accountability to the hypothetical sexual offender seen in the vignette for his actions toward the young girl. Higher scores indicate that the participant attributed higher levels of personal accountability to the offender for his actions.
<b>acc.nso</b>	<i>'accountability attributed to NSO'</i> Same as <b>acc.so</b> , but for nonsexual offender/offense vignettes
<b>pun.all</b>	<i>'punishment preference - SO &amp; NSO combined'</i> The mean of <b>pun.so</b> and <b>pun.nso</b> . This may, conceivably, indicate each participant's "punitiveness" toward criminals in general.
<b>trt.all</b>	<i>'treatment preference - SO &amp; NSO combined'</i> The mean of <b>trt.so</b> and <b>trt.nso</b> . Conceivably, this indicates participants' overall preferences regarding criminal rehabilitation.
<b>acc.all</b>	<i>'accountability attribution - SO &amp; NSO combined'</i> The mean of <b>acc.so</b> and <b>acc.nso</b> . This may indicate participants' overall tendency to attribute personal responsibility to criminals for their actions.

<b>belief.tx</b>	<i>'belief in effectiveness of rehabilitation for criminals'</i> Score from the Belief in the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation questionnaire, a measure of the extent to which participants believe rehabilitation can be effective (in general) at reducing criminal behavior. <i>[General item; not in reference to vignettes]</i>
<b>vic.blame</b>	<i>'victim blame for crimes'</i> Score from the Victim Blame questionnaire, a measure of participants' general tendency to assign responsibility/blame to victims for the crimes that happen to them. <i>[General item; not in reference to vignettes]</i>
<b>soc.blame</b>	<i>'social blame for crimes'</i> Score from the Social Blame questionnaire, a measure of participants' general tendency to place responsibility for crime on social factors (i.e., prevalence of drugs or other crime, lack of social control, etc.). <i>[General item; not in reference to vignettes]</i>
<b>relig.fund</b>	<i>'religious fundamentalist attitudes'</i> Score from Altemeyer's Religious Fundamentalism Questionnaire—12-item version (shorter than the original), an indicator of participants' adherence to a fundamentalist religious belief system. Note that this does not specify a particular religion—fundamentalism is conceptualized (by Altemeyer) as an approach that might be taken to many different religions—a reliance on rigid, literal interpretation of scripture or other doctrine, with uncompromising, black-and-white perspectives on moral issues. <i>[General item; not in reference to vignettes]</i>
<b>rw.auth</b>	<i>'right-wing authoritarian attitudes'</i> Score on Altemeyer and Hunsberger's Right-Wing Authoritarianism scale. Authoritarianism is thought to be a personality style in which a person prefers organizational systems (e.g., government, school class, employment company, family, etc.) with clear and powerful hierarchies and an emphasis on obedience by those in the lower levels of the hierarchy to those above them. The construct of authoritarianism was originally developed in the mid-20 <sup>th</sup> Century as a possible explanation for the behavior of Germans during the Nazi period. <i>[General item; not in reference to vignettes]</i>
<b>num.offers.known</b>	<i>'how many offenders known'</i> Number of sex offenders participants have known personally in their lives. Note: for most undergraduates (and many APA therapists), this number is zero. However, for some ATSA members, who may treat sex offenders as part of their profession, the number can be very high. <i>[General item; not in reference to vignettes]</i>