

Project title: The predictive power of perceived triggers, psychopathic personality traits, and self-control for reactive aggression.

Project leader: Dr Jill Lobbestael

Function: Assistant professor

Collaborators: Professor Rijkeboer and Dr Nicole Geschwind (Maastricht University); Professor Arntz (University of Amsterdam); Dr. Cima (Radboud Nijmegen University); Professor Baumeister (Florida State University, USA).

Proposal (250 words):

Introduction: The key factor to lowering aggression in our society is increasing knowledge about its predictors. So far, such prediction studies largely failed to differentiate distinct motivations for aggression, i.e. reactive aggression (that is, impulsively initiated aggression with the aim to remove threats) versus proactive aggression (that is, planned, motivated aggression with the aim to obtain resources). This proposal specifically focusses on reactive aggression. Based on Finkel's I³ predictive model, we will simultaneously assess and manipulate the *Impellor* (personality make-up), *Instigator* (situational factor) and *Inhibitor* (capacity to suppress immediate urges) and measure their combined impact on reactive aggression. **Hypothesis and Objectives:** We hypothesize that people high in psychopathy (i.e. Impellor) who receive a blow to their ego (i.e. ego-threat; Instigator) and have low self-control (Inhibitor) are predisposed to reactive aggression. **Setting and Methods:** Mixed method approach including: (1) an experience sampling study where participants register the frequency of encountered provocation and the degree of perceived ego-threat, level of self-control, and aggression during that given day; (2) an experimental ego-threat manipulation, in which participants are randomly assigned to either neutral feedback on their performance or to negative feedback on their performance coupled with insulting feedback referring to their IQ. Aggression is measured behaviorally using the Voodoo-doll paradigm, in which the number of virtual pins inserted into a voodoo-doll represents a participant's aggression level. **Impact:** Ultimately, the proposed studies will contribute to increased accuracy in defining at-risk populations and to the development of distinct treatment approaches for reactive aggression.

Requirements candidate: Highly motivated student with good English communication skills and proactive and resolute attitude.

Keywords: Reactive aggression; prediction; psychopathy; inhibition; Triple I model.

Top 5 selected publications:

1. **Lobbestael, J.**, Cima, M., & Lemmens, A. (2015). Reactive versus proactive motivation for aggression in personality disorders. *Psychiatry Research*, 229, 155–160. IF=2.845. Number of citations: 10
2. Brugman, S., **Lobbestael, J.**, Arntz, A., Cima, M., Schuhmann, T., Dambacher, F., & Sack, A.T. (2015). Identifying cognitive predictors of reactive and proactive aggression. *Aggressive Behavior*, 41, 51-64. IF=3.381 Number of citations: 17
3. Dambacher, F., Sack, A.T., **Lobbestael, J.**, Arntz, A., Brugman, S., Schuhmann, T. (2015). Out of control: Evidence for anterior insula involvement in motor impulsivity and reactive aggression. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 10, 508-516. IF=5.532. Number of citations: 38.
4. **Lobbestael, J.**, Baumeister, R., Fiebig, T., & Eckel, L.A. (2014). The role of grandiose and vulnerable narcissism in self-reported and laboratory aggression and hormonal reactivity. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 69, 22-27. IF=2.417 Number of citations: 21
5. **Lobbestael, J.**, Arntz, A., & Cima, C. (2013). The relationship between adult reactive and proactive aggression, hostile interpretation bias and antisocial personality disorder. *Journal of Personality Disorders*, 27, 53-66. IF=3.215 Number of citations: 34