

Abstract

One hundred and thirty-three college freshmen played a Prisoner's Dilemma Game with a member of their own group and a member of another group. Both groups consisted of the same sex participants. An in-group bias — cooperation at a higher level with the in-group than the out-group — based on expectations of cooperation from the in-group was observed for both men and women. When such expectations were experimentally eliminated, women did not show any in-group bias whereas men still exhibited an in-group bias. The male-specific in-group bias in this condition was found to be a product of intra-group cooperation rather than inter-group competition. These findings suggest that the male-specific coalitional psychology is catered more toward solidarity within the group rather than promotion of aggression against the out-group.