

Abstract

Previous evidence suggests that, compared with females, male psychology and behavior is more strongly oriented toward intergroup conflict and competition. This study tested if this male coalitional psychology was so deeply-ingrained that it could be activated even by subtle cues in the environment suggesting intergroup conflict. We used a priming method to test if being unwittingly exposed to an offensive message from an outgroup member in one type of intergroup context (i.e. inter-cultural) would enhance male's and female's intergroup discrimination in reward allocation in a completely irrelevant intergroup context (i.e. artificial laboratory group). The results showed that, as predicted, the outgroup threat priming enhanced male's but not female's discrimination.