

Limited prosocial emotions ('callous-unemotionality') and child to parent aggression

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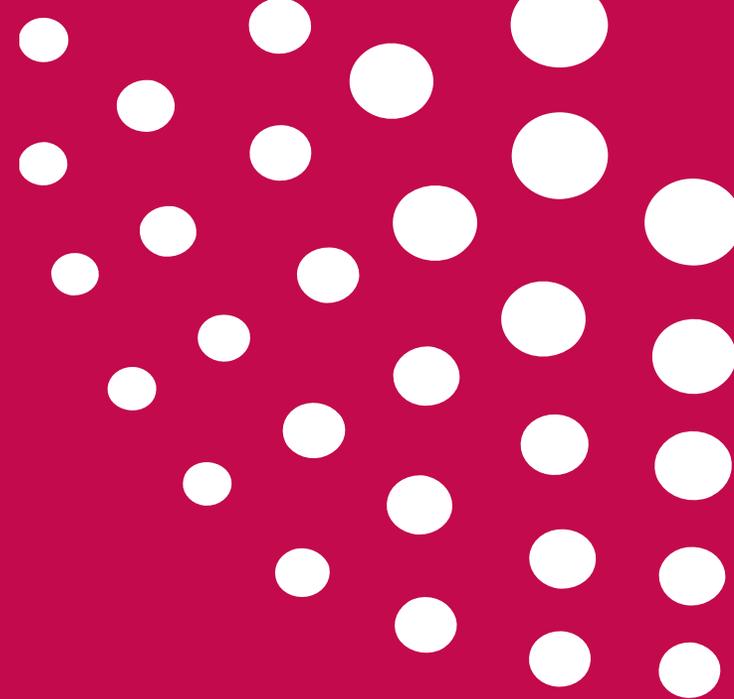
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Limited Prosocial Emotions (LPEs) and Child to Parent Aggression

- Conceptualisation of *LPEs* vs *CU-traits* vs '*nascent psychopathy*'
- Audit findings: Prevalence of Child to Parent Aggression in CAMHS/FCAMHS
- LPEs/CU traits and Child to parent aggression; findings from 2 studies
- A model of LPEs/CU traits and Child to parent aggression

Antisocial traits in children and young people

- *Attempts to generalise concept of 'psychopathy' from adults to under 18s*
- Various psychometric instruments: PCL-YV (Forth 2005), ICU (Kimonis, Frick et al. 2008), APSD (Muñoz and Frick 2007)
- Strong focus on CU traits in children
- Evidence that all 3 antisocial domains (DI, GM and CU) contribute to predicting antisocial behaviour (Andershed, Colins et al. 2018)
- LPEs now a specifier for DSM-V CD & ICD-11 Conduct dissocial disorder (Colins, Fanti and Andershed 2021)
- Focus on CU traits, though attempts were made to include DI and GM traits (Salekin 2015).

Limited prosocial emotions (LPE) ICD-11 specifier

*“These characteristics include a **lack of empathy**....lack of concern for others’ distress; a **lack of remorse**, a relative **indifference to...punishment**; a lack of concern over poor performance in school or work; and limited expression of emotions, particularly positive ...feelings toward others, or only doing so in ways that seem shallow, insincere, or **instrumental**.”*

Prevalence of Child to Carer/Parent aggression

- Seemed prevalent in our FCAMHS- but couldn't find relevant literature
- Conducted two audits (Kuay, Lee et al. 2016)
- Audits aims
 - i) to identify the incidence at referral
 - ii) report weapon use
 - iii) identify the target of family aggression
 - iv) describe the form of aggression perpetrated
 - v) compare to findings in CAMHS with similar age and gender ratio

🌀 Audit 1 methods:

- 25 most recent accepted FCAMHS referrals
- 25 CAMHS cases in same period matched on age/gender

🌀 Audit 2 methods:

- 35 most recent accepted FCAMHS referrals
- 35 CAMHS cases in same period matched on age/ gender and also collected data on:
 - IMD
 - Disruptive behaviour (CD,ADHD, CD)
 - Family structure (type of siblings, both parents in home)

Prevalence of Child to Carer/Parent/family aggression

- Audit 1 Results- incidence:
 - FCAMHS n = 16 (64%) cases of family violence
 - CAMHS n = 8 (32%)
 - Stat. sig difference ($p = .025$)
- FCAMHS weapon use n = 9 (69%)
 - Six edged weapons, rest blunt objects
 - Three resulted in injury
 - None in CAMHS (n = 0), $p = .002$.

Prevalence of Child to Carer/Parent aggression

- 🌀 Audit 1 Results- target
 - FCAMHS: Carers (n=13), siblings (n=6) and both (n=5)
 - CAMHS: Carers (n=3), siblings (n=2) and both (n=1)
- 🌀 Nature of aggression
 - FCAMHS: physical (n=13); and verbal (n=9)
 - CAMHS: physical (n=3); verbal (n=3)

Prevalence of Child to Carer/Parent/family aggression

- Audit 2 Results- incidence:
 - FCAMHS n = 29 (83%) cases of family violence
 - CAMHS n = 10 (29%), $p < 0.001$
- FCAMHS weapon use n = 19 (66%)
 - None in CAMHS (n = 0), $p < 0.001$.

Prevalence of Child to Carer/Parent aggression

- Audit 2 Results- target
 - FCAMHS: Carers (n=16), siblings (n=8) and both (n=7)
 - CAMHS: Carers (n=4), siblings (n=3) and both (n=2)

Prevalence of Child to Carer/Parent aggression

- Audit 2 Results; FCAMHS cases more likely to be:
 - More deprived neighbourhoods
 - More likely to have a disruptive behavior disorders
 - No diff. in family structures

Prevalence of Child to Carer/Parent aggression: Conclusions

- CtP aggression common in CAMHS and very common FCAMHS
- Weapon use more likely in FCAMHS
- Associated with injury
- F vs CAMHS: Differences in deprivation and diagnosis

CU-traits and CtP aggression: two studies

- Two observational studies (Kuay, Boothroyd et al. 2022)
- Study 1:
 - Online survey UK & N. America
 - N=60 parents (31 boys, 29 girls, 11 and 17 years)
 - Collected measures on :
 - Nature and motivation for aggression
 - Parenting factors
 - CU traits

CU-traits and CtP aggression: study 1 results

Table 1. Correlations Among Main Study Measures for Study 1.

	CU traits	Proactive aggression	Reactive aggression	Negative parenting	Positive parenting	Aggression toward father	Aggression toward mother	Family income	Child's age
	Range of 1 to 59	Range of 0 to 1	Range of 0 to 1	Range of 11 to 24	Range of 7 to 30)	Range of 0 to 25	Range of 0 to 25		Range of 11 to 17
	(M = 27.4, SD = 14.4)	(M = 0.18, SD = 0.39)	(M = 0.42, SD = 0.49)	(M = 14.6, SD = 2.53)	(M = 17.5, SD = 4.6)	(M = 5.42, SD = 6.95)	(M = 6.05, SD = 6.79)		(M = 14, SD = 1.8)
CU traits	—								
Proactive aggression	.454***	—							
Reactive aggression	.109	-.4**	—						
Total negative parenting	.495***	.386**	.091	—					
Total positive parenting	-.388**	-.304*	.107	-.31*	—				
Aggression toward father	.461***	.255*	.137	.352**	-.327*	—			
Aggression toward mother	.614***	.42***	.208	.502***	-.362**	.698***	—		
Family income	-.03	-.065	-.026	-.115	.012	.139	-.098	—	
Child's age	.019	.049	-.129	-.073	-.084	.045	-.033	-.207	—
Child's gender (0 = male, 1 = female)	-.078	-.184	-.181	-.167	-.08	-.285*	-.197	-.071	.144

Note. Pearson's correlations except for gender where we used Spearman's.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

CU-traits and CtP aggression: study 1 results- Fathers

Names	Estimate	SE	Exp (B)	Lower	Upper	z	p Value
Model 2							
Intercept	1.57	0.20	4.80	3.21	7.37	7.76	<.001
Proactive	0.44	0.47	1.55	0.60	4.18	0.94	.346
Reactive	0.80	0.31	2.23	1.18	4.26	2.56	.01
Negative parenting	1.06	0.90	2.89	0.53	17.39	1.18	.24
Positive parenting	-0.05	0.03	0.96	0.90	1.02	-1.42	.156
CU traits	0.03	0.01	1.03	1.00	1.06	2.27	.023

CU-traits and CtP aggression: study 1 results- Mothers

Names	Estimate	SE	Exp (B)	Lower	Upper	z	p Value
Model 2							
Intercept	1.78	0.15	5.96	4.42	8.10	11.57	< .001
Proactive	0.78	0.36	2.18	1.08	4.47	2.15	.031
Reactive	0.87	0.25	2.38	1.46	3.91	3.43	< .001
Negative parenting	1.42	0.70	4.13	1.04	17.35	2.04	.042
Positive parenting	-0.04	0.03	0.96	0.92	1.01	-1.48	.139
CU traits	0.02	0.01	1.02	1.00	1.04	2.13	.034

CU-traits and CtP aggression: study 1 results

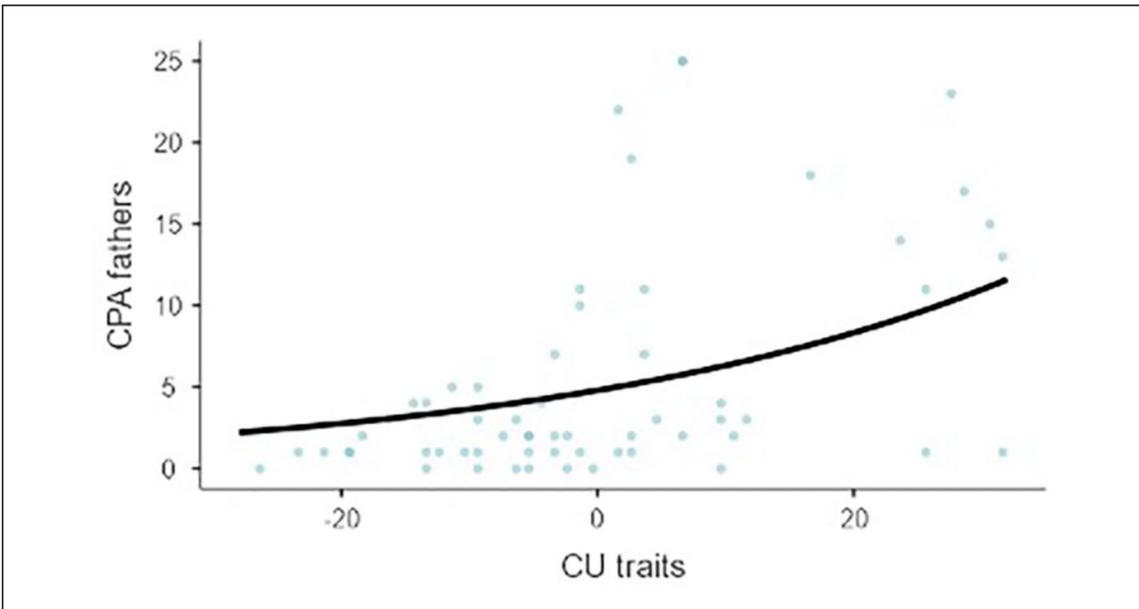


Figure 1. Negative binomial effect of CU traits on the over dispersed data of aggression toward fathers.

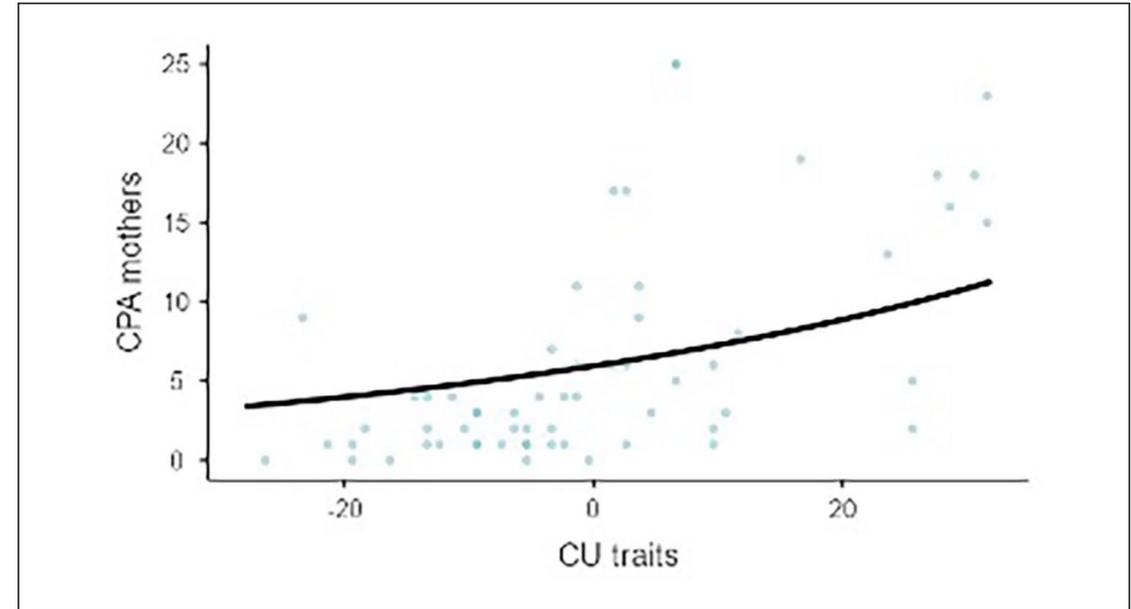


Figure 2. Negative binomial effect of CU traits on the over dispersed data of aggression toward mothers.

CU-traits and CtP aggression: two studies

Study 2:

- Two alternative educational provision centres
- Forty-two adolescents (36 males, 6 females, 11 to 16 years old)
- Mean FSIQ 89
- 33 parents/guardians phone interview
- All young people perpetrated proactive/reactive peer aggression
- 86% aggression to father; 95% perpetrated aggression toward their mother
- Collected measures on :
 - Nature and motivation for aggression
 - Parenting factors
 - CU traits

Predictor	Estimate	SE	t	p Value	Standard estimate	95% Confidence interval	
						Lower	Upper
Model 2							
Intercept	1.29	1.73	0.74	.465			
Reactive aggression	-0.07	0.08	-0.98	.337	-0.24	-0.74	0.26
Proactive aggression	-0.07	0.06	-1.09	.29	-0.29	-0.84	0.26
Negative parenting	0.01	0.03	0.33	.743	0.09	-0.45	0.63
Positive parenting	-0.01	0.04	-0.29	.772	-0.08	-0.64	0.48
CU traits	0.06	0.02	3.21	.004	0.75	0.26	1.24

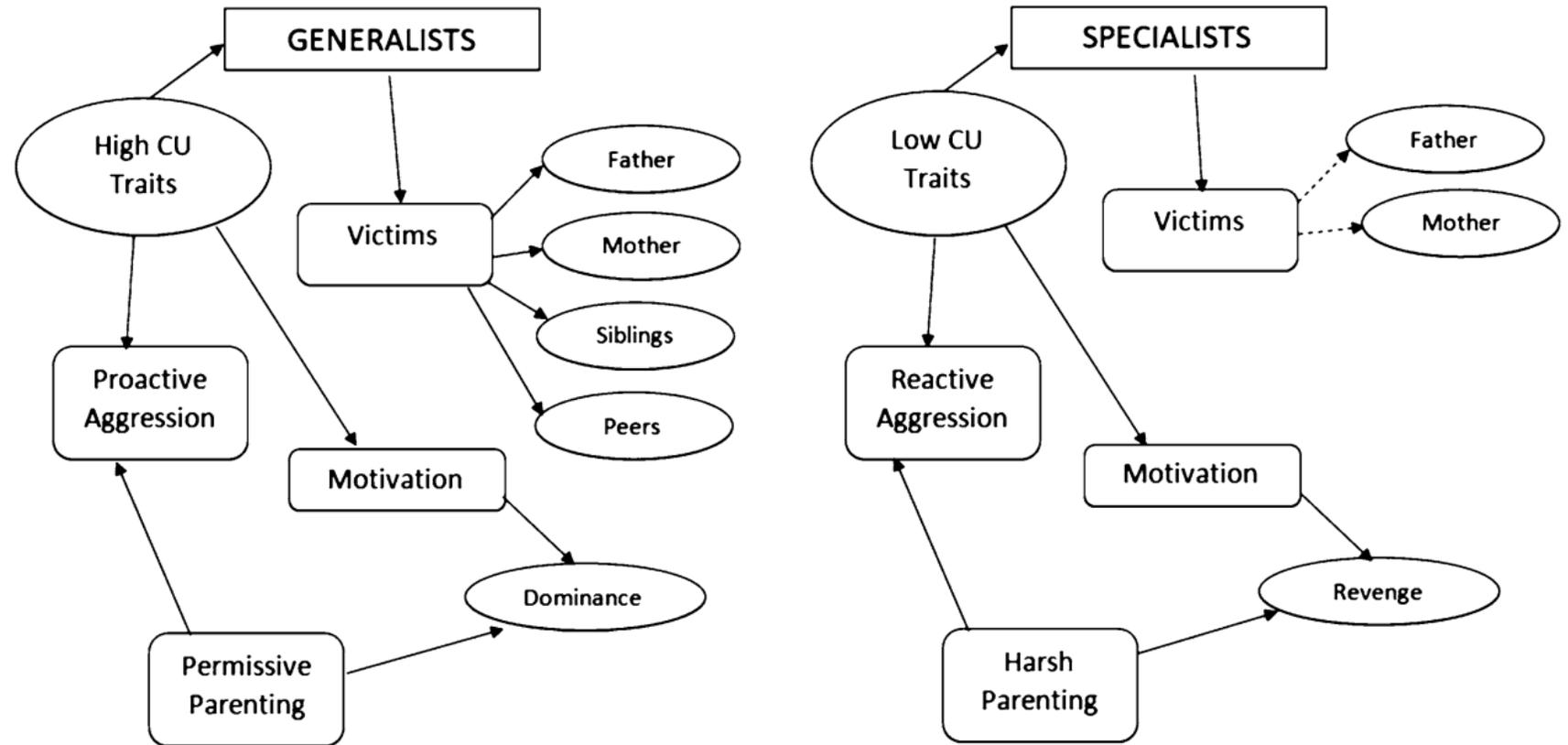
Predictor	Estimate	SE	t	p Value	Standard estimate	95% Confidence interval	
						Lower	Upper
Model 2							
Intercept	-6.0484	6.2649	-0.965	.344			
Reactive aggression	0.2382	0.2686	0.887	.384	0.2317	-0.308	0.771
Proactive aggression	0.0673	0.2185	0.308	.761	0.0883	-0.503	0.679
Negative parenting	0.1289	0.1172	1.1	.282	0.3047	-0.267	0.876
Positive parenting	0.1389	0.13	1.068	.296	0.3064	-0.286	0.899
CU traits	0.0133	0.0653	0.203	.841	0.0514	-0.471	0.574

CU-traits and CtP aggression: conclusions

- Aggression *correlated* with parenting styles.
- This may have had been mediated by (complex) relationship with CU traits
- Young people with higher levels of CU traits multiple people targeted
- “Generalist” aggressors (vs ‘specialists’)
- Need a new model of CtP aggression?
- Could guide approaches to managing family violence

- Informed by the two study findings
- Narrative review of the literature
- Derived two theoretical models
- Different for youth high vs low on CU traits
- These hypothesized the causal relationship between:
 - CU traits
 - Parenting style
 - Nature of aggression
 - Targeting of aggression

Fig. 1 A “Trait-Based Model” of the two types of aggression by children against parents



Note: CU Traits = Callous-Unemotional Traits

CU-traits/LPEs and CtP aggression: Conclusions

- CtP aggression is very common in CAMHS...
- Especially in FCAMHS cases...
- FCAMHS: more likely to involve weapons and injury
- LPEs/CU may be 'generalists' seeking dominance
- Management should focus on:
 - Safeguarding siblings
 - Increasing parental effectiveness

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Thank you!