



INTERPERSONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BETRAYAL MITIGATION: A TRUST GAME



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Introduction

Interpersonal & Institutional Betrayal

“a sense of being harmed by the intentional actions, or omissions, of a person who was assumed to be a trusted and loyal friend, relative, partner, colleague or companion.”
Rachman, 2010



“wrongdoings perpetrated by an institution upon individuals dependent on that institution, including failure to prevent or respond supportively to wrongdoings by individuals (i.e., sexual assault) committed within the context of the institution.”
Freyd, 2008



Research Questions



1. How do individuals emotionally respond to Interpersonal and Institutional Betrayal?
2. How are Interpersonal and Institutional Betrayal linked to feelings of hate?
3. What are the effects of Restorative versus Retributive resolution strategies on mitigating the aftermaths of betrayal?

This PhD project unfolds in two stages:

Stage I: Exploratory Survey & interviews. Narratives about betrayal, hatred and reconciliation will be gathered from the general population through an online survey and further investigated in depth through semi-structured interviews.

Stage II: the fMRI study. The neural correlates of betrayal and its mitigating factors will be investigated in a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) study, that will be an interactive role-play between the participant and a virtual counterpart.

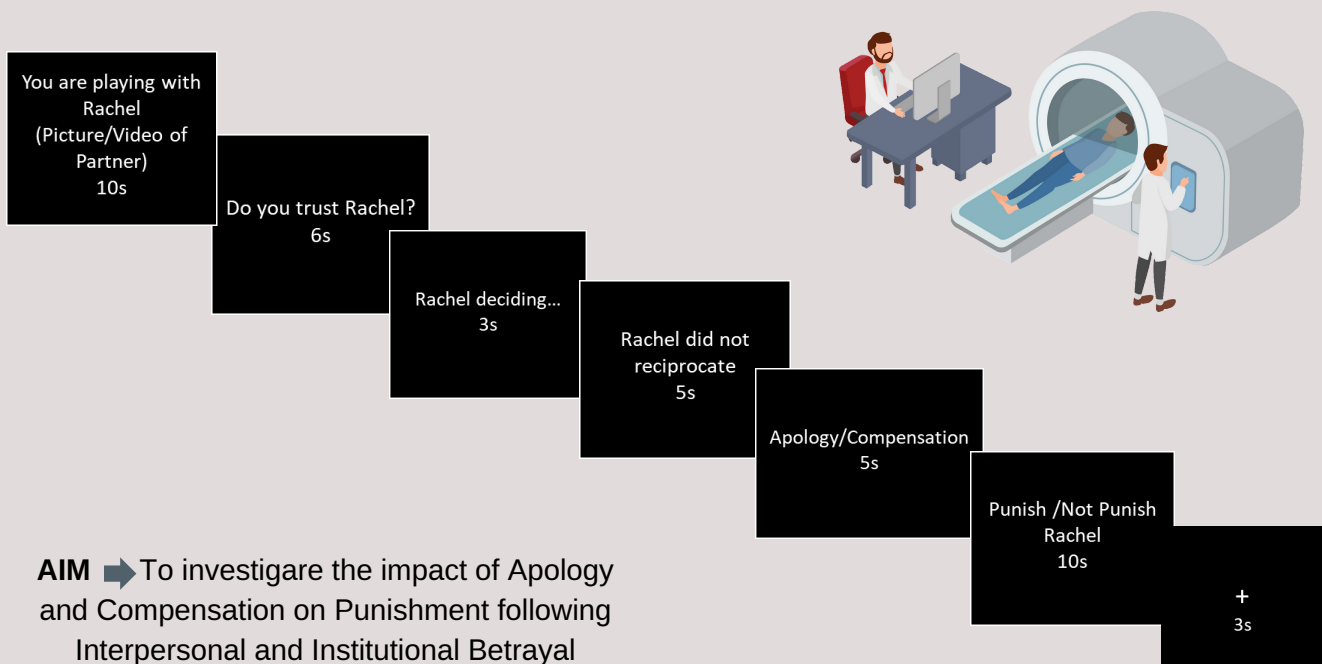
Joint Display - Integration of qualitative and quantitative findings (Stage I)

Summary Quantitative Findings	Summary Qualitative Findings	Integrated Inference
Institutional Betrayal ($M = [6.74]$, $SD = [2.67]$) is significantly higher than Interpersonal Betrayal ($M = [6.51]$, $SD = [2.57]$), $t([1260]) = [2.806]$, $p = [<.005]$. Institutional Hate ($M = [5.67]$, $SD = [2.29]$) is significantly higher than Interpersonal Hate ($M = [4.46]$, $SD = [37]$), $t([1167]) = [12.914]$, $p = [<.001]$.	<i>“I would say it's easier to hate an Institution than a person who you know, because institutions can be seen as kind of faceless [...] and some people may find it easier to talk negatively about an Institution rather than a person, because you don't think you're hurting anyone.”</i> P3, Female, 35-44, Ireland	Hating an Institution is considered more straightforward than hating an individual following betrayal, as a weaker bond and lower level of trust in institutional relationships typically results in reduced cognitive dissonance following betrayal.
The correlation between Interpersonal Betrayal and Hate ($r = .608$), is stronger than the correlation between Institutional Betrayal & Hate ($[r = .365]$, $z=8.3506$, $p < .001$).	<i>“I think that hate is ,very much like love, a very personal thing. And I think that it's very hard to have a personal relationship with an Institution. [...] They're an Institution, they don't really care about me ”</i> P18, Male, 45-54, US	Existence of different kinds of Hate. Institutional hate tends to be more direct, whereas the hate stemming from Interpersonal betrayal is deeply personal and often lingers for longer.
Institutional Punishment ($M = [4.50]$, $SD = [1.43]$) and Retribution ($M = [4.77]$, $SD = [1.51]$) are significantly more effective than Interpersonal Punishment ($M = [4.07]$, $SD = [1.10]$), $t([1351]) = [10.414]$, $p = [<.005]$ and Interpersonal Retribution ($M = [4.27]$, $SD = [1.21]$), $t([1357]) = [11.639]$, $p = [<.001]$. Interpersonal Apology ($M = [4.69]$, $SD = [1.14]$) is more effective than Institutional Apology ($M = [4.47]$, $SD = [1.31]$), $t([1356]) = [6.825]$, $p = [<.001]$.	<i>“Even if someone did something wrong to me and they get punished, I don't feel better. I think I empathise with that person [...] you know, the other person it's still a person, so even if the person did something bad to me, I wouldn't want that to him or her”</i> P10, Female, 18-24, Ireland	Punishment and Retribution are more effective in instances of Institutional Betrayal, when level of hatred are higher, while the efficacy of an Apology is higher in Interpersonal contexts . Punishment elicits less dissonance after Institutional than Interpersonal Betrayal .

The fMRI study

Adapted Trust Game

The Trust Game has been increasingly used in the emerging field of neuroeconomics to study brain mechanisms underlying decision-making in social interactions with financial outcomes.



Conclusion

The analysis revealed that Interpersonal and Institutional Betrayal lead to varying experiences of hate. These experiences have significant implications for the aftermath endured by victims and influence the effectiveness of Restorative and Retributive mitigation strategies.

This leads to the question: *what happens in the brain in response to these experiences?*

