

People who are characterised by a high level of trait anger display an increased tendency for hostile perception of reality. Anger-management problems are related with low self-clarity and problems with relations. This project is intended to study whether the importance of relationships with other people, may reduce the likelihood that people will hostilely interpret what happens to them. First, the project intends a comparison of groups that are potentially different in terms of the importance of relationships in their lives. Second, one of the studies intends to check if activation of thinking about relationships can reduce the likelihood of interpreting a social situation as provoking. Moreover it is planned to check the effectiveness of a psycho-educational training of mentalization that focuses on self-other perspective, because it may decrease hostility in perceiving other's peoples' actions.

It is expected that a higher level of importance of broadly understood ability to be in relationships will be connected with people interpreting social situations as less provoking and hostile.

During the study, on a computer screen, participants will be presented with scenes representative of various social situations that happen to us on a daily basis. Some of them will be openly hostile (a person acting aggressively towards another and all clues indicate intentional behaviour), other situations will be unequivocally unintentional (all aspects indicate not deliberate behaviour of one person towards another) and some will be ambivalent (some cues, facial expression for instance, suggest hostile interpretation and some, such as body posture, for example, non-hostile). Using eye-tracking techniques, it will be determined where, on what details and for how long, subjects are focusing their eyesight. Earlier studies suggest that people, who interpret ambivalent scenes hostilely, paradoxically focus on non-hostile details longer. The project assumes that the level of importance of relationships with others will allow for different and less hostile social information processing.

Searching for ways which lower the likelihood of the occurrence of hostile behaviours by changing hostile style of social information processing seems to be very important in the area of social sciences. Thanks to this, a less aggressive social coexistence is possible.