

Half of all students aged 13–15 experience peer-to-peer violence and are involved in aggressive behavior in and around the school (UNICEF, 2018). The negative, long-term effects associated with the experiencing this violence affect both victims and perpetrators (Mathieson et al., 2011). For example, the severity of child dysfunction, including aggression, is a powerful and direct predictor of violent crime in early adulthood (Kalvin & Bierman, 2017). The negative effects of aggression, both on the individual and society, make it a socially and scientifically important topic. Thanks to many years of research, we know that aggressive behaviors are related to the pattern of social information processing, that is acquired during childhood. However, the research methods used to date have been limited. Moreover, the mechanism for acquiring this pattern has not yet been sufficiently explained; for example, not enough is known about which stage of SIP is crucial for the transmission of the pattern from parents to children. Therefore, this project aims to fill a major gap in the literature. Furthermore, in this project, I am investigating what factors favor the transgenerational transmission of hostile biases and also how to reduce the impact of this transmission. This will allow for the construction of a theoretical model, while also pointing to practical implications.

The current project has four main objectives. The first objective is to verify and expand previous research results indicating that the level of a father's hostile attribution bias (HAB) predicts the level of his son's attributional bias. The second objective is to compare (using the eye-tracking technique) the processing patterns of ambiguous social stimuli by fathers and sons. The third objective is to investigate the mechanism of transgenerational transmission of HAB. And the fourth objective is to examine and compare the effectiveness of methods that could a) correct the non-adaptive perceptions of reality and b) reduce the impact of transgenerational transmission at both encoding and interpretation levels.

Implementation of the current study seems to offer an opportunity to better understand at which level of social information processing the hostile distortion is more evident and explicit, learn more about the transferability of HAB from father to son, explore the mechanism of this phenomenon and contributes to learning how to reduce aggressiveness among young people.