

## Gender and Hostile Behavior: An Experimental Study Using the Hawk-Dove Game

**Authors :** Ruggero Roni, Ennio Bilancini, Erica Ordali, Pablo Marcos Prieto

**Abstract :** In this study, we examine the behavioral patterns underlying social conflicts, focusing on gender and gender pairing effects on hostile behavior. While gender differences in willingness to compete are well-documented, we aim to study whether these differences persist once individuals are already engaged in competition. On top of this, we investigate if the gender of the opponent(s) may interact with one's own gender. Using a one-shot Hawk-Dove game with varying levels of harshness, i.e., cost of conflict, we will conduct an experiment in which we will manipulate two factors in a between-subject design: order of play (simultaneous, sequential first mover, sequential second mover) and gender pairing (anonymous, same gender, opposite gender). This setting will permit us to model competitive relationships over limited resources, thus interpreting the 'hawk' strategy as a proxy for hostile behavior. Data collection is currently under process. Based on our pre-registered hypotheses, we expect males and same-gender couples to behave more hostilely than females and opposite-gender couples, respectively. Moreover, we expect males to show more negative reciprocity while we predict females to exhibit more positive reciprocity toward their opponents. Lastly, we suspect that females' predisposition to conflict, unlike males', might be affected by the strategic context, instrumentalized through the harshness of conflict and the order of play.

**Keywords :** hawk-dove, order of play, gender, gender pairing, social conflict, hostile behavior, online experiment

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