

How Do You Blow Off Steam? : The Impact of Therapeutic Catharsis Seeking, Self-Construal, and Social Capital in Gaming Context

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Abstract : This study will examine how the therapeutic factors (therapeutic catharsis-seeking and game-efficacy of the game player) and self-construal factors (independent and interdependent self-construal of the game player) as well as social capital factors (bonding and bridging social capital of the game player) affect trait aggression in the game. Results show that both therapeutic catharsis-seeking and game self-efficacy are particularly important to the players since they cause the game players' aggressive tendencies to be greatly diminished. Independent self-construal reduces the level of the players' aggression. Interestingly enough, the bonding social capital enhances the level of the players' aggression, while individuals with bridging social capital did not show any significant effects. The results and implications will be discussed herein.

Keywords : aggression catharsis, game self-efficacy, self-construal, social capital, therapeutic catharsis seeking

Conference Title : ICPEHSS 2015 : International Conference on Psychological, Educational, Health and Social Sciences

Conference Location : Athens, Greece

Conference Dates : July 20-21, 2015