

Does early victimization influence legal socialization?

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The idea

- Early experiences with crime and justice system can influence legal socialization
 - Def: development of attitudes about law and legal institutions, including police over the life course
 - Parents, teachers, police, peers
- Studies on victimization and attitudes focus on (young) adults, cross-sectional
 - Victimization associated with better/worse attitudes towards police
 - Evidence all over the place
 - Little accounting for self-selection

Victimization->legal socialization

- Instrumental: victimization signals (in)effectiveness of authorities/police
 - more negative attitudes/less cooperation
- Strain: trigger negative emotionality/distress, feelings that society is unfair
 - more negative attitudes/less cooperation
- Negative emotions promote help-seeking behavior
 - increase cooperation
- Victim-offender overlap: peer influence, adopt attitudes as neutralization/justification
 - more negative attitudes/less cooperation

Planned study

- Early serious victimization
 - “Early” -> early adolescence (age 11/13), start developing attitudes about different authorities, first contacts with police
 - “Serious” -> violent, criminal victimization, serious repeated victimization (bullying)
- Legal socialization during adolescence
 - Legal cynicism (13+), police legitimacy (15+), cooperation (19+)

Analytical approach

- Matching procedures (different flavors)
 - Treatment=victim vs control
- Range of covariates for matching (ages 9-11)
 - <Insert Ingrid knowledge here>
- Possible mediating mechanisms:
 - Strain: feelings society is unfair (alienation? Gentrust?)
 - V-O: delinquency
 - Negative emotionality/help-seeking behavior?
- Pre-registration before next wave (hopefully)

<Magic will happen>



Implications?

- Victim-centered approaches in policing?
 - Probably should do that regardless of our results

- More cats?

