



Universiteit Leiden



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR THE STUDY OF
CRIME, SECURITY AND LAW



DOES UNSTRUCTURED UNSUPERVISED SOCIALIZING WITH PEERS INDUCE SHORT-TERM MINDSETS?

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Image: Jake Pierrelou; <https://unsplash.com/photos/EpzLrVicAKg>



Image: Romain Morel; https://unsplash.com/photos/2Q_Cqs4QfqA



Image: Paul Theodor Oja; <https://www.pexels.com/photo/men-wearing-white-crew>

UNSTRUCTURED UNSUPERVISED SOCIALIZING [1]

- Association with deviance/delinquency [2]
- Phenomenon resides in the situation, cannot be explained by individual deviance [3]
- Effects on short-term mindsets?

Image: Daniel Lloyd Blunk-Fernández;
<https://unsplash.com/photos/gCIQtojNKuQ>



[1] Osgood et al. (1996)

[2] Hoeben et al. (2016)

[3] Osgood & Anderson (2004)



SHORT-TERM MINDSETS

„a focus on the present at the expense of considering future consequences” [4]

- umbrella concept: e.g., delay discounting, low conscientiousness, **impulsivity, risk-seeking, low future orientation, ...**
- malleable over time [5]

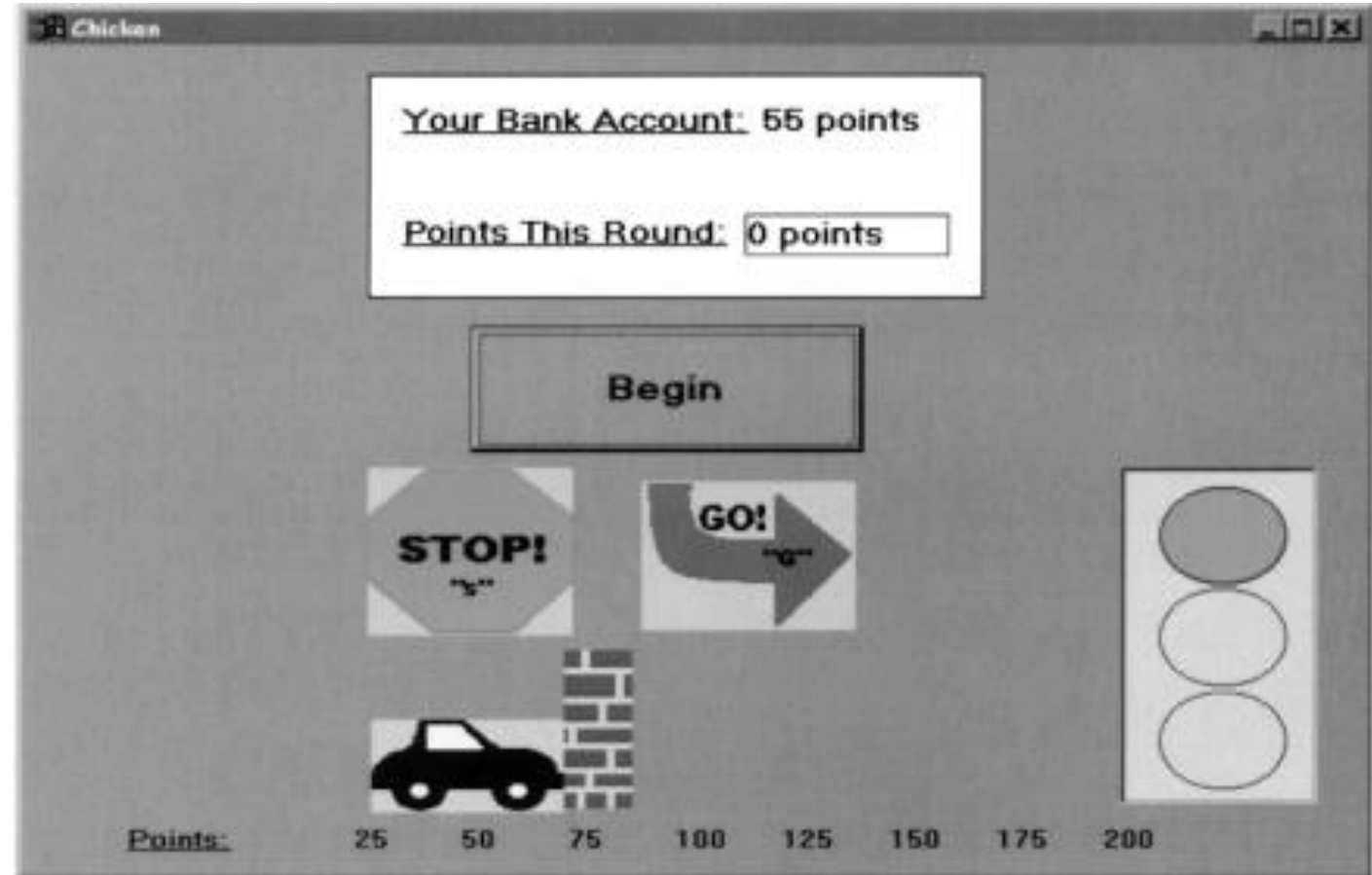
[4] Kübel et al. (in progress)

[5] Burt (2020), for review



UNSTRUCTURED SOCIALIZING & SHORT-TERM MINDSETS

- Presence of peers can increase short-term mindsets [6,7]



[6] Gardner & Steinberg (2005)

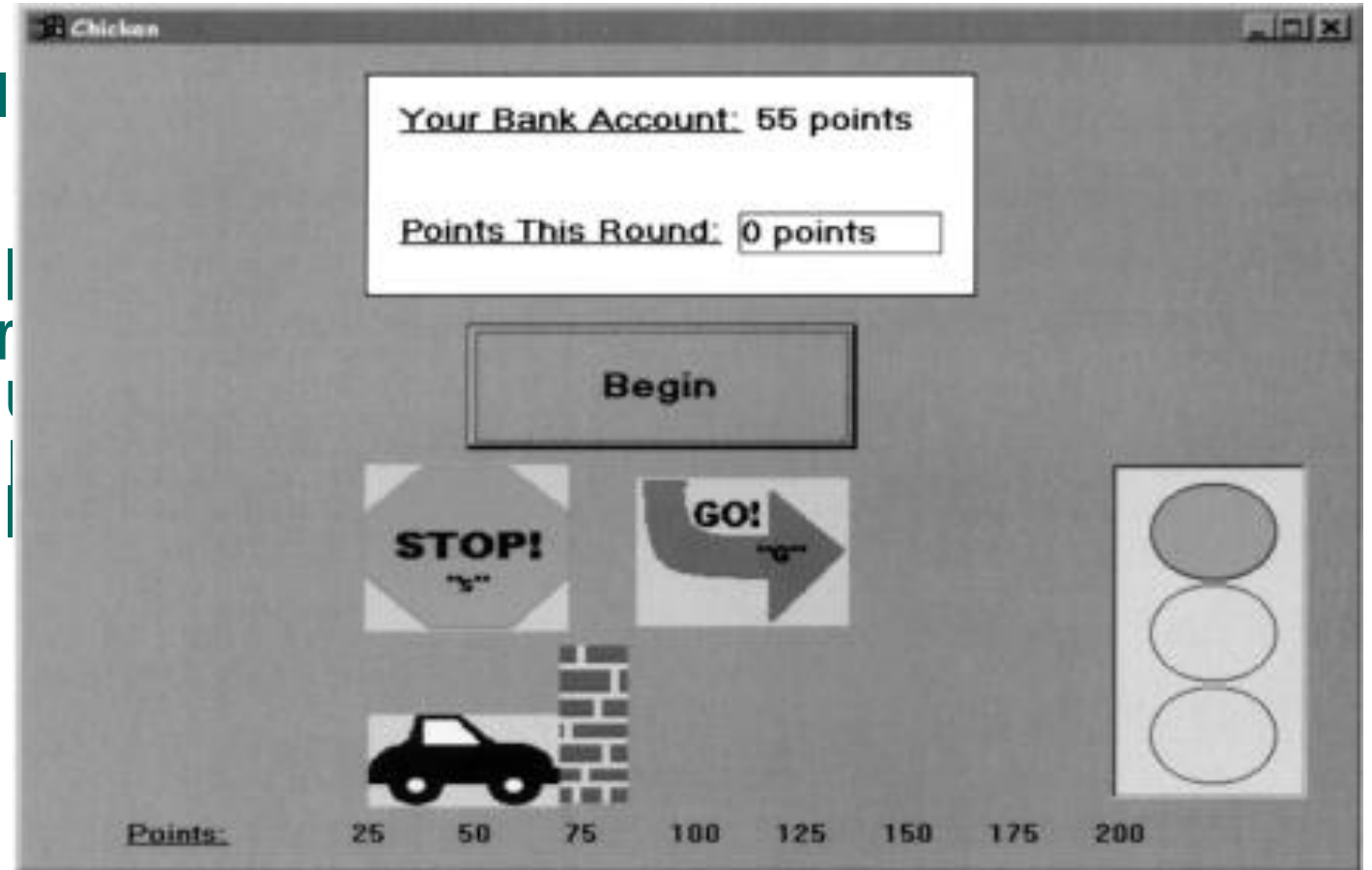
[7] O'Brien et al. (2011)

SHORT-TERM MINDSETS

➤ Presence of peers can increase short-term mindsets [6,7]

➤ OUR STUDY: Potential I

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[6] Gardner & Steinberg (2005)

[7] O'Brien et al. (2011)

[8] Hoeben & Weerman (2016)

[9] Hoeben & Thomas (2019)




OUR STUDY

➤ Previous work [10]



Unstructured Socializing With Peers and Delinquency: The Role of Mediation Through the Lens of Akers' (1998) Social Structure Social Learning Theory of Crime and Deviance

Robert Joseph Lee Archer¹  · Jamie L. Flexon²

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Abstract

In purview of Akers' (1998) social structure and social learning (SSSL) theory of crime and deviance, this study explicates the varied processes by which unstructured socializing with peers influences deviance through variables of social learning theory as well as self-control. To examine the proposed processes, data were obtained from 1,354 adjudicated adolescents between the ages of 14 and 18 from the juvenile and adult court systems in Maricopa County, Arizona and Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Through use of structural equation modeling, partial support was found for the relationship between unstructured socializing with peers and deviance being partially mediated by differential association, definitions, personal rewards of crime, as well as self-control. By better understanding the multifaceted ways adolescents who spend time in settings of unstructured socializing with friends engage in delinquency, society can better understand the leading factors among youth that occur through socialization resulting in delinquency.

[10] Archer & Flexon (2021)



OUR STUDY

➤ Previous work [10]

➤ OUR STUDY:

➤ Longitudinal data

➤ Fixed-effects model



Unstructured Socializing With Peers and Delinquency: The Role of Mediation Through the Lens of Akers' (1998) Social Structure Social Learning Theory of Crime and Deviance

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adolescents

unstructured unsupervised socializing

short-term mindsets

[8] Archer & Flexon (2021)

OUR STUDY



➤ Fixed-effects models



➤ Control variables:

- criminal propensity (IRT on 14 offending items)
- delinquent peer affiliations
- age
- parental monitoring (parental supervision and adolescent disclosure)
- parental involvement

RESULTS

Model	impulsivity		risk-seeking		future orientation	
	<i>b</i> (SE)	OR [95%CI]	<i>b</i> (SE)	OR [95%CI]	<i>b</i> (SE)	OR [95%CI]
bivariate (no controls)	0.141*** (0.010)	1.15 [1.13-1.17]	0.182*** (0.011)	1.20 [1.17-1.23]	-0.073*** (0.014)	0.93 [0.90-0.96]
controls except parenting	0.128*** (0.012)	1.14 [1.11-1.16]	0.168*** (0.012)	1.18 [1.15-1.21]	-0.045** (0.016)	0.96 [0.93-0.99]
all controls (wave 8 excl.)	0.093*** (0.147)	1.10 [1.07-1.13]	0.126*** (0.015)	1.13 [1.10-1.17]	-0.023 (0.016)	0.98 [0.95-1.01]

** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$. *b* = standardized coefficient. SE = robust Huber/White/sandwich standard error. OR = odd's ratio = $\exp(b)$.



MAIN POINTS

- Unstructured socializing may reinforce short-term mindsets over longer-term
- Tested in fixed-effects models with longitudinal data from z-proso
- Results consistent with this idea

DISCUSSION

- Mechanism(s)?
- Limitations and need for further studies / data
- No clear policy implications for now



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