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

WHEN AND WHY DO PEOPLE INTERVENE?

GUARDIANSHIP AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN A BAR SETTING

Shaina Herman
Timothy C. Barnum
Deins Ribeaud
Jean-Louis van Gelder
Manuel Eisner
Daniel Nagin

GUARDIANSHIP

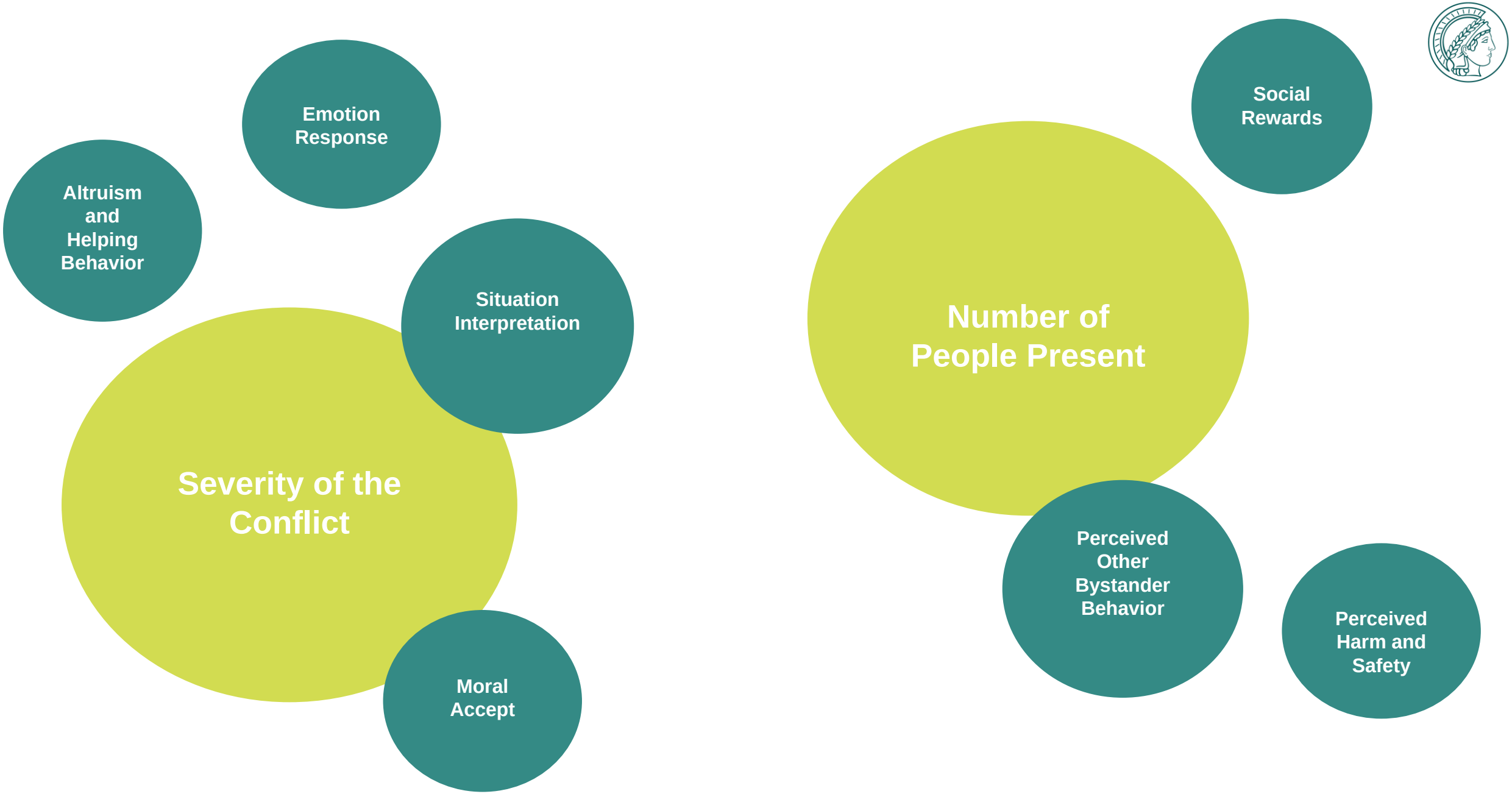
GUARDIANSHIP IN ACTION

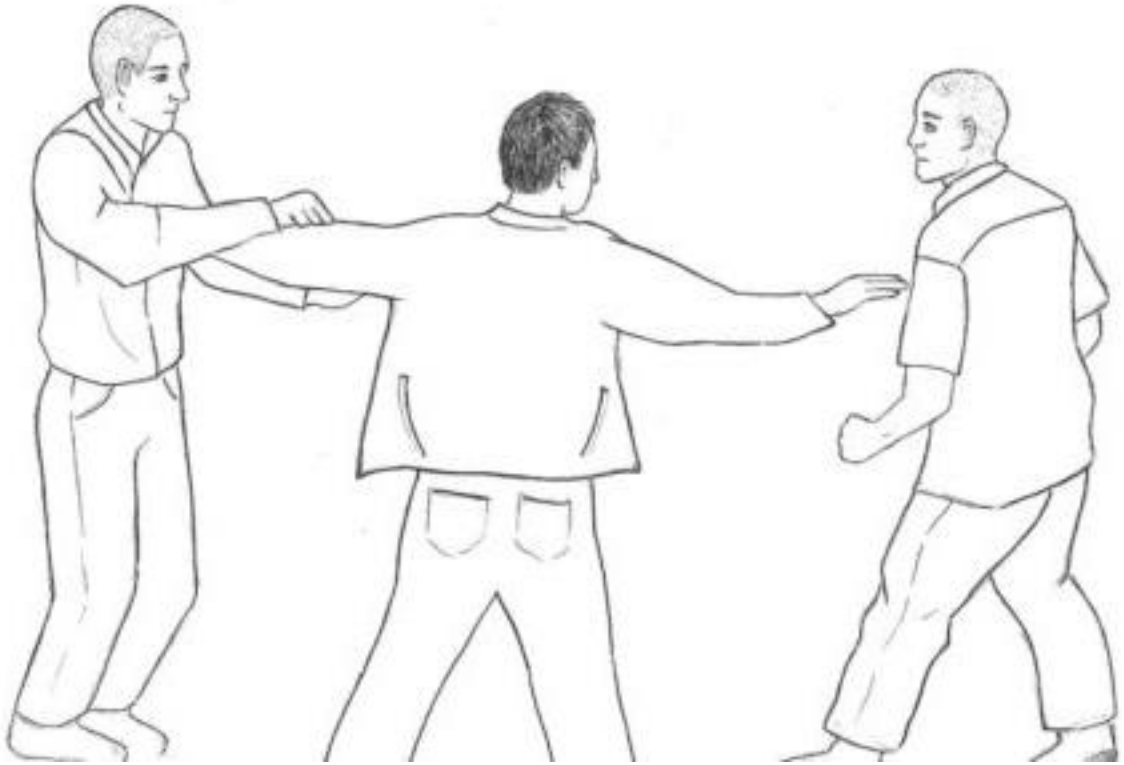
Intentional Guardianship:

1. **Recognize the problematic situations**
2. **Decide on course of action – will and how to intervene**

"One of the major voids that still exists in the literature on guardianship, however, is how guardians make fundamental *judgments* or *decisions* that are critical to situational crime prevention"

~ Reynald, 2010: 360


Emotion Response
Altruism and Helping Behavior
Situation Interpretation
Severity of the Conflict
Moral Accept
Social Rewards
Number of People Present
Perceived Other Bystander Behavior
Perceived Harm and Safety



Why do people decide to intervene?

Why do different people intervene in the same situation?

THE SCENARIO

VARIABLES – WAVE 9 Z-PROSO (N~900)

Early 20's

Males = 48%

Situational Perceptual Variables

- Situational Interpretation
- Willingness to Intervene (4 items)
- Emotional Reaction (Anger)
- Perceived Likeliness *Others* will Intervene
- Perceived Harm (Physical)
- Anticipated Social Rewards (Physical)
- Moral Acceptability (Physical)
- Prior Witness

Individual Level Variables

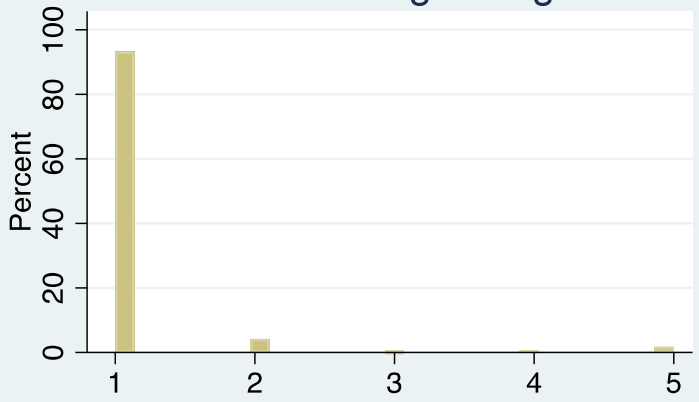
- Height
- Prior Aggression Variety Scale
- Violence Legitimacy Scale
- Altruism/Peacemaking Scale

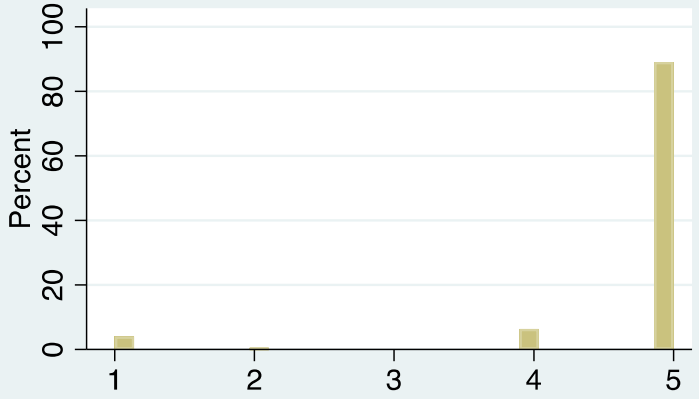
Z-proso

The Zurich Project on the Social Development from Childhood to Adulthood

Situational Interpretations

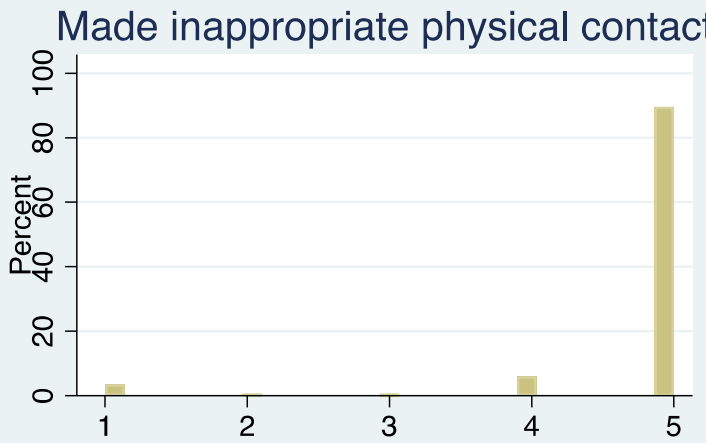
$\bar{X}$ = 1.13

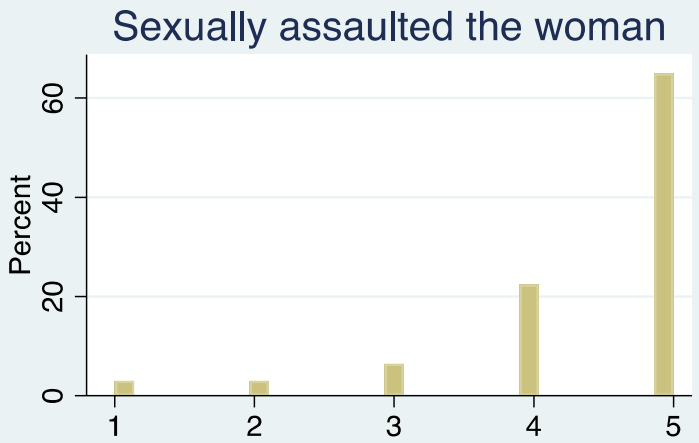




$\bar{X}$ = 4.76

$\bar{X}$ = 4.78



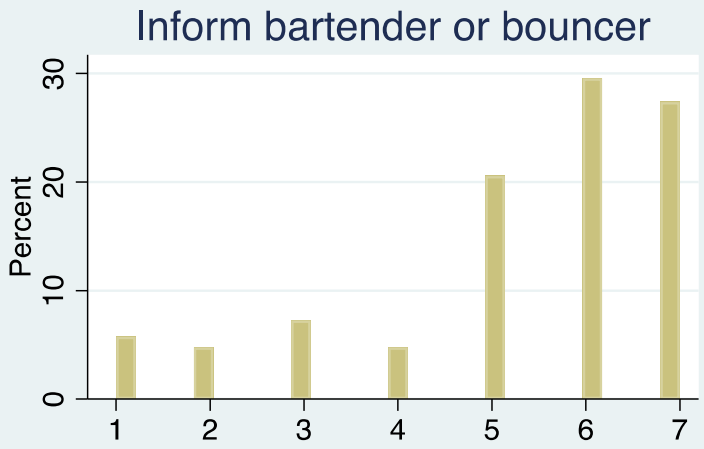


$\bar{X}$ = 4.43

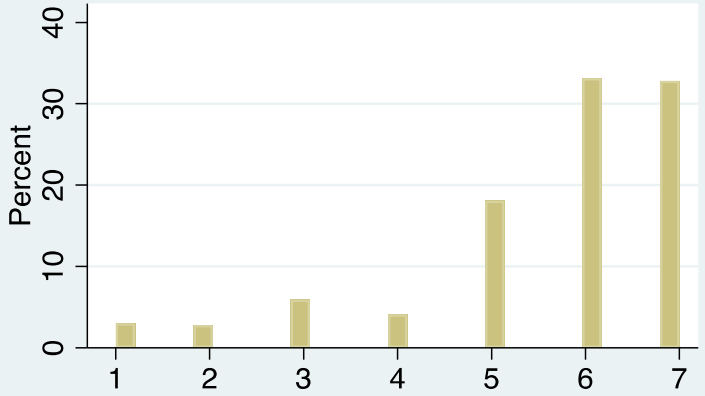
Willingness to Intervene

$\bar{X}$ = 3.91

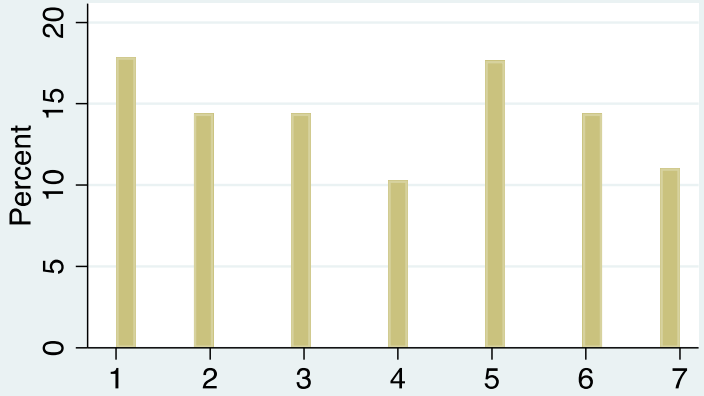
$\bar{X}$ = 5.28

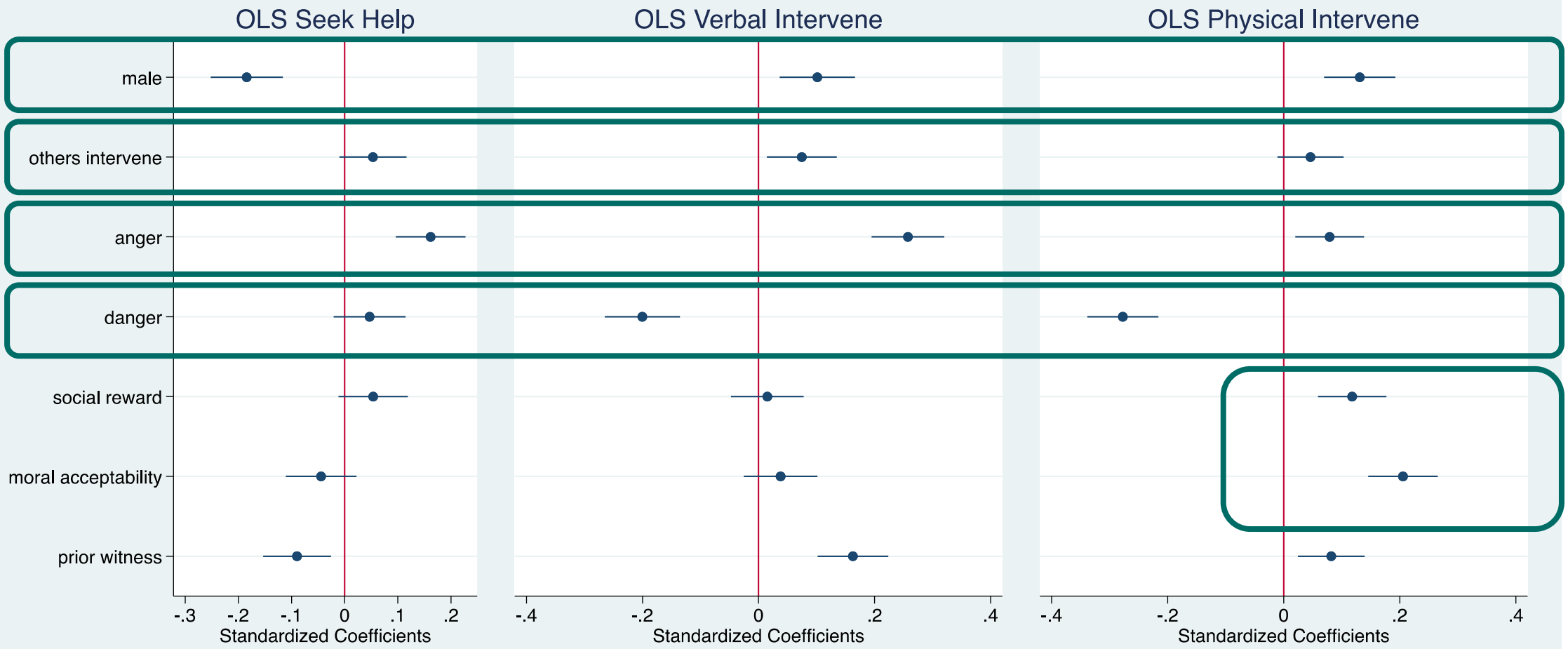


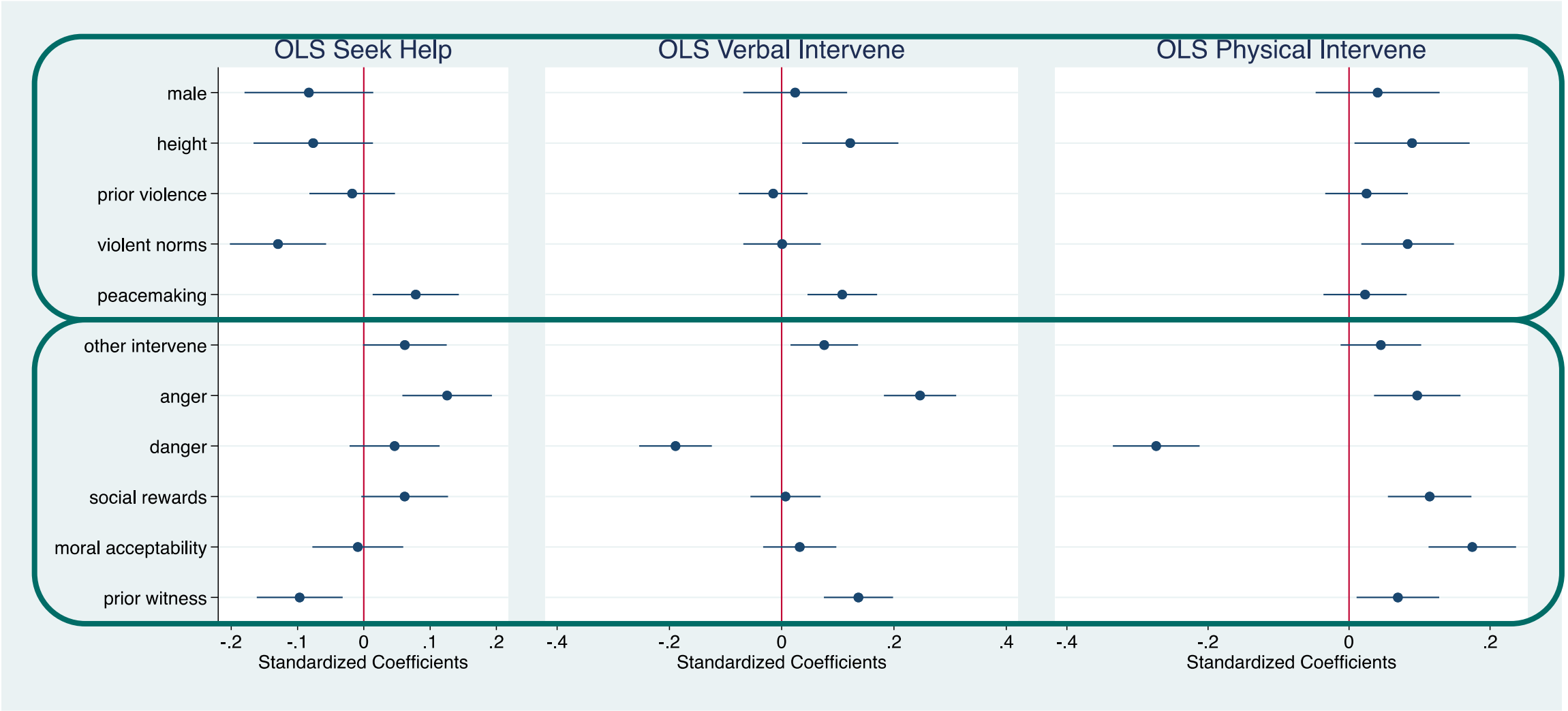
$\bar{X}$ = 5.63



$\bar{X}$ = 3.83




OLS Seek Help
OLS Verbal Intervene
OLS Physical Intervene
male
others intervene
anger
danger
social reward
moral acceptability
prior witness
-.3
-.2
-.1
0
.1
.2
-.4
-.2
0
.2
.4
-.4
-.2
0
.2
.4
Standardized Coefficients
Standardized Coefficients
Standardized Coefficients


OLS Seek Help
OLS Verbal Intervene
OLS Physical Intervene
male
height
prior violence
violent norms
peacemaking
other intervene
anger
danger
social rewards
moral acceptability
prior witness
-.2
-.1
0
.1
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-.4
-.2
0
.2
.4
-.4
-.2
0
.2
Standardized Coefficients
Standardized Coefficients
Standardized Coefficients

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS

People reacted to the video in line with theoretical expectations!

Perceptual Findings

- Interpretation ≠ Willingness to Intervene
- Perceived harm and anger strong predictors of *personal* intervention
- Others Intervene → More intervention (sometimes)

Individual Level

- Altruism / peacemaking
- Violent norms

GENERAL IMPLICATIONS

- Toward a decision-making perspective of guardianship:
  - Leverage and increase guardianship and collective efficacy in high-risk situations
  - Violence prevention and intervention training
    – Virtual and video exposure training

GOING FORWARD

Utilize the longitudinal nature of the data!

Potential constructs of interest in the data

- Social problem solving
- Moral judgements and neutralizations
- Shame and Guilt
- Prior Victimization (bullying, sexual, physical)
- Personality, self-control, sensation seeking
- Sexual orientation

Open to any suggestions!

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Shaina Herman

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law

Department Criminology
Günterstalstr. 73, 79100 Freiburg

E-Mail: s.herman@csl.mpg.de

Internet: https://csl.mpg.de/en/shaina-herman.html

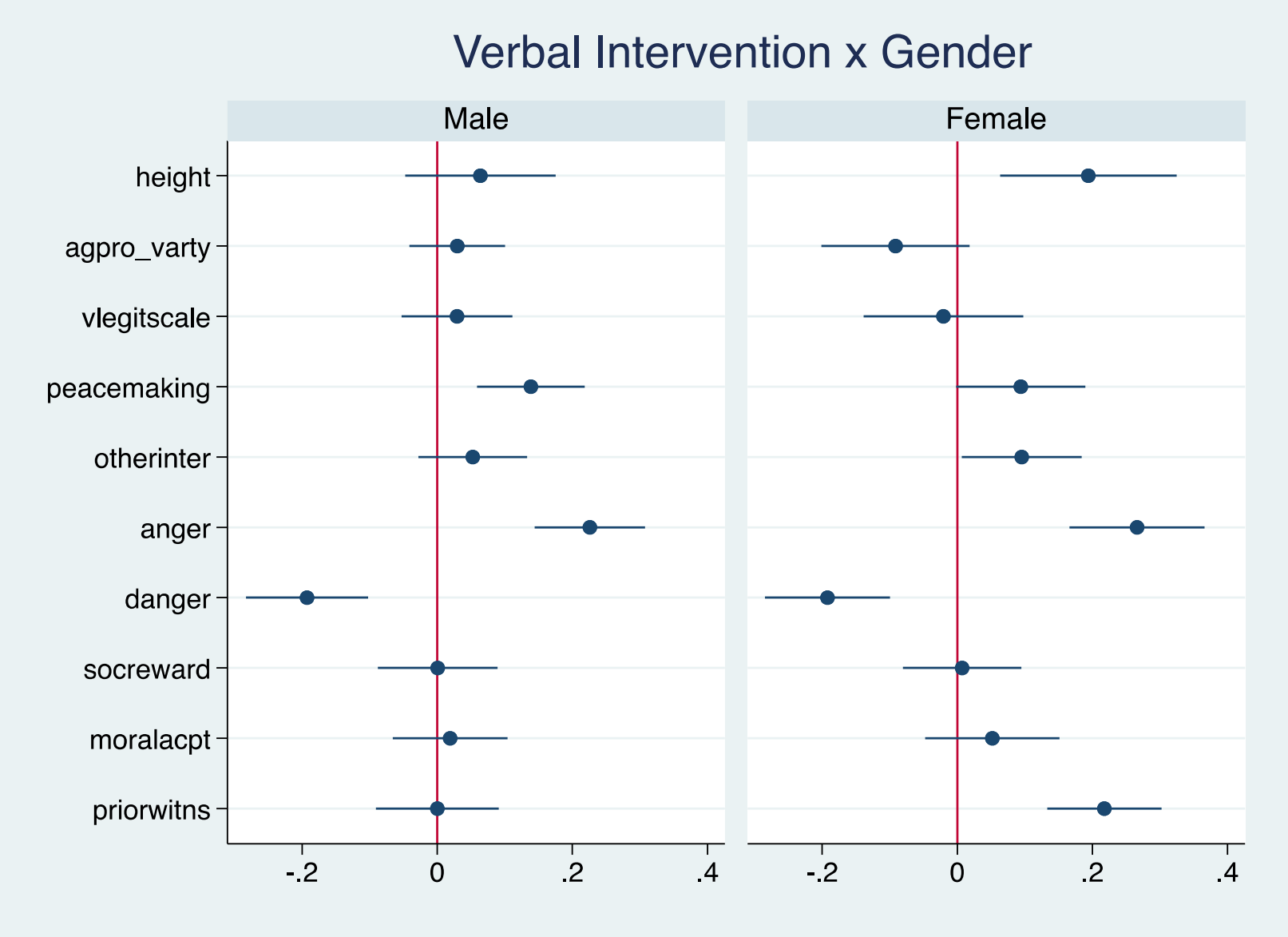
ALTRUISM MEASUREMENT (1 – NEVER; 5 = OFTEN)

Prosociality-Altruism/Peacemaking

1. You volunteered to fix a mess someone else has made.
2. When others had a quarrel or dispute you tried to stop it. .
3. You tried to help someone who was in need of assistance.
4. You tried to comfort someone who was crying or was upset.

Emotions: How Angry or Upset would you feel if you were to actually experience the events in the video?	[Matrix - Likert]	1 = not at all angry 2 = a little angry 3 = somewhat angry 4 = angry 5 = extremely angry
Bystander Intervention: Thinking about the scenario presented in the video, how LIKELY or UNLIKELY is it that SOMEONE ELSE in the bar would intervene on behalf of the woman?	[Likert]	1 = extremely likely 2 = likely 3 = slightly likely 4 = neither likely or unlikely 5 = slightly unlikely 6 = unlikely 7 = extremely unlikely
Physical Intervention Moral Acceptability: Thinking about the scenario presented in the video, how morally ACCEPTABLE or UNACCEPTABLE would it be to use violence against the man in the video on behalf of the woman?	[Likert]	1 = very acceptable 2 = acceptable 3= neither acceptable or unacceptable 4 = unacceptable 5 = very unacceptable
Physical Intervention Safety Risk: How SAFE or UNSAFE would it be for YOU if you were to physically intervene on behalf of the woman under the circumstances presented in the video?	[Likert]	1 = very safe 2 = safe 3 = neither safe nor unsafe 4 = unsafe 5 = very unsafe
Peer Acceptability: Again, imagine you actually intervened on behalf of the woman using violence. To what extent would your family and friends admire or commend your actions?	[Likert]	1 = Not At All 5 = Very Much

Prior Experience: Have you ever witnessed a situation similar to one depicted in the video?	[Dichotomous]	Yes, No
Situational Interpretations: Thinking about the actions of the guy talking to the woman at the bar, how much do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements:	[Matrix - Likert]	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neither agree or disagree 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
He did nothing wrong; He was inappropriately bothering the woman; He made inappropriate physical contact with the woman ; He sexually assaulted the woman		
General Intervention Intention: Now, imagine you actually witnessed the interaction between the man and the woman under the circumstances presented in the video. How LIKELY or UNLIKELY is it that you would do each of the following behaviors?	[Matrix - Likert]	1 = extremely likely 2 = likely 3 = slightly likely 4 = neither likely or unlikely 5 = slightly unlikely 6 = unlikely 7 = extremely unlikely
Wait and see what happens Inform or seek help from a bartender or bouncer Personally Intervene verbally (e.g., tell the man to back off) Personally Intervene Physically (e.g., step in-between the woman and the man, use violence against the man)		


Verbal Intervention x Gender
Male
Female
height
agpro_varty
vlegitscale
peacemaking
otherinter
anger
danger
socreward
moralacpt
priorwitns
-.2
0
.2
.4
-.2
0
.2
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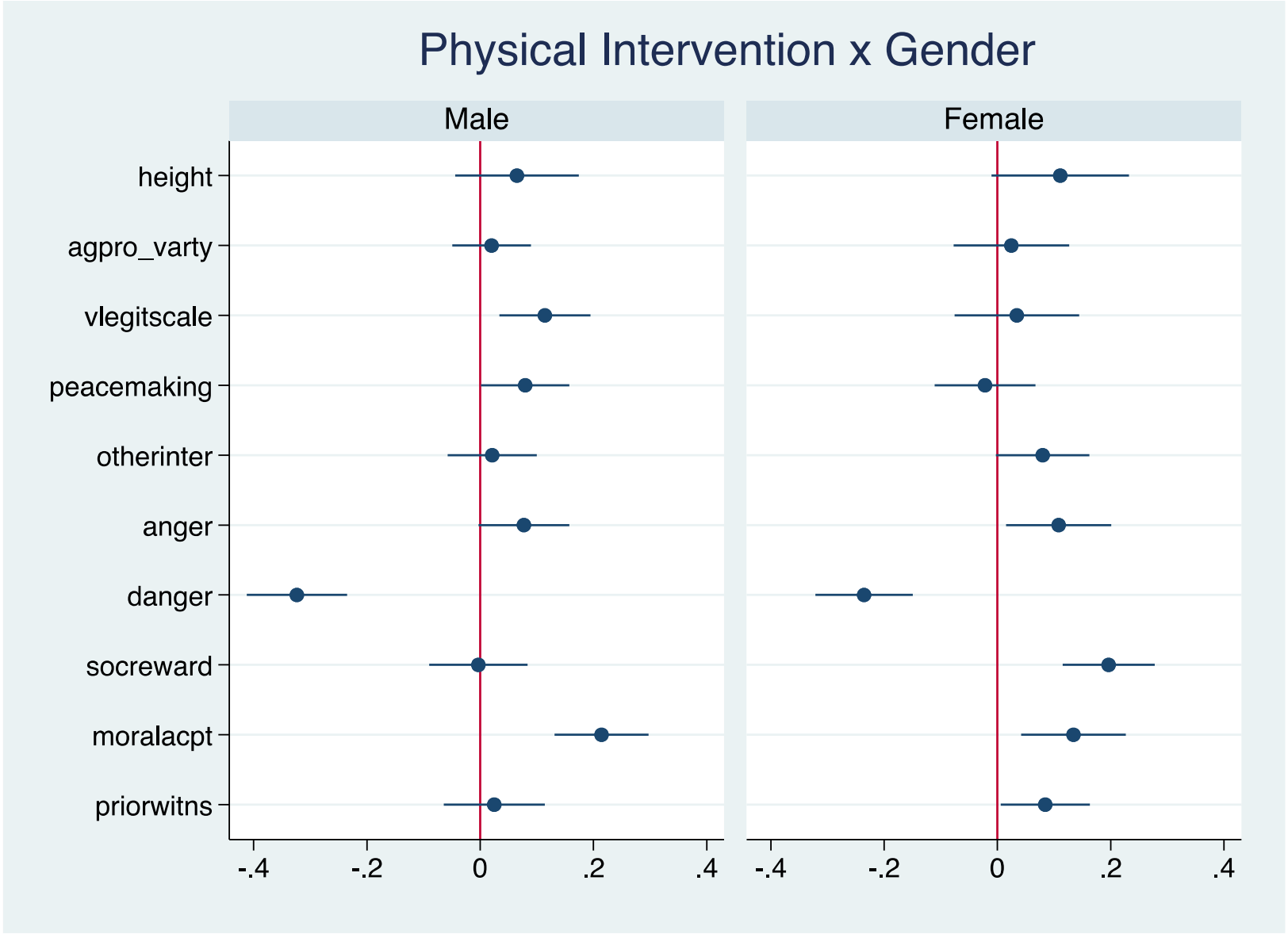
Physical Intervention x Gender
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Female
height
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-.4
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