

2019

# Attribution of Responsibility for Intimate Partner Violence: Role of Directionality and Racial Dyadic Composition

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## Recommended Citation

Yusuff, Oluwafunmibi, "Attribution of Responsibility for Intimate Partner Violence: Role of Directionality and Racial Dyadic Composition" (2019). *Honors Projects Overview*. 152.  
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ATTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE:  
ROLE OF DIRECTIONALITY AND RACIAL DYADIC COMPOSITION

By

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An Honors Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Honors

In

The Department of Psychology

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Rhode Island College

2019

### **Abstract**

Culpability perceptions of intimate partner violence (IPV) are influenced by factors such as level of violence, gender, race, and who initiated the violence. The present study examined the impact of the racial composition of heterosexual relationship dyads on observers' perception of either male-to-female intimate violence or female-to-male intimate violence. Several hypotheses were posed such that men and African Americans were attributed more responsibility for the violence. Respondents were presented with a vignette depicting a violent incident that manipulate whether the perpetrator is male or female, the racial identity of the perpetrator (White vs. African American), and the racial identity of the victim (White vs. African American) and is given a series of attributional questions assessing actors' culpability for the violence. (dependent variables: temporal focus and focal actor) The analysis for this study will be a 2 X 2 X 2 X 2 X 2 factorial design. The results showed that there was only an effect of direction of violence (men were perceived more responsible than women overall for the violence) on IPV but not race (however there were tendencies indicating a potential relationship).

Attribution of Responsibility for Intimate Partner Violence: Role of Violence  
Directionality and Racial Dyadic Composition

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a social problem about which people have many preconceived notions of the dyadic member involved in this violence. There are many factors that influence these judgments: race, gender, the directionality of the violence, the severity of the violence, etc. One conception of IPV is that it is primarily male to female (being that men are the perpetrators and women are the victims; Hamberger, 2005; Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). This perception of IPV by people is often due to misconceptions about victims of IPV.

According to the International Dating Violence Survey (Straus, 2004), college students reported how often they were involved in dating violence at a yearly prevalence rate of 17% to 45%. The WHO survey (WHO Press, 2015) also found that in one year, an average 10 million women and men are victimized. Victimization and perpetration rates differ on various demographic factors such as gender and race. Because of general biases like gender roles and who can inflict severe violence, (Bachman & Coker, 1995; Ferguson & Negy, 2004; Locke & Richman, 1999) it is believed that only women suffer from IPV and only men are the perpetrators in IPV. However, both genders experience IPV as both victim and perpetrator (Hamberger, 2005). Although both genders report IPV, women report higher rates of perpetration of overall violence than men (Straus, 2004; Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). This finding shows how men are perceived as victims of violence, and how blame can be attributed to them for being victimized.

Victims of intimate partner violence face victimization from social prejudices as well. When violence is reported, victims can be perceived as less credible and impact how their violence is treated (Gillum, 2002; Wyatt, 1992). This can be due to whether or not the partner was drinking or if they antagonized their partner to such violence (Harrison & Esqueda, 2000). These perceptions of this violence can result in the victim not being believed, being blamed for the violence, or being encouraged to stay with their partner. They face fear of being shamed or blamed for their own victimization (Donovan & Williams, 2005; Wyatt, 1992;). These victims can be attributed responsibility for solving or preventing (e.g. leaving) this violence or be encouraged to leave their partner to prevent further violence. These fears are shown to be rooted in biases, perceptions, and attributions of these couples based on social judgments and demographic factors (Cook & Harris, 1992; Gillum, 2002; Willis, Hallinan, & Melby, 1996).

#### *Gender and Perceptions and Attributions of Intimate Partner Violence*

**Gender and IPV.** Men are generally perceived to perpetrate IPV at higher rates than women. Because of these perceptions of perceived culpability for the overall violence, people perceive IPV situations differently depending on the perpetrator's gender. Female perpetrators are seen as less responsible in comparison to male perpetrators (Dibble & Straus, 1980; Harris & Cook, 1994). There are many reasons for this, these findings may be due to viewing woman's violence as self-defensive (Harris & Cook, 1994) or some justification in response to the male's behaviors (e.g. the man verbally provoked/threatened her) they were justified to use violence (Rhatigan, Stewart, & Moore, 2011). Individuals also perceive male perpetrators as more violent and more

likely to cause more physical harm than their female counterpart (Bachman & Coker, 1995). Thus, hypothesis 1 predicted that male perpetrators will be attributed greater responsibility for the violence than female perpetrators. Similarly, one would predict the female victims would be viewed more positively and attributed less responsibility than their male counterparts. When focusing on victims of IPV, studies have shown that in contrast to male victims they were liked more (Willis, Hallinan, & Melby, 1996; Ferguson & Negy, 2004). When men are victims of abuse, it is seen as less significant, less serious, and more disliked (Willis, Hallinan, & Melby, 1996). Often when asked about their perceptions of IPV, people believe that men could have stopped the IPV or avoided antagonizing their partner (Bachman & Coker, 1995; Bryant & Spencer, 2003; Harris & Cook, 2000;). In these situations, abused victims are sometimes provided resources and opportunities to leave their spouse (Allen & Devitt, 2012). Thus, the second hypothesis that male victims will be attributed greater responsibility for the violence than female victims.

**Responsibility, Gender, and IPV.** There are many studies that have looked at the differences in gender of the targets when people attribute blame or responsibility for intimate partner violence (Hamberger, 2005; Nabors, Dietz, & Jasinski, 2006). Also when looking at culpability for the IPV, these same distinctions occur as well. Upon an IPV incident, when asked to examine the responsibility of the perpetrator, women who were abused are often found less responsible for their violence than if the victim were male (Ferguson & Negy, 2004; Locke & Richman, 1999; Rhatigan et al., 2011). This is a common place in research done on IPV (Harris & Cook, 1995) and former research

suggests that because of gender norms and perceptions of female and male perpetrators, violence is seen as more serious when committed by a man. This research aligns with our third hypothesis for the current study: men will be attributed more responsible for finding a solution to the violence.

**Perceptions and Source Responsibility.** Typically, researchers have focused on the general concept of responsibility for an IPV event. One focus that the research examined is how perceptions of IPV differ based on whether the participants is looking at the overall, origin, or solution to the violence. Most research looks at perceptions of the overall violence (Archer & Haigh, 1999; Willis, Hallinan, & Melby, 1996). However, Sugarman and Cohn (1986) suggest that responsibility for IPV can be separated into responsibility for the problem's origin and the problem's solution. The former emphasized the past event while the latter focused on the non-reoccurrence of the event. They found men were perceived to have high levels of responsibility for the origin and the solution of the problem. Women were attributed low levels of responsibility for the origin and the solution of the problem. It is important to examine the perception of perceived responsibility attributed to the origin or the solution of the problem because it may highlight biases/differences compared to overall responsibility. This question of source responsibility was looked at in other studies as well (Esqueda & Harrison, 2000).

#### *Race, Perceptions, and Attributions of Intimate Partner Violence*

There have been research has examined racial differences in the prevalence of IPV and how race impacts people's perception of the violence (Gillum, 2002, Harrison &

Esqueda 2000; Willis, Hallinan, & Melby 1996) This prompts the question of whether the perpetrator's race and victim's race affect people's attributions differently.

**Race and Perceptions of Perpetrators.** When looking at African American and White perpetrators, subjects have shown to be influenced by their race on their cast of judgment, responsibility, and accountability. Some studies have found that subjects found Black husband's violence against their partner to be more violent than a White husband (Locke & Richman, 1999). This is significant to examine because it perpetuates the stereotype that Black men are aggressive and violent in nature. This belief in an inherent nature of aggression can be a key influence in people's perceptions of IPV when looking at race as a factor. A fourth and fifth hypothesis is posited: African-American perpetrators will be attributed greater responsibility for the violence than White perpetrators, African-American victims will be attributed more responsibility for the violence than White victims.

#### *Interracial couples and Perceptions of IPV*

To extend the research done on these stereotypes of African American women (Gillum, 2002), Esqueda and Harrison (2000) found evidence of biases against African American women. In their study they used vignettes of police reports of a couple who were reported to be involved in a case of IPV. There were eight vignettes that varied based on the condition of the victim (drinking or not), gender of the victim, and race of the victim and perpetrator. Participants were then asked memory and attributional questions. Based on the vignettes, African American women were seen more negatively than their White counterparts were. They also found that African American women were

more culpable for their abuse than their White counterparts were. The violence was judged as more justified when an African American woman had provoked an African American man than it was when a white had provoked a white man. Furthermore, if the victim was an African American woman, there was less guilt attributed to the perpetrator regardless of the batterer's race. This showed that the participants discriminated against African American women when it came to domestic violence and their abuse was not taken as seriously as it would have if they were White women. This further strengthens the argument that there is a bias when it comes to African American women reporting their abuse and being seen as truthful and reliable. This research helped develop out seventh hypothesis: African American perpetrators will be attributed more responsibility for the overall violence when involved in an interracial relationship than if they were involved in an intra-racial relationship than White perpetrators.

#### Current study

The current study attempted to replicate and extend the research done by Esqueda and Harrison (2005). The current study investigated perceptions of intimate partner violence that took place between interracial and intra-racial couples. Participant's perceptions of culpability and blame for the partners in each relationship were studied. This study also looked at the effect of the victim/perpetrator's race and how gender influenced participants' attributions of culpability. During the study, participants were given a vignette of a police report which described a domestic abuse situation (based off of the questionnaires and vignettes from Esqueda & Harrison, 2000). After reading the

vignette they answered a questionnaire on attributional, memory, and demographic questions.

### **Method**

**Participants.** There were 64 participants recruited from three different sources: Intro to Psychology students, RIC students, and social media. Participants were 8.7% male, 79.7% female, 1.4% transgender, and 2.9% non-binary. In concerns of race; 44.9% white, 13% Black/African-American, 4.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 7.2% Asian, 1.4% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and 7.2% Biracial (in which 75% were white and Latino and 25% were Black and Latino). All participants were asked attention questions (which will be discussed in a later section) and if they incorrectly answered them then they would be sent to the end of the survey and their data would not be used. Considering this the Intro to Psychology students were not able to be used because they incorrectly answered the questions. Also, half of the data from the social media and RIC students were not used because they answered the attention questions incorrectly. Students and professors of students were emailed with information and a brief description of the study. Refer to Table 1 for description of sample.

**Research Design.** The present design involved a 2 (Gender of Perpetrator: Male v. Female) X 2(Race of Perpetrator: White v. African-American) X 2(Race of Victim: White v. African-American) X 2(temporal focus: origin or solution) X 2(focal actor: male or female) mixed factor design. Participants were presented with a vignette and questionnaire to read and answer. The temporal focus and focal actor factors were repeated measures.

**Informed Consent & Attention Questions.** Participants were asked to read and electronically give their consent (See Appendix C for Informed Consent). After this they were asked some attention questions, (Are you watching TV right now? Are you driving right now? Are you doing homework right now? Are you taking a survey right now?) If they said yes to anything other than the ‘are you taking a survey right now?’ they were instantly directed to the end of the survey.

**Procedure.** Participants were given a link to the online survey (which contained the informed consent, vignettes, and questionnaire). They initially had to give consent then were directed to the next page which contained attention questions. Afterwards they were directed to one of 8 vignettes (which was randomized through Qualtrics’ system). After reading the vignettes they were directed to the questionnaire. They completed the survey after this questionnaire.

**Independent Variables.** The independent variables were the direction of the violence (male perpetrator or female perpetrator), Victim’s race (White or African American), and Perpetrator’s race (African American or White). This methodology was adapted from Harrison and Esqueda (2000). Their questionnaire was used exactly except for the questions pertaining to drinking. To manipulate the racial composition of the dyad, four photographs were selected from the Chicago Face Database (Ma, Correll & Wittenbrink, 2015): (1) African American male, (2) white male; (3) African American female; (4) white female. The pictures were selected based on equivalency in perceived attractiveness (approximate score of 4 on a 5-point scale). Two pictures (1 male picture and 1 female picture) depicted the dyadic members referenced in the vignette. Following

the pictures, participants were presented with an IPV incident scenario, which was followed by a police officer's interview with the dyad members.

See photos in Appendix B.

**Dependent Measures.** Participants were asked a series of attributional questions with regard to the violent incident. All items were on a 7-point Likert-type scale with 1 being anchored as "Strongly Disagree" and 7 being anchored as "Strongly Agree". These items focused on the perceived seriousness of the situation and culpability of the victim and perpetrator. There were questions that asked the participants to remember their race, their age, and their name. Other items focused on perceived truthfulness of the victim and the perpetrator, whether or not the violence was warranted, perceived level of provocation between the victim and the perpetrator, and the propensity and likelihood for future violence. Then some attributional questions were asked; for example, how likely the man/woman is to be violent in the future. After answering all of the questions participants were requested to give basic demographic information (e.g., gender, race.... Etc.) The specific questionnaires are found in Appendix A.

**Police Report Vignettes.** For each vignette (Harrison & Esqueda 2000), a police report was represented with a couple involved in an intimate partner violence incident (participants each only saw one of the eight). The couple hosted a dinner party with friends and a fight occurred afterwards between them. Each partner gave their version of events. The circumstances of the event stayed the same while the manipulation occurred with the race of the couple and the gender of the victim and the direction of the violence (male or female). These variables were manipulated within each vignette.

(See Appendix D for each of the 8 vignettes).

### **Results**

A 5-factor mixed analysis of variance was applied to the data. The first three factors (Direction of Violence: male-to-female violence vs. female-to-male violence, Perpetrator's Race: Black vs. White, and Victim's Race: Black vs. White), were between-subject variables, and the last two factors were within-subjects (Focal Actor: Male vs. Female and Temporal Focus: Origin vs. Solution for the abuse). This analysis is presented in Table 2.

This analysis indicated that there were no statistically reliable relationships between the race of either the perpetrator or the victim of IPV and the level of responsibility that would be attributed to that actor.

When focusing on the hypotheses in relation to the effect of the direction of violence on level of responsibility for IPV, there were some significantly important effects. For the first hypothesis that male perpetrators would be attributed greater responsibility for the violence than female perpetrators, there was an effect on attributions based on direction of violence; male perpetrators were attributed more responsibility ( $\bar{x} = 4.032$ ) than female perpetrators ( $\bar{x} = 3.474$ ). For this result, this is overall responsibility (origin of the problem and the solution of the problem averaged). The focal actor effect (whether it's looking at male or female for responsibility) is also averaged for this statistic. When focusing on perpetrators, the results indicated an interaction for the level of responsibility attributed to the male perpetrator over the female perpetrator as seen in Figure 2.

As indicated by the analysis in Table 3, male perpetrators ( $\bar{x}=3.207$ ) were perceived to be more responsible for the violence in all aspects than women ( $\bar{x}=2.784$ ) were. The results have shown a relationship between the overall attribution of responsibility and the attribution of responsibility based on each perpetrator  $F(1,55)=7.009, p=.011, \eta^2=.113$ . When separating the violence direction based on perpetrator versus victim, there was a difference in attributed responsibility. Our second hypothesis focuses on the responsibility attributions given to the victims (male or female)  $F(1,55)=90.171, p<.001, \eta^2=.621$  and it was consistent with assigning men more responsibility ( $\bar{x}=2.381$ ) than women ( $\bar{x}=2.095$ ). There was only an interaction for the perpetrators but the difference between the victims was not significant.

There were some statistically reliable relationships that were not a part of the hypotheses for this study were discovered. This was for attributed responsibility based on temporal focus (origin vs. solution to the problem) and violence direction. In general, a perpetrator (male:  $\bar{x}=4.518$ , female:  $\bar{x}=4.031$ ) is attributed more responsibility for the cause of the violence than if they were a victim (male:  $\bar{x}=1.925$ , female:  $\bar{x}=1.529$ ) regardless of violence direction. However, being attributed more responsibility depends on whether the origin or solution of the problem (temporal focus), the direction of the violence, and the focal actor is being considered  $F(1,55) = 71.487, p <.001, \eta^2=.565$ . Women showed no difference in responsibility for the solution of the problem regardless of being a perpetrator ( $\bar{x}= 2.917$ ) or victim ( $\bar{x}= 2.661$ ). But when we look at men, there is a difference in responsibility for the solution, regardless of being the perpetrator ( $\bar{x}=3.546$ ) or the victim ( $\bar{x}= 2.837$ ). Women are also held more responsible for the

problem's origin if they are the perpetrator ( $\bar{x} = 4.031$ ) compared to if they are the victim ( $\bar{x} = 1.529$ ). These data can be seen in Table 4 and Figure 1.

Along with the findings amongst the temporal focus, the analysis showed a significant effect of the level of attribution based on violence direction. The third hypothesis is that men would be attributed more responsible for finding a solution to the violence and this was shown in the results (Figure 1). As noted in Table 4, men ( $\bar{x} = 3.546$ ) are attributed more responsibility for finding a solution than women are ( $\bar{x} = 2.661$ ) when the violence was male-to-female. Also indicated in the analysis in Table 2, this significance is shown again  $F(1,55) = 90.171, p < .001, \eta^2 = .621$ . In the female-to-male condition, there is barely a difference between women ( $\bar{x} = 2.917$ ) and men ( $\bar{x} = 2.837$ ) in responsibility for the solution despite the woman being the perpetrator. This also supports the means shown earlier and the hypothesis regarding men being attributed more responsibility for the overall violence.

## Discussion

Perceptions and attributions of IPV can be influenced by a variety of factors. However, by focused on race and violence direction, this study explored and extended research that focused on the implicit biases people have based on these subject variables. In this study we focused on whether or not race and violence direction would have an influence on people's perceptions of IPV. Our hypotheses about race may not have been supported as seen in the results, but many studies have been conducted that show that there is an influence of race on perceptions and attributions of IPV (Esqueda & Harrison, 2000; Locke & Richman, 1999).

The hypotheses on gender, however, were supported. For the first hypothesis, when a man was the perpetrator, he was attributed more responsibility for the overall violence (origin and solution averaged) than the female perpetrator. This indicates that regardless if he is the perpetrator or victim, the man is going to be attributed more responsibility for any violence happening in general. The second hypothesis was that male victims will be attributed greater responsibility for the violence than female victims. This finding showed a difference between male victims and female victim's level of responsibility (men were rated higher). The third hypothesis is that men would be attributed more responsible for finding a solution to the violence and this was supported by the research.

One interesting finding in the results was the interaction effect found in women's attribution of responsibility for finding a solution to the violence. Men were rated higher in attribution of responsibility for finding a solution to the violence than female perpetrators. However, there was an interesting difference in female's culpability. Regardless of whether they were a perpetrator or a victim, there was little difference in their responsibility for finding a solution to the violence. This was an interesting finding because when looking at the solution for both directions of violence, the perpetrator was found more responsible for the origin of the violence. Also, men were found more responsible for finding a solution to the violence as a perpetrator compared to if they were a victim. This interaction highlights the importance of gender role stereotypes and the degree that male victims' violence is taken into consideration. If a female perpetrator isn't seen as more responsible for finding a solution to the violence when she caused it

than if she were a victim, this provides an insight in that the violence may not be perceived as serious as it would if the victim were a woman.

The original study that this one is based on, focused on the effects of race and drinking on domestic violence perceptions. The current study aimed to study the same differences without including alcohol and also while studying the effect of violence direction (male-to-female or female-to-male). There were differences between both studies' hypotheses and variable focus but they both implemented similar questionnaires and vignettes to study these perceptions. Equesda and Harrison (2000) examined the effects of drinking on perceptions of couples in intra-racial and inter-racial relationships. They found an interaction between race and drinking in that there was a negative effect of drinking and race on perceptions of domestic violence. They also found that there was a significant effect of the race of the victim and the race of the batterer. Black batterers were found to be more violent than Whites. They also found an effect for interracial couples, given that batterers were blamed more in interracial relationships than in intra-racial relationships. These results were significant because it showed a variety of biases solely based on race that influenced attributions of responsibility. The results found helped develop the current study while also extending it by not only exploring the racial effect on perceptions and attributions but how the direction of the violence (male-to-female or female-to-male) would affect these perceptions as well.

The current study did not come to the same conclusions as Esqueda and Harrison (2000) on the race hypotheses or the interracial aspect as well. However, the effects found for gender show a common stereotype effect for both studies. Women are generally

perceived to be the victims predominantly of IPV, which may contribute to the effects on such perceptions and attributions of responsibility and seriousness of IPV situations. The same goes for race; African Americans are judged based on stereotypes (Gillum, 2002), which also negatively influence IPV perceptions and attributions when they are involved.

Some differences between the studies which may have led to different results may be due to the sample demographics within Esqueda and Harrison's (2000) study.

Although both samples were both predominantly White, college aged respondents, they had over triple this study's sample size which would have definitely impacted the results. Another difference between the two studies is one factor includes the effect of alcohol and the other does not. Perceptions of alcoholics or drinking and domestic violence is a separate issue that would cause a different type of influence on perceptions and attributions than the current study's IV's would. These perceptions of alcohol may have also been based in stereotypes, which may explain the differences in the results based on the couple's racial makeup and its effect on IPV attributions.

Some limitations of the current study would be the sample size and the demographic of the sample. For this study, the sample size is small which may have affected the construct validity of the results. The demographic of Rhode Island College is predominantly Whites (White: 61%, Hispanic/Latino: 17.3%, Black or African American: 9%) and women (women: 68.2% men: 31.8%) and it was desired to try and gain more African American participants so because of this the study was not as representative as it aimed to be. The study hoped to get more representation through social media. Another major implication was the inclusion of the attention questions;

albeit important for accurate responses, half of the participants within each sample's data was unable to be used because they were not paying attention and answered the attention questions wrong. This automatically excluded these respondents from being able to take the survey. In the future it may help to include a statement encouraging participants to make sure they are focused only on the study while taking it or it may affect their results. Another limitation that may have affected the results was the manipulation check with the memory questions. By asking respondents about the race, age, and names of the couple in the vignette, the study attempted a manipulation check to see if perceptions and attributions were given based on an accurate depiction of the couple and the report (this is one of the reasons a picture of the couple was added to assist in this manipulation check).

This study focused on the effects of race and gender on IPV. This is important regardless of the research out there already on the topic because it further expands the data collected on how these variables can affect a person's perceptions of attributions of IPV. Also, an important aspect of this study that expands the study of IPV and perceptions is the focus on the violence direction. Predominantly, IPV research focuses on male-to-female violence; this study sought to expand this venue to see if there were differences not only based on race but on which gender was perpetrating the crime as well. In the future one goal that conducting this research will contribute to is the expansion into the area of female-to-male violence and the advocacy of male victims.

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**Table 1. Descriptive statistics**

Demographic Variable	N	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>	64	Male: 8.7% Female:79.7% Transgender: 1.4%
Race	63	White: 44.9% Black/African American: 13% American Indian/Alaskan Native: 4.3% Asian: 7.2% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 1.4% Biracial/Multi racial: 13% Other: 13%
Are you Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican or Cuban?	64	Yes: 29% No: 63.8%

**Table 2.** Direction of Violence (DV) x Perpetrator’s Race (White v. Black) x Victim’s Race (White v. Black) x Focus Actor (Male v. Female) x Temporal Focus (Problem Origin v. Solution) Mixed Analysis of Variance with the Last Two Factors Within-Subject

Source of Variance	<i>df</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	Partial $\eta^2$
<b>Between-Group Effects</b>				
Direction of Violence (DV)	1	0.760	.387	.014
Race of Perpetrator (RP)	1	0.067	.797	.001
Race of Victim (RV)	1	0.048	.827	.001
DV x RP	1	1.097	.299	.020
DV x RV	1	2.273	.137	.040
RP x RV	1	2.889	.095	.050
DV x RP x RV	1	0.823	.367	.015
Between Group Error	55			
<b>Within-Subjects Effects</b>				
<b>Focal Actor (FA)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7.009</b>	<b>.011</b>	<b>.113</b>
<b>FA x DV</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90.171</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>.621</b>
<b>FA x RP</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.856</b>	<b>.055</b>	<b>.066</b>
FA x RV	1	0.030	.863	.001
FA x DV x RP	1	0.116	.735	.002
FA x DV x RV	1	0.014	.907	.000
FA x RP x RV	1	0.504	.481	.009
FA x DV x RP x RV	1	0.980	.327	.018
Error	55			
<b>Temporal Focus (TF)</b>				
Temporal Focus (TF)	1	0.008	.929	.000
TF x DV	1	0.625	.433	.011
TF x RP	1	0.523	.473	.009
TF x RV	1	0.601	.442	.011
TF x DV x RP	1	0.915	.343	.016
TF x DV x RV	1	1.372	.247	.024
TF x RP x RV	1	0.945	.335	.017
TF x DV x RP x RV	1	0.546	.463	.010
Error	55			
<b>Focal Actor (FA) x Temporal Focus (TF)</b>				
Focal Actor (FA) x Temporal Focus (TF)	1	0.025	.874	.000
<b>FA x TF x DV</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>71.487</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>.565</b>
FA x TF x RP	1	0.002	.964	.000
FA x TF x RV	1	2.008	.162	.035
FA x TF x DV x RP	1	1.175	.283	.021
FA x TF x DV x RV	1	1.175	.283	.021
FA x TF x RP x RV	1	0.181	.672	.003
<b>FA x TF x DV x RP x RV</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.347</b>	<b>.025</b>	<b>.089</b>
Error	55			

**Table 3.** Means (and Standard Errors) of the Focal Actor by Violence Direction Interaction on the Responsibility Measure

Violence Direction	Focal Actor	
	Woman	Man
Male-to-Female	2.095 (.173)	4.032 (.142)
Female-to-Male	3.474 (.172)	2.381 (.141)
Overall	2.784 (.122)	3.207 (.100)

Higher scores represent greater responsibility

**Table 4.** Means (and Standard Errors) of the Focal Actor by Temporal Focus by Violence Direction Interaction on the Responsibility Measure

		Focal Actor			
		Woman		Man	
	Temporal Focus	Origin	Solution	Origin	Solution
Violence Direction					
Male-to-Female		1.529 (.187)	2.661 (.239)	4.518 (.148)	3.546 (.208)
Female-to-Male		4.031 (.185)	2.917 (.237)	1.925 (.147)	2.837 (.206)

Higher scores represent greater responsibility

**Table 5.** Means and Standard Errors for the Gender of Perpetrator Main Effect for the Four Responsibility Attribution Measures

Dependent Measure	Male Perpetrator		Female Perpetrator	
	Mean	SE	Mean	SE
Level of the woman's responsibility for the violence's origin	1.53	.187	4.03	.185
Level of the woman's responsibility for the violence's solution	2.66	.239	2.92	.237
Level of the man's responsibility for the violence's origin	4.52	.148	1.92	.147
Level of the man's responsibility for the violence's solution	3.55	.208	2.84	.206

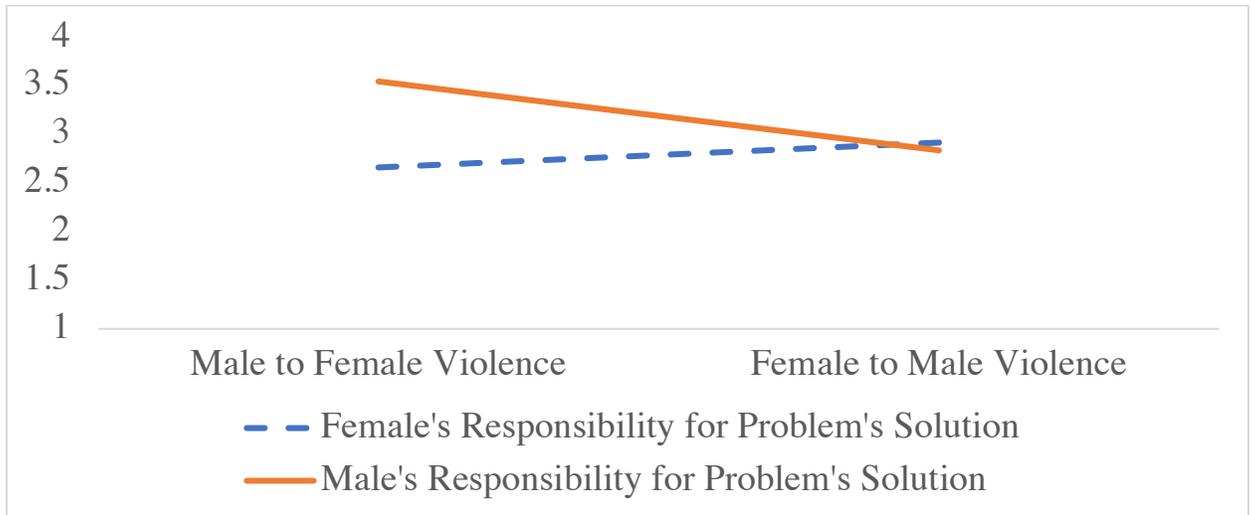
**Table 6.** Means (and Standard Errors) of the Focal Actor by Race of Perpetrator Interaction on the Responsibility Measure

Perpetrator's Race	Focal Actor	
	Woman	Man
White	2.648 (.170)	3.383 (.139)
Black	2.921 (.175)	3.030 (.143)

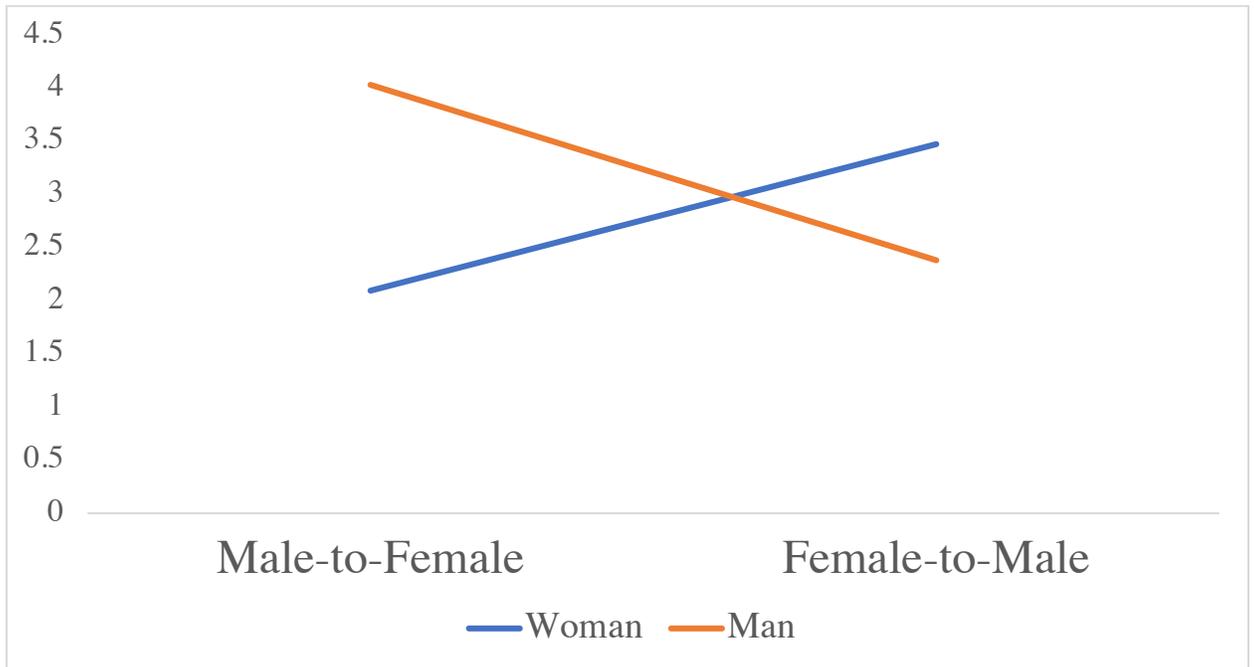
Higher scores represent greater responsibility



Figure 1. Violence Directionality x Focal Actor x Temporal Focus Interaction on Attributed Origin Responsibility



**Figure 2.** Violence Directionality x Focal Actor x Temporal Focus Interaction on Attributed Solution Responsibility.



**Figure 2.** Means of the Focal Actor by Violence Direction Interaction on the Responsibility Measure

## Appendix A

**Questionnaire**

Instructions: For the following statements, you are to indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree about the individuals in the incident that you just read. The scale goes from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 7 (Strongly Agree).

Attribution Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
This situation is serious.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The woman is responsible for the cause of the violence.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The man is responsible for the cause of the violence.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The woman was truthful about the incident.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The man was truthful about the incident.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The woman is responsible for finding a solution for the violence.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The man is responsible for finding a solution for the violence.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The woman provoked the man's response.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The man provoked the woman's response.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
If you had been a neighbor in this situation, I would have called the police.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The man is likely to have been violent with other women.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Attribution Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The man is likely to become more violent in the future.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The woman is likely to have been violent with other men.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The woman is likely to become more violent in the future.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

For the next few questions, we would like to test your memory of the story. Without returning to the story, please answer the following questions.

Question	Your Answer
What was the male's name?	
What was the female's name?	
How old was the man?	
How old was the woman?	
What was the woman's race?	
What was the man's race?	

Instructions: Please answer the following demographic information about yourself

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b> <sup>(1)</sup> _____ <b>Female</b> <sup>(2)</sup> _____ <b>Transgender</b> <sup>(3)</sup> _____ <b>Other</b> <sup>(4)</sup> _____
<b>Age</b>	_____ years
<b>Please indicate the level of education that you attained</b>	_____ <b>Some High School</b> <sup>(1)</sup> _____ <b>High School Graduate/GED</b> <sup>(2)</sup> _____ <b>Some College or Associates Degree</b> <sup>(3)</sup> _____ <b>Bachelor Degree</b> <sup>(4)</sup> _____ <b>Post-Graduate Work</b> <sup>(5)</sup>

<b>Please indicate your race</b>	_____ <b>White</b> <sup>(1)</sup> _____ <b>Black/African American</b> <sup>(2)</sup> _____ <b>Native American/American Indian</b> <sup>(3)</sup> _____ <b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b> <sup>(4)</sup> _____ <b>Other</b> <sup>(5)</sup> : _____
<b>Are you Hispanic or Latino?</b>	_____ <b>Yes</b> <sup>(1)</sup> _____ <b>No</b> <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>Please indicate your student status</b>	_____ <b>Part-time</b> <sup>(1)</sup> _____ <b>Full-time</b> <sup>(2)</sup> _____ <b>Not a student</b> <sup>(3)</sup>
<b>Please indicate your employment status</b>	_____ <b>Part-time</b> <sup>(1)</sup> _____ <b>Full-time</b> <sup>(2)</sup> _____ <b>Not employed</b> <sup>(3)</sup> _____ <b>Retired</b> <sup>(4)</sup> _____ <b>Disabled</b> <sup>(5)</sup>

<p><b>Please indicate your relationship status</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single/Never married</b> <sup>(1)</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Married/Domestic Partnership/Cohabitation</b> <sup>(2)</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Divorced</b> <sup>(3)</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Separated</b> <sup>(4)</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Widowed</b> <sup>(5)</sup></p>
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**Appendix B**



**Appendix C****CONSENT DOCUMENT**  
**Rhode Island College**

## Attributions and Perceptions of Intimate Partner Violence

You are being asked to be in a research study about intimate partner violence. You are being asked because you are a college student. Please read this form and ask any questions that you have before choosing whether to be in the study.

Oluwafunmibi Yusuff at Rhode Island College, is doing this study.

**Why this Study is Being Done (Purpose)**

We are doing this study to evaluate people's perceptions of intimate partner violence

**What You Will Have to Do (Procedures)**

If you choose to be in the study, we will ask you to:

- First, you'll be given a vignette of a police report to read.
- Second, you'll be given a questionnaire to answer regarding the vignettes and basic personal information.

**You Will Be Paid (Compensation)**

As a way to thank you for your time, you will receive a \$1. If you change your mind and want to stop the study, you'll be paid part of this.

**Risks or Discomforts**

You may find that answering some questions is upsetting. If at any time it becomes too uncomfortable for you to read, you may stop. If after participating in this study you feel discomfort or are upset, RIC has counseling services available to students.

**Benefits of Being in the Study**

Being in this study will not benefit you directly.

**Deciding Whether to Be in the Study**

Being in the study is your choice to make. Nobody can force you to be in the study. You can choose not to be in the study, and nobody will hold it against you. You can change your mind and quit the study at any time, and you do not have to give a reason. If you decide to quit later, nobody will hold it against you.

**How Your Information will be Protected**

Because this is a research study, results will be summarized across all participants and shared in reports that we publish and presentations that we give. Your name will not be used in any reports. We will take several steps to protect the information you give us so that you cannot be identified. Instead of using your name, your information will be given a code number. The information will be kept in a locked office file and seen only by myself. The only time I would have to share information from the study is if it is subpoenaed by a court, or if you are suspected of harming yourself or others, then I would have to report it to the appropriate authorities. Also, if there are problems with the study, the records may be viewed by the Rhode Island College review board responsible for protecting the rights and safety of people who participate in research. The information will be kept for a minimum of three years after the study is over, after which it will be destroyed.

**Who to Contact**

You can ask any questions you have now. If you have any questions later, you can contact Oluwafunmibi Yusuff at [oyusuff\\_4139@email.ric.edu](mailto:oyusuff_4139@email.ric.edu), 401-419-2867 and Dr. Sugarman at [dsugarman@ric.edu](mailto:dsugarman@ric.edu)

If you think you were treated badly in this study, have complaints, or would like to talk to someone other than the researcher about your rights or safety as a research participant, please contact Cindy Padula at [IRB@ric.edu](mailto:IRB@ric.edu), by phone at 401-456-9720.

You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

**Statement of Consent**

I have read and understand the information above. I am choosing to be in the study “Attributions and Perceptions of Intimate Partner Violence” I can change my mind and quit at any time, and I don’t have to give a reason. I have been given answers to the questions I asked, or I will contact the researcher with any questions that come up later. I am at least 18 years of age.

Print Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Researcher Obtaining Consent: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix D****Vignettes****1. (111)**

September 13, 2017 two police officers responded to an anonymous telephone call reporting the occurrence of a domestic dispute. Upon arriving at the location of the reported dispute, which appeared to have ended, police conducted separate interviews with James Smith and his wife, Savannah. James Smith is a white male, 26 years old, with brown hair and brown eyes. He's six feet tall and 190 pounds. Savannah Smith is a white female, 23 years old with black hair and brown eyes. She's five feet ten inches and 170 pounds. Below are the interviews.

**INTERVIEW WITH Savannah Smith**

**Police Officer:** Mrs. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening

**Savannah Smith:** We had a party at our house this evening for a small group of people. There were, let's see, seven people including my husband.

**Police Officer:** Who else came to the party?

**Savannah Smith:** Well, there was Luke Walters, an old high-school friend of mine. Then there was Sam and Ana Sullivan and Will and Alicia Robins.

**Police Officer:** OK, please continue with the events of the evening. Just start with when it began.

**Savannah Smith:** Everyone arrived about eight o'clock and we had some snacks, listened to some music and talked.

**Police Officer:** What happened during the party?

**Savannah Smith:** Luke and I talked quite a bit together since we hadn't seen each other for a while. We were real close in high school, as friends. He was the kind of guy you just couldn't help but like.

**Police Officer:** Did your conversation center around Luke throughout the evening?

**Savannah Smith:** I suppose it did, but Jeff seemed to be having fun talking to the others.

**Police Officer:** Go on.

**Savannah Smith:** As time went on, we were all listening to music and talking a lot. James kept trying to get my attention away from Luke, but he just didn't seem to fit into our conversation.

**Police Officer:** Did you talk to anyone else this evening?

**Savannah Smith:** Yeah, I think I was being sociable, you know. I just wanted to catch up on things with Luke so I spent most of my time with him.

**Police Officer:** What happened next?

**Savannah Smith:** The guests had all left by about one in the morning. James started complaining about the way I had been acting with Luke. I told him he was just an old friend but, James wouldn't believe it. The more I tried to explain, the angrier he got. Pretty soon he was yelling at me about being interested in Luke. This carried on for quite a while. I could tell he was getting frustrated and angry.

**Police Officer:** What exactly did you say to him?

**Savannah Smith:** Nothing at all. But he kept going on about how he thought I was probably sleeping around.

**Police Officer:** Did he threaten you?

**Savannah Smith:** Yes, he said if I caught me sleeping around he was going to beat my ass, that he wasn't going to put up with me cheating on him. I'm sorry, I can't remember it all.

**Police Officer:** And then what?

**Savannah Smith:** He called me a slut and a lying bitch. Then he shoved me backwards into a table. I fell back onto it and he punched me. I was crying for him to stop but he just shoved me again and I lost my footing and fell on the floor and he kicked me. My mouth was bleeding and my stomach hurt.

## INTERVIEW WITH JAMES SMITH

**Police Officer:** Mr. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening.

**James Smith:** My wife and I had this party tonight, and Savannah spent the whole night flirting and coming on to one of her old boyfriends.

**Police Officer:** What happened after the guests left?

**James Smith:** I asked Savannah why she was flirting with another man in our home. She gave me some crap about how they were just friends, but I knew she was lying. I

just got so mad at her for disrespecting me like she did, and then she wouldn't even admit it to me. I guess I started yelling at her about wanting to sleep with Luke.

**Police Officer:** Were you calling her names or threatening her?

**James Smith:** You see I was just so mad at her. I told her I wasn't going to put up with her cheating on me with Luke or any man. She claimed that nothing was going on between her and Luke, but I didn't believe her. I guess I called her a slut and a lying bitch. I was so mad at her that I just punched her and kicked her.

## 2. (211)

September 13, 2017, two police officers responded to an anonymous telephone call reporting the occurrence of a domestic dispute. Upon arriving at the location of the reported dispute, which appeared to have ended, police conducted separate interviews with James Smith and his wife, Savannah. James Smith is a white male, 26 years old, with brown hair and brown eyes. He's six feet tall and 190 pounds. Savannah Smith is a white female, 23 years old with black hair and brown eyes. She's five feet ten inches and 170 pounds. Below are the interviews.

### INTERVIEW WITH JAMES SMITH

**Police Officer:** Mr. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening

**James Smith:** We had a party at our house this evening for a small group of people.

There were, let's see, seven people including my wife.

**Police Officer:** Who else came to the party?

**James Smith:** Well, there was Jessica Sanchez, an old high-school friend of mine. Then there was Sam and Ana Sullivan and Will and Alicia Robins.

**Police Officer:** OK, please continue with the events of the evening. Just start with when it began.

**James Smith:** Everyone arrived about eight o'clock and we had some snacks, listened to some music and talked.

**Police Officer:** What happened during the party?

**James Smith:** Jessica and I talked quite a bit together since we hadn't seen each other for a while. We were real close in high school, as friends. She was the kind of girl you just couldn't help but like.

**Police Officer:** Did your conversation center around Jessica throughout the evening?

**James Smith:** I suppose it did, but Savannah seemed to be having fun talking to the others.

**Police Officer:** Go on.

**James Smith:** As time went on, we were all listening to music and talking a lot. Savannah kept trying to get my attention away from Jessica, but she just didn't seem to fit into our conversation.

**Police Officer:** Did you talk to anyone else this evening?

**James Smith:** Yeah, I think I was being sociable, you know. I just wanted to catch up on things with Jessica so I spent most of my time with her.

**Police Officer:** What happened next?

**James Smith:** The guests had all left by about one in the morning. Savannah started complaining about the way I had been acting with Jessica. I told her she was just an old friend but, Savannah wouldn't believe it. The more I tried to explain, the angrier she got. Pretty soon she was yelling at me about being interested in Jessica. This carried on for quite a while. I could tell she was getting frustrated and angry.

**Police Officer:** What exactly did you say to her?

**James Smith:** Nothing at all. But she kept going on about how she thought I was probably sleeping around.

**Police Officer:** Did she threaten you?

**James Smith:** Yes, she said if she caught me sleeping around she was going to beat my ass, that she wasn't going to put up with me cheating on her. I'm sorry, I can't remember it all.

**Police Officer:** And then what?

**James Smith:** She called me a liar and a cheating bastard. Then she shoved me backwards and I stumbled back into the table. She then punched me in the face and I tried to calm her down. As I stood up holding my jaw, she shoved me again and I fell on the floor. Then she started to kick me in the stomach.

**INTERVIEW WITH SAVANNAH SMITH**

**Police Officer:** Mrs. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening.

**Savannah Smith:** My husband and I had this party tonight, and James spent the whole night flirting and coming on to one of his old girlfriends.

**Police Officer:** What happened after the guests left?

**Savannah Smith:** I asked James why he was flirting with another woman in our home. He gave me some crap about how they were just friends, but I knew he was lying. I just got so mad at him for disrespecting me like he did, and then he wouldn't even admit it to me. I guess I started yelling at him about wanting to sleep with Jessica.

**Police Officer:** Were you calling him names or threatening him?

**Savannah Smith:** You see I was just so mad at him. I told him I wasn't going to put up with him cheating on me with Jessica or any woman. He claimed that nothing was going on between him and Jessica, but I didn't believe him. I guess I called him a liar and a cheating bastard. I was so mad at him that I just punched him and started kicking him.

**3. (122)**

September 13, 2017 two police officers responded to an anonymous telephone call reporting the occurrence of a domestic dispute. Upon arriving at the location of the

reported dispute, which appeared to have ended, police conducted separate interviews with James Smith and his wife, Savannah. James Smith is a black male, 26 years old, with brown hair and brown eyes. He's six feet tall and 190 pounds. Savannah Smith is a black female, 23 years old with black hair and brown eyes. She's five feet ten inches and 170 pounds. Below are the interviews.

### **INTERVIEW WITH Savannah Smith**

**Police Officer:** Mrs. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening

**Savannah Smith:** We had a party at our house this evening for a small group of people. There were, let's see, seven people including my husband.

**Police Officer:** Who else came to the party?

**Savannah Smith:** Well, there was Luke Walters, an old high-school friend of mine. Then there was Sam and Ana Sullivan and Will and Alicia Robins.

**Police Officer:** OK, please continue with the events of the evening. Just start with when it began.

**Savannah Smith:** Everyone arrived about eight o'clock and we had some snacks, listened to some music and talked.

**Police Officer:** What happened during the party?

**Savannah Smith:** Luke and I talked quite a bit together since we hadn't seen each other for a while. We were real close in high school, as friends. He was the kind of guy you just couldn't help but like.

**Police Officer:** Did you conversation center around Luke throughout the evening?

**Savannah Smith:** I suppose it did, but Jeff seemed be to having fun talking to the others.

**Police Officer:** Go on.

**Savannah Smith:** As time went on, we were all listening to music and talking a lot. James kept trying to get my attention away from Luke, but he just didn't seem to fit into our conversation.

**Police Officer:** Did you talk to anyone else this evening?

**Savannah Smith:** Yeah, I think I was being sociable, you know. I just wanted to catch up on things with Luke so I spent most of my time with him.

**Police Officer:** What happened next?

**Savannah Smith:** The guests had all left by about one in the morning. James started complaining about the way I had been acting with Luke. I told him he was just an old friend but, James wouldn't believe it. The more I tried to explain, the angrier he got. Pretty soon he was yelling at me about being interested in Luke. This carried on for quite a while. I could tell he was getting frustrated and angry.

**Police Officer:** What exactly did you say to him?

**Savannah Smith:** Nothing at all. But he kept going on about how he thought I was probably sleeping around.

**Police Officer:** Did he threaten you?

**Savannah Smith:** Yes, he said if I caught me sleeping around he was going to beat my ass, that he wasn't going to put up with me cheating on him. I'm sorry, I can't remember it all.

**Police Officer:** And then what?

**Savannah Smith:** He called me a slut and a lying bitch. Then he shoved me backwards into a table. I fell back onto it and he punched me. I was crying for him to stop but he just shoved me again and I lost my footing and fell on the floor and he kicked me. My mouth was bleeding and my stomach hurt.

### INTERVIEW WITH JAMES SMITH

**Police Officer:** Mr. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening.

**James Smith:** My wife and I had this party tonight, and Savannah spent the whole night flirting and coming on to one of her old boyfriends.

**Police Officer:** What happened after the guests left?

**James Smith:** I asked Savannah why she was flirting with another man in our home. She gave me some crap about how they were just friends, but I knew she was lying. I just got so mad at her for disrespecting me like she did, and then she wouldn't even admit it to me. I guess I started yelling at her about wanting to sleep with Luke.

**Police Officer:** Were you calling her names or threatening her?

**James Smith:** You see I was just so mad at her. I told her I wasn't going to put up with her cheating on me with Luke or any man. She claimed that nothing was going on between her and Luke, but I didn't believe her. I guess I called her a slut and a lying bitch. I was so mad at her that I just punched her and kicked her.

**4. (222)**

September 13, 2017, two police officers responded to an anonymous telephone call reporting the occurrence of a domestic dispute. Upon arriving at the location of the reported dispute, which appeared to have ended, police conducted separate interviews with James Smith and his wife, Savannah. James Smith is a black male, 26 years old, with brown hair and brown eyes. He's six feet tall and 190 pounds. Savannah Smith is a black female, 23 years old with black hair and brown eyes. She's five feet ten inches and 170 pounds. Below are the interviews.

**INTERVIEW WITH JAMES SMITH**

**Police Officer:** Mr. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening

**James Smith:** We had a party at our house this evening for a small group of people.

There were, let's see, seven people including my wife.

**Police Officer:** Who else came to the party?

**James Smith:** Well, there was Jessica Sanchez, an old high-school friend of mine. Then there was Sam and Ana Sullivan and Will and Alicia Robins.

**Police Officer:** OK, please continue with the events of the evening. Just start with when it began.

**James Smith:** Everyone arrived about eight o'clock and we had some snacks, listened to some music and talked.

**Police Officer:** What happened during the party?

**James Smith:** Jessica and I talked quite a bit together since we hadn't seen each other for a while. We were real close in high school, as friends. She was the kind of girl you just couldn't help but like.

**Police Officer:** Did your conversation center around Jessica throughout the evening?

**James Smith:** I suppose it did, but Savannah seemed to be having fun talking to the others.

**Police Officer:** Go on.

**James Smith:** As time went on, we were all listening to music and talking a lot. Savannah kept trying to get my attention away from Jessica, but she just didn't seem to fit into our conversation.

**Police Officer:** Did you talk to anyone else this evening?

**James Smith:** Yeah, I think I was being sociable, you know. I just wanted to catch up on things with Jessica so I spent most of my time with her.

**Police Officer:** What happened next?

**James Smith:** The guests had all left by about one in the morning. Savannah started complaining about the way I had been acting with Jessica. I told her she was just an old friend but, Savannah wouldn't believe it. The more I tried to explain, the angrier she got. Pretty soon she was yelling at me about being interested in Jessica. This carried on for quite a while. I could tell she was getting frustrated and angry.

**Police Officer:** What exactly did you say to her?

**James Smith:** Nothing at all. But she kept going on about how she thought I was probably sleeping around.

**Police Officer:** Did she threaten you?

**James Smith:** Yes, she said if she caught me sleeping around she was going to beat my ass, that she wasn't going to put up with me cheating on her. I'm sorry, I can't remember it all.

**Police Officer:** And then what?

**James Smith:** She called me a liar and a cheating bastard. Then she shoved me backwards and I stumbled back into the table. She then punched me in the face and I tried to calm her down. As I stood up holding my jaw, she shoved me again and I fell on the floor. Then she started to kick me in the stomach.

## **INTERVIEW WITH SAVANNAH SMITH**

**Police Officer:** Mrs. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening.

**Savannah Smith:** My husband and I had this party tonight, and James spent the whole night flirting and coming on to one of his old girlfriends.

**Police Officer:** What happened after the guests left?

**Savannah Smith:** I asked James why he was flirting with another woman in our home. He gave me some crap about how they were just friends, but I knew he was lying. I just got so mad at him for disrespecting me like he did, and then he wouldn't even admit it to me. I guess I started yelling at him about wanting to sleep with Jessica.

**Police Officer:** Were you calling him names or threatening him?

**Savannah Smith:** You see I was just so mad at him. I told him I wasn't going to put up with him cheating on me with Jessica or any woman. He claimed that nothing was going on between him and Jessica, but I didn't believe him. I guess I called him a liar and a cheating bastard. I was so mad at him that I just punched him and started kicking him.

## 5. (112)

September 13, 2017 two police officers responded to an anonymous telephone call reporting the occurrence of a domestic dispute. Upon arriving at the location of the reported dispute, which appeared to have ended, police conducted separate interviews with James Smith and his wife, Savannah. James Smith is a white male, 26 years old, with brown hair and brown eyes. He's six feet tall and 190 pounds. Savannah Smith is a black female, 23 years old with black hair and brown eyes. She's five feet ten inches and 170 pounds. Below are the interviews.

### **INTERVIEW WITH Savannah Smith**

**Police Officer:** Mrs. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening

**Savannah Smith:** We had a party at our house this evening for a small group of people. There were, let's see, seven people including my husband.

**Police Officer:** Who else came to the party?

**Savannah Smith:** Well, there was Luke Walters, an old high-school friend of mine. Then there was Sam and Ana Sullivan and Will and Alicia Robins.

**Police Officer:** OK, please continue with the events of the evening. Just start with when it began.

**Savannah Smith:** Everyone arrived about eight o'clock and we had some snacks, listened to some music and talked.

**Police Officer:** What happened during the party?

**Savannah Smith:** Luke and I talked quite a bit together since we hadn't seen each other for a while. We were real close in high school, as friends. He was the kind of guy you just couldn't help but like.

**Police Officer:** Did your conversation center around Luke throughout the evening?

**Savannah Smith:** I suppose it did, but Jeff seemed to be having fun talking to the others.

**Police Officer:** Go on.

**Savannah Smith:** As time went on, we were all listening to music and talking a lot. James kept trying to get my attention away from Luke, but he just didn't seem to fit into our conversation.

**Police Officer:** Did you talk to anyone else this evening?

**Savannah Smith:** Yeah, I think I was being sociable, you know. I just wanted to catch up on things with Luke so I spent most of my time with him.

**Police Officer:** What happened next?

**Savannah Smith:** The guests had all left by about one in the morning. James started complaining about the way I had been acting with Luke. I told him he was just an old friend but, James wouldn't believe it. The more I tried to explain, the angrier he got.

Pretty soon he was yelling at me about being interested in Luke. This carried on for quite a while. I could tell he was getting frustrated and angry.

**Police Officer:** What exactly did you say to him?

**Savannah Smith:** Nothing at all. But he kept going on about how he thought I was probably sleeping around.

**Police Officer:** Did he threaten you?

**Savannah Smith:** Yes, he said if I caught me sleeping around he was going to beat my ass, that he wasn't going to put up with me cheating on him. I'm sorry, I can't remember it all.

**Police Officer:** And then what?

**Savannah Smith:** He called me a slut and a lying bitch. Then he shoved me backwards into a table. I fell back onto it and he punched me. I was crying for him to stop but he just shoved me again and I lost my footing and fell on the floor and he kicked me. My mouth was bleeding and my stomach hurt.

## **INTERVIEW WITH JAMES SMITH**

**Police Officer:** Mr. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening.

**James Smith:** My wife and I had this party tonight, and Savannah spent the whole night flirting and coming on to one of her old boyfriends.

**Police Officer:** What happened after the guests left?

**James Smith:** I asked Savannah why she was flirting with another man in our home. She gave me some crap about how they were just friends, but I knew she was lying. I just got so mad at her for disrespecting me like she did, and then she wouldn't even admit it to me. I guess I started yelling at her about wanting to sleep with Luke.

**Police Officer:** Were you calling her names or threatening her?

**James Smith:** You see I was just so mad at her. I told her I wasn't going to put up with her cheating on me with Luke or any man. She claimed that nothing was going on between her and Luke, but I didn't believe her. I guess I called her a slut and a lying bitch. I was so mad at her that I just grabbed her arm and hit her to the floor.

## 6. (221)

September 13, 2017, two police officers responded to an anonymous telephone call reporting the occurrence of a domestic dispute. Upon arriving at the location of the reported dispute, which appeared to have ended, police conducted separate interviews with James Smith and his wife, Savannah. James Smith is a white male, 26 years old, with brown hair and brown eyes. He's six feet tall and 190 pounds. Savannah Smith is a black female, 23 years old with black hair and brown eyes. She's five feet ten inches and 170 pounds. Below are the interviews.

### INTERVIEW WITH JAMES SMITH

**Police Officer:** Mr. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening

**James Smith:** We had a party at our house this evening for a small group of people. There were, let's see, seven people including my wife.

**Police Officer:** Who else came to the party?

**James Smith:** Well, there was Jessica Sanchez, an old high-school friend of mine. Then there was Sam and Ana Sullivan and Will and Alicia Robins.

**Police Officer:** OK, please continue with the events of the evening. Just start with when it began.

**James Smith:** Everyone arrived about eight o'clock and we had some snacks, listened to some music and talked.

**Police Officer:** What happened during the party?

**James Smith:** Jessica and I talked quite a bit together since we hadn't seen each other for a while. We were real close in high school, as friends. She was the kind of girl you just couldn't help but like.

**Police Officer:** Did your conversation center around Jessica throughout the evening?

**James Smith:** I suppose it did, but Savannah seemed to be having fun talking to the others.

**Police Officer:** Go on.

**James Smith:** As time went on, we were all listening to music and talking a lot. Savannah kept trying to get my attention away from Jessica, but she just didn't seem to fit into our conversation.

**Police Officer:** Did you talk to anyone else this evening?

**James Smith:** Yeah, I think I was being sociable, you know. I just wanted to catch up on things with Jessica so I spent most of my time with her.

**Police Officer:** What happened next?

**James Smith:** The guests had all left by about one in the morning. Savannah started complaining about the way I had been acting with Jessica. I told her she was just an old friend but, Savannah wouldn't believe it. The more I tried to explain, the angrier she got. Pretty soon she was yelling at me about being interested in Jessica. This carried on for quite a while. I could tell she was getting frustrated and angry.

**Police Officer:** What exactly did you say to her?

**James Smith:** Nothing at all. But she kept going on about how she thought I was probably sleeping around.

**Police Officer:** Did she threaten you?

**James Smith:** Yes, she said if she caught me sleeping around she was going to beat my ass, that she wasn't going to put up with me cheating on her. I'm sorry, I can't remember it all.

**Police Officer:** And then what?

**James Smith:** She called me a liar and a cheating bastard. Then she shoved me backwards and I stumbled back into the table. She then punched me in the face and I tried to calm her down. As I stood up holding my jaw, she shoved me again and I fell on the floor. Then she started to kick me in the stomach.

**INTERVIEW WITH SAVANNAH SMITH**

**Police Officer:** Mrs. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening.

**Savannah Smith:** My husband and I had this party tonight, and James spent the whole night flirting and coming on to one of his old girlfriends.

**Police Officer:** What happened after the guests left?

**Savannah Smith:** I asked James why he was flirting with another woman in our home. He gave me some crap about how they were just friends, but I knew he was lying. I just got so mad at him for disrespecting me like he did, and then he wouldn't even admit it to me. I guess I started yelling at him about wanting to sleep with Jessica.

**Police Officer:** Were you calling him names or threatening him?

**Savannah Smith:** You see I was just so mad at him. I told him I wasn't going to put up with him cheating on me with Jessica or any woman. He claimed that nothing was going on between him and Jessica, but I didn't believe him. I guess I called him a liar and a cheating bastard. I was so mad at him that I just punched him and started kicking him.

**7. (121)**

September 13, 2017 two police officers responded to an anonymous telephone call reporting the occurrence of a domestic dispute. Upon arriving at the location of the reported dispute, which appeared to have ended, police conducted separate interviews with James Smith and his wife, Savannah. James Smith is a black male, 26 years old,

with brown hair and brown eyes. He's six feet tall and 190 pounds. Savannah Smith is a white female, 23 years old with black hair and brown eyes. She's five feet ten inches and 170 pounds. Below are the interviews.

### **INTERVIEW WITH Savannah Smith**

**Police Officer:** Mrs. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening

**Savannah Smith:** We had a party at our house this evening for a small group of people.

There were, let's see, seven people including my husband.

**Police Officer:** Who else came to the party?

**Savannah Smith:** Well, there was Luke Walters, an old high-school friend of mine.

Then there was Sam and Ana Sullivan and Will and Alicia Robins.

**Police Officer:** OK, please continue with the events of the evening. Just start with when it began.

**Savannah Smith:** Everyone arrived about eight o'clock and we had some snacks, listened to some music and talked.

**Police Officer:** What happened during the party?

**Savannah Smith:** Luke and I talked quite a bit together since we hadn't seen each other for a while. We were real close in high school, as friends. He was the kind of guy you just couldn't help but like.

**Police Officer:** Did you conversation center around Luke throughout the evening?

**Savannah Smith:** I suppose it did, but Jeff seemed be to having fun talking to the others.

**Police Officer:** Go on.

**Savannah Smith:** As time went on, we were all listening to music and talking a lot. James kept trying to get my attention away from Luke, but he just didn't seem to fit into our conversation.

**Police Officer:** Did you talk to anyone else this evening?

**Savannah Smith:** Yeah, I think I was being sociable, you know. I just wanted to catch up on things with Luke so I spent most of my time with him.

**Police Officer:** What happened next?

**Savannah Smith:** The guests had all left by about one in the morning. James started complaining about the way I had been acting with Luke. I told him he was just an old friend but, James wouldn't believe it. The more I tried to explain, the angrier he got. Pretty soon he was yelling at me about being interested in Luke. This carried on for quite a while. I could tell he was getting frustrated and angry.

**Police Officer:** What exactly did you say to him?

**Savannah Smith:** Nothing at all. But he kept going on about how he thought I was probably sleeping around.

**Police Officer:** Did he threaten you?

**Savannah Smith:** Yes, he said if I caught me sleeping around he was going to beat my ass, that he wasn't going to put up with me cheating on him. I'm sorry, I can't remember it all.

**Police Officer:** And then what?

**Savannah Smith:** He called me a slut and a lying bitch. Then he shoved me backwards into a table. I fell back onto it and he punched me. I was crying for him to stop but he just shoved me again and I lost my footing and fell on the floor and he kicked me. My mouth was bleeding and my stomach hurt.

### **INTERVIEW WITH JAMES SMITH**

**Police Officer:** Mr. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening.

**James Smith:** My wife and I had this party tonight, and Savannah spent the whole night flirting and coming on to one of her old boyfriends.

**Police Officer:** What happened after the guests left?

**James Smith:** I asked Savannah why she was flirting with another man in our home. She gave me some crap about how they were just friends, but I knew she was lying. I just got so mad at her for disrespecting me like she did, and then she wouldn't even admit it to me. I guess I started yelling at her about wanting to sleep with Luke.

**Police Officer:** Were you calling her names or threatening her?

**James Smith:** You see I was just so mad at her. I told her I wasn't going to put up with her cheating on me with Luke or any man. She claimed that nothing was going on between her and Luke, but I didn't believe her. I guess I called her a slut and a lying bitch. I was so mad at her that I just grabbed her arm and hit her to the floor.

**8. (212)**

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**INTERVIEW WITH JAMES SMITH**

**Police Officer:** Mr. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening

**James Smith:** We had a party at our house this evening for a small group of people.

There were, let's see, seven people including my wife.

**Police Officer:** Who else came to the party?

**James Smith:** Well, there was Jessica Sanchez, an old high-school friend of mine. Then there was Sam and Ana Sullivan and Will and Alicia Robins.

**Police Officer:** OK, please continue with the events of the evening. Just start with when it began.

**James Smith:** Everyone arrived about eight o'clock and we had some snacks, listened to some music and talked.

**Police Officer:** What happened during the party?

**James Smith:** Jessica and I talked quite a bit together since we hadn't seen each other for a while. We were real close in high school, as friends. She was the kind of girl you just couldn't help but like.

**Police Officer:** Did your conversation center around Jessica throughout the evening?

**James Smith:** I suppose it did, but Savannah seemed to be having fun talking to the others.

**Police Officer:** Go on.

**James Smith:** As time went on, we were all listening to music and talking a lot. Savannah kept trying to get my attention away from Jessica, but she just didn't seem to fit into our conversation.

**Police Officer:** Did you talk to anyone else this evening?

**James Smith:** Yeah, I think I was being sociable, you know. I just wanted to catch up on things with Jessica so I spent most of my time with her.

**Police Officer:** What happened next?

**James Smith:** The guests had all left by about one in the morning. Savannah started complaining about the way I had been acting with Jessica. I told her she was just an old friend but, Savannah wouldn't believe it. The more I tried to explain, the angrier she got. Pretty soon she was yelling at me about being interested in Jessica. This carried on for quite a while. I could tell she was getting frustrated and angry.

**Police Officer:** What exactly did you say to her?

**James Smith:** Nothing at all. But she kept going on about how she thought I was probably sleeping around.

**Police Officer:** Did she threaten you?

**James Smith:** Yes, she said if she caught me sleeping around she was going to beat my ass, that she wasn't going to put up with me cheating on her. I'm sorry, I can't remember it all.

**Police Officer:** And then what?

**James Smith:** She called me a liar and a cheating bastard. Then she shoved me backwards and I stumbled back into the table. She then punched me in the face and I told her to relax. As I stood up holding my jaw, she shoved me again and I fell on the floor. Then she started to kick me in the stomach.

## **INTERVIEW WITH SAVANNAH SMITH**

**Police Officer:** Mrs. Smith please tell me exactly what happened here this evening.

**Savannah Smith:** My husband and I had this party tonight, and James spent the whole night flirting and coming on to one of his old girlfriends.

**Police Officer:** What happened after the guests left?

**Savannah Smith:** I asked James why he was flirting with another woman in our home. He gave me some crap about how they were just friends, but I knew he was lying. I just got so mad at him for disrespecting me like he did, and then he wouldn't even admit it to me. I guess I started yelling at him about wanting to sleep with Jessica.

**Police Officer:** Were you calling him names or threatening him?

**Savannah Smith:** You see I was just so mad at him. I told him I wasn't going to put up with him cheating on me with Jessica or any woman. He claimed that nothing was going on between him and Jessica, but I didn't believe him. I guess I called him a liar and a cheating bastard. I was so mad at him that I just punched him and started kicking him.