

Responses to Racial Violence: Unequal Expectations of Black Forgiveness

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INTRODUCTION

- Normative expectancy of Black forgiveness (Johnson & Fisher, 2019; McFarland et al., 2011).
- Racist actions that are forgiven, no longer need to be addressed or prevented (Wedderburn & Carey, 2017).
- Perpetuates implicit biases involving Black forgiveness

METHODS

- N = 219 undergraduate participants (Male: 86, Female: 131, Female to Male Transgender: 1, Prefer not to say: 1. White/Caucasian: 61.4%, Hispanic-American/Latino: 20.9%, Asian American/Pacific Islander: 7.5%, Native American: 3.8%, African American/Black: 3.1%, Multiracial: 1.6%, Other: 1.6%, Arab/Arab-American/Middle Eastern: 1.2%)
- 2 (White Victim/Black Victim) X 2 (Forgive/ Not Forgive) between subjects design
- Dependent variable: tendency to forgive (Brown, 2003; $\alpha = 0.60$), positive emotions (admirable, comfortable, etc.; $\alpha = 0.90$), negative emotions (hostile, angry, etc.; $\alpha = 0.90$)

RESULTS

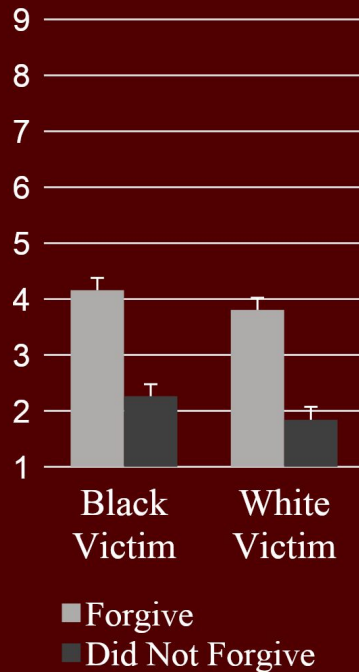
- Forgiveness story viewed more positively and non-forgiveness story more negatively
- Higher tendency to forgive when Black victim forgave vs did not forgive

DISCUSSION

- Student sample
- Black forgiveness is seen as admirable and exemplar
- Effect but not consequence

Tendency to forgive increases following exposure to Black victim forgiving racial violence.

Positive Emotions

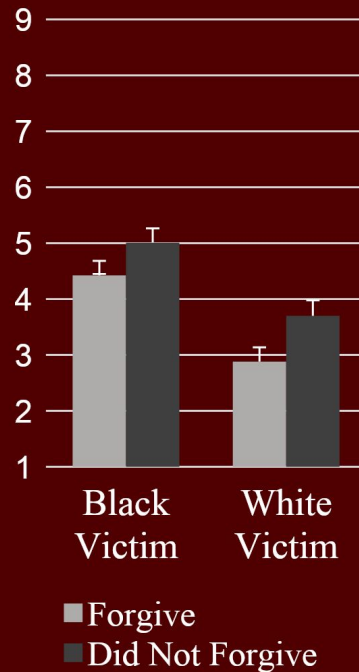


Interaction: $F(1, 215) = .025, p = .875, \eta_p^2 = .000$

Main Effect Race: $F(1, 215) = 3.05, p = .082, \eta_p^2 = .013$

Main Effect Forgive: $F(1, 215) = 75.55, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .260$

Negative Emotions

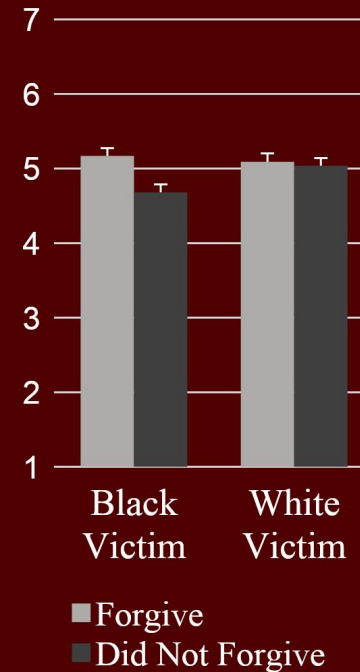


Interaction: $F(1, 215) = .197, p = .657, \eta_p^2 = .001$

Main Effect Race: $F(1, 215) = 29.57, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .121$

Main Effect Forgive: $F(1, 215) = 7.18, p = .008, \eta_p^2 = .032$

Tendency To Forgive



Interaction: $F(1, 215) = 4.14, p = .043, \eta_p^2 = .019$

Main Effect Race: $F(1, 215) = 1.68, p = .196, \eta_p^2 = .007$

Main Effect Forgive: $F(1, 215) = 6.43, p = .012, \eta_p^2 = .029$

PARTICIPANTS RESPONSE TO WHAT THEY WOULD DO IF THEY WERE THE VICTIM

Theme	Meaning	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total Responses
Forgive	Forgive the cashier	53	25.24%
Not Forgive	Not forgive the cashier	45	21.43%
Justice	Seek legal action against cashier	42	20%
Negative Attitudes	Angry and avoidant attitudes towards the situation	36	17.14%
No Comment	Responses not applicable	20	9.52%
Privacy	Chooses not to make public comment	9	4.29%
Religiosity	Forgive due to religious reasons	5	2.38%

THEME EXAMPLES

Forgive: "I would work very hard to forgive the cashier, just as the victim did."

Not Forgive: "...You don't owe forgiveness to anyone who has wronged you."

Justice: "I would want to press charges and have compensation for that event."

Negative Attitudes: "I would have been extremely upset, and certainly not as forgiving. I would probably feel deep anger towards the person..."

No Comment: "I don't think I would comment."

Privacy: "Personally, if I were the victim in this news story I would try to keep away from media spotlight."

Religiosity: "I would do my best to forgive the cashier because that is what Jesus calls us to do..."