

## Competition, Envy, or Snobbism? How Status Shapes Antipathy Networks of Adolescents


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### Why study antipathetic relationships (AR)?

- Common experience among early adolescents. Around 30%-40% have at least one (Berger, Rodkin & Dijkstra, 2011; Card, 2010; Güroglu et al., 2009).
- Associations with externalizing and internalizing problems (Bierman, 2004; Card, 2010; Berger, et al, 2011)
- Interpersonal contexts for identity development (Abecassis, 2003):
  - search for uniqueness may foster rejection (and even aggression)



### How to conceptualize dislike and antipathetic relationships?

- Dislike may help defining one's and others' social position within the peer group (Bierman, 2004). Dislike is a social status marker.
- However, being disliked also threatens the adolescent need for intimacy and peer acceptance (Ojanen, Grönroos & Salmivalli, 2005)
- Dislike integrates different levels of analysis:
  - An individual reputational attribute
  - A relational configuration
  - A larger peer network

### The present study


- Previous studies have focused on individual correlates or dyadic configurations of AR, but a relational approach to antipathy is missing.
- From a goal-framing approach (Lindenberg, 2006; 2008), perceived popularity constitutes a positional asset in preadolescence (High social status positions can be held by only few individuals)
- Competition for status may result in antipathetic relationships, as functional means for achieving adolescent status goals

### The present study

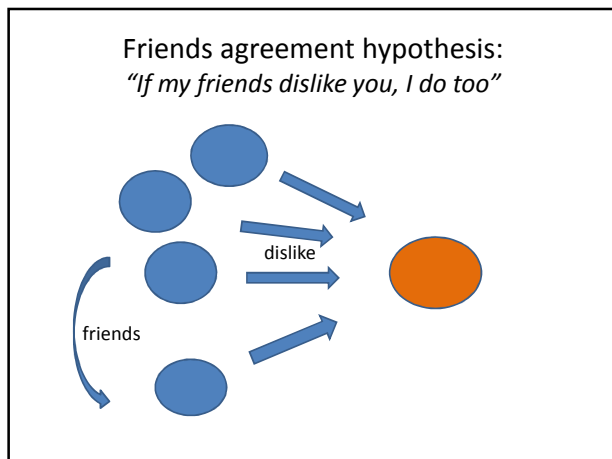
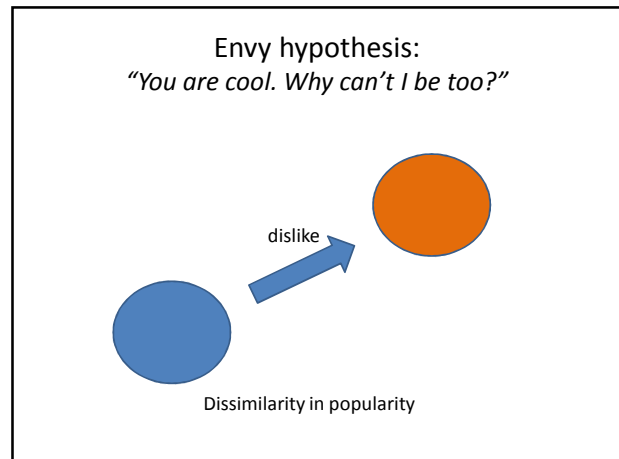
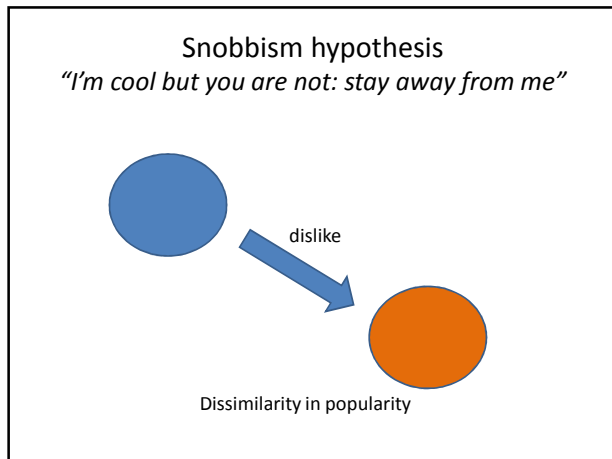
- Test three competing hypotheses, based on similarity or dissimilarity in perceived popularity
- Test for potential gender effects: Boys have more AR than girls. Same and cross-sex AR are equally prevalent (Card, 2010).
- Considering antipathies as a larger social network implies the necessity for considering other networks that might influence its development, most prominently friendships.

### Competition Hypothesis

*"There is only place for one of us"*



similar popularity level



**Method**

*Participants:*

- 273 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Santiago, Chile.
- Two cohorts (134 5<sup>th</sup> turning 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and 139 6<sup>th</sup> turning 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 142 boys, age range 10 -12).
- Two assessments waves over a one-year period.

**Method: instruments**

*Dislike nominations:* up to six, only within classroom nominations. Antipathy networks were created using adjacency matrices

*Friendship:* up to six, only within classroom

*Perceived popularity:* within classroom peer nominations on "popular" – "not popular". Transformed into a categorical a 4-point scale variable

**Analytical procedure**

- R SIENA 4.0
- Focus on dislike "selection" processes (changing networks as results of individual attributes)
  - Friendship network dynamics (density, reciprocity, transitive triplets)
  - Antipathy network dynamics (density, reciprocity, indegree and outdegree popularity)
  - Gender effects (ego, alter, and same-gender selection)
  - Status effects (ego, alter, and status-similarity selection)
  - Multiple network effects: Friends' agreement to dislike nominations

Results: descriptives for antipathy networks

	Cohort 1 (N = 134)		Cohort 2 (N = 139)	
	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	7 <sup>th</sup> grade
Density	.016	.017	.018	.018
Average degree	2.125	2.240	2.514	2.512
Number of ties	273	282	336	333
Mutual	25	22	31	33
Asymmetric	189	222	239	260
Missing fraction	.041	.060	.038	.046

Results: descriptives for antipathy networks (cont.)

	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
<b>Tie Changes</b>		
Absence of antipathy (0 → 0)	15809	17298
Creating antipathy (0 → 1)	205	232
Resolving antipathy (1 → 0)	167	195
Stable antipathy (1 → 1)	43	78

SIENA analyses

		Cohort 1		Cohort 2	
		Est	SE	Est	SE
Friendship network	Density	-1.80*	.10	-1.73*	.07
	Reciprocity	1.64*	.19	1.17*	.20
	Transitive Triplets	.31*	.06	.29*	.04

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Antipathy network	Density	-2.01*	.18	-1.94*	.15
	Reciprocity	-.05	.31	.80*	.25
	indegree-popularity	.07*	.03	.07*	.02
	outdegree-popularity)	.11+	.06	.00	.07

SIENA analyses (cont.)

		Cohort 1		Cohort 2	
		Est	SE	Est	SE
Gender Effects	Dislike nominations received	.37*	.18	-.06	.09
	Dislike nominations given	-.52*	.11	.05	.12
	Same-gender selection	-.01	.10	.07	.09

girls received more nominations, boys gave more nominations.

SIENA analyses (cont.)

		Cohort 1		Cohort 2	
		Est	SE	Est	SE
Gender Effects	Dislike nominations received	.37*	.18	-.06	.09
	Dislike nominations given	-.52*	.11	.05	.12
	Same-gender selection	-.01	.10	.07	.09
Status Effects	Dislike nominations received	-.01	.05	-.03	.05
	Dislike nominations given	-.16*	.05	-.03	.05
	Status similarity selection	-.33*	.17	-.32+	.17

Dissimilarity rather than similarity. No competition over status

Dislike selection based on ego-alter popularity (by cohort)

		Status Alter			
		1	2	3	4
Status Ego	1	.07	.02	-.03	-.08
	2	.17	-.10	-.15	-.21
	3	.27	-.00	-.28	-.33
	4	.37	.09	-.18	-.46

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Snobbism

Dislike selection based on ego-alter popularity (by cohort)

		Status Alter			
		1	2	3	4
Status Ego	1	.07	.02	-.03	-.08
	2	.17	-.10	-.15	-.21
	3	.27	-.00	-.28	-.33
	4	.37	.09	-.18	-.46

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Envy

SIENA analyses (cont.)

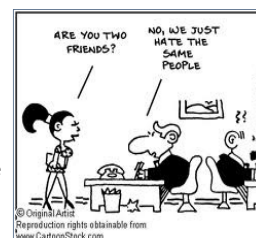
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Multiple-network effect	Friends' agreement to antipathies	.24	.17	.54*	.10

Discussion

- Antipathies should be understood as a larger peer network. Antipathetic relationships seems to have a social function associated to adolescent social goals: being popular within the peer culture.
- However, dissimilarity in social status (perceived popularity), rather than similarity, drives adolescents' choices for dislike.
  - Higher status adolescents were more likely to disliked their lower status peers, favoring the "snobbism hypothesis"
  - Partial support for the envy hypothesis among older adolescents

Co-occurring (or nested) networks...

- Multiple networks brought together to explain selection processes.
  - Friendship networks do affect dislike nominations: friends agree on whom to dislike
  - Which other networks could be considered?
    - Bully-victim relationships
    - Admiration nominations



### Future directions / limitations?

- Include other characteristics and behaviors that may affect dislike nominations (aggression? prosociality?)
- Consider other multiple-networks processes
- Assess developmental effects (cohort differences)
- Better conceptualization of antipathy. For instance
  - Competition may turn into other type of relationship
  - Snobbism may just turn into not noticing or denying

#### Limitations:

- Time interval (1 year)
- replicability



Thank you!

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