Parenting Styles and Moral Disengagement:

Unraveling Trolling in Greek Female College Students

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01. Introduction

Trolling is the intentional act of deceiving others to provoke them and cause conflict online (e.g., spamming, flaming).

Moral disengagement allows individuals to justify unethical behavior by using self-regulatory mechanisms.

Parenting styles (Rejecting, Overprotecting and Emotionally Warm) shape behavioral and moral development

Culture and gender influence trolling behaviors but female trolling and Greek culture are understudied.

There is a lack of research on parenting styles, moral disengagement and their links to trolling.

02. Hypotheses

I. Those with higher levels of trolling behaviors will score higher on the moral disengagement scale

II. Those with higher levels of trolling behaviors will score high on rejecting and overprotecting and low on warm parenting styles

III. Those with high moral disengagement scores will score high on rejecting and overprotecting and low on warm parenting styles

IV. Will parenting styles predict trolling behavior?

03. Methods

Scan below to see what being one of the participants (*N=154*) was like.

If you reach the end of the survey your responses will be immediately discarded at the end of the symposium

04. Results

Table 1

Summary of Bivariate Correlations, Means and Standard Deviations for Internet Trolling (IT) and Moral Disengagement (MDM).

Variables	IT	MDM	*M*	*SD*
Internet Trolling (IT)	-	.686**	1.86	1.03
Moral Disengagement (MD)	.686**	-	2.35	.62

*Note: *p<0.05, **p<0.01*

Table 2

Summary of Bivariate Correlations, Means, and Standard Deviations for Internet Trolling (IT), and Perceived Parenting Styles (PPS).

Variables	IT	Rejection	Emotional Warmth	(Over)Protection	*M*	*SD*
Internet Trolling (IT)	-	.382**	-.283**	.334**	1.86	1.03
Rejection (PPS)	.382**	-	-	-	2.06	.75
Emotional Warmth (PPS)	-.283**	-	-	-	2.84	.72
(Over) Protection (PPS)	.344**	-	-	-	2.59	.74

*Note: *p<0.05, **p<0.01*

Table 3

Summary of Bivariate Correlations, Means, and Standard Deviations for Moral Disengagement (MDM), and Perceived Parenting Styles (PPS).

Variables	MD	Rejection	Emotional Warmth	(Over)Protection	*M*	*SD*
Moral Disenga-gement (MDM)	-	.417**	-.302**	.306**	2.35	.62
Rejection (PPS)	.417**	-	-	-	2.06	.75
Emotional Warmth (PPS)	-.302**	-	-	-	2.84	.72
(Over) Protection (PPS)	.306**	-	-	-	2.59	.74

*Note: *p<0.05, **p<0.01*

Table 4

Summary of Regression Analysis between Perceived Parenting Styles (PPS) and Internet Trolling (IT).

Variables	Beta Coefficient	*t*	Sig.
Emotional Warmth (PPS)	-.060	-.549	.584
(Over) Protection (PPS)	.186	2.04	.043
Rejection (PPS)	.235	1.86	.065

a. Dependent Variable: Internet Trolling (IT)

05. Discussion

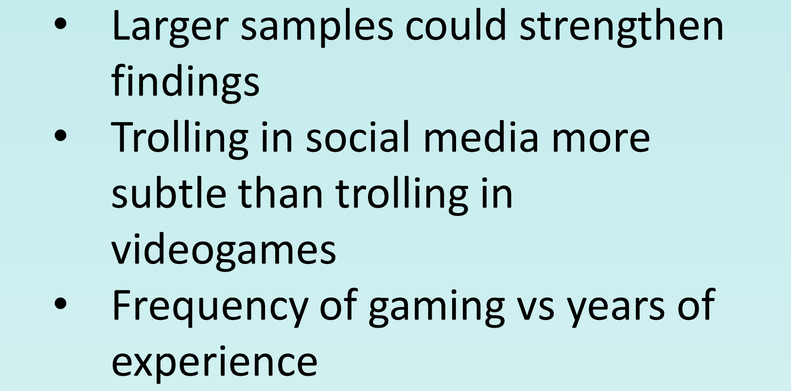
- Trolling in Greece could be viewed as justified given the political austerity
- Female trolls exist
- It is important to address family dynamics
- Rejecting and Overprotecting parenting could account for antisocial behavior like trolling
- Parenting styles could shape moral identity via social learning
- Rejecting and Overprotecting parenting styles could increase ethical detachment

06. Limitations

- Larger samples could strengthen findings
- Trolling in social media more subtle than trolling in videogames
- Frequency of gaming vs years of experience

07. Future Directions

- Develop personal and parental interventions
- Investigate possible moderators for trolling and parenting styles
- Continued interest in female gaming populations



08. References

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