

ABSTRACT

EFFECTS OF ANONYMITY ON AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIORAL RESPONSES TO ANGER-PROVOKING DRIVING SITUATIONS

The present study investigated the effects of anonymity on aggressive driving behavior. Participants imagined that they were either driving a convertible with the top down (identifiable) or an enclosed vehicle with tinted windows (anonymous). Participants rated their feelings of anonymity, frustration, and likelihood of exhibiting aggressive driving behaviors in a neutral situation, a situation in which they are behind a slow driver, and one where they are the subject of another driver's aggressive behavior. Results did not support the hypothesis that participants in an anonymous condition would engage in more aggressive driving behavior than participants in the identifiable condition. Implications for both deindividuation and frustration-aggression theory are discussed.

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