# STATE PEDAGOGICAL UNIVERSITY "ION CREANGĂ" OF CHIŞINĂU DOCTORAL SCHOOL IN PSYCHOLOGY

Cu titlu de manuscris C.Z.U:

## SĂBĂREANU LAURENŢIU-MIHAI

# THE PROFILE OF THE FAMILY AGGRESSOR. AN INTEGRATIVE MODEL OF INTERVENTION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT TO REDUCE AGGRESSION IN INMATES CONVICTED FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Specialty: 511.02 - Developmental Psychology and Educational Psychology

**Summary of the Doctoral Thesis in Psychology** 

The thesis was developed within the Doctoral School of Psychology at the State Pedagogical University "Ion Creangă" of Chişinău.

Composition of the public defense committee of the doctoral thesis:

Chair:

**Aurelia Glavan,** Doctor Habilitate in Psychology, Professor, State Pedagogical University "Ion Creangă" of Chişinău

**Thesis Supervisor:** 

Victoria Gonța, PhD in Psychology, Associate Professor, State Pedagogical University "Ion Creangă" of Chișinău

**Official Referees:** 

Mihail Şleahtiţchi, Doctor Habilitate in Psychology, Professor, Moldova State University

Andrei Holman, PhD in Psychology, Professor, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi, Romania

Svetlana Rusnac, PhD in Psychology, Associate Professor, International Free University of Moldova

The defense will take place on 24 June 2024, 4.30 pm, in the meeting of the doctoral committee within the Doctoral School of Psychology at UPSC "Ion Creangă", 1 I. Creangă Street, MD-2069, bl.2, Senate Hall.

The doctoral thesis in psychology and the abstract can be consulted at the Scientific Library of the State Pedagogical University "Ion Creangă" and on the website of ANACEC (www.anacec.md, www.cnaa.md).

The abstract was submitted on 24.05.2024

Chair of the Doctoral Committee: Aurelia Glavan, Prof. Univ., Dr. Hab.

Thesis Supervisor: Victoria Gonța, Assoc. Prof., Ph.D.

Author: Laurenţiu-Mihai Săbăreanu

© Laurentiu-Mihai Săbăreanu, 2024

## **CONTENTS**

List of abbreviations	4
Conceptual research milestones	5
Thesis content	12
General conclusions and recommendations	23
Bibliography	25
List of the author's publications on the thesis topic	27
Annotation (in Romanian, English and Russian)	20

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (Romanian language)

**AGT- General Aggression Score** 

AF -Physical aggression,

**AV- Verbal Aggressiveness** 

AGV- antisocial/generally violent aggressors

**ASS-Antisocial subtype aggressors** 

**DB- Dysphoric/borderline aggressors** 

NP- non-pathological aggressors

**O- Hostility** 

PDD- depressive personality disorder

PPPD- paranoid personality disorder

TPNa- narcissistic personality disorder

TPBo-borderline personality disorder

TPAS- antisocial personality disorder

FV - domestic violence

DV - domestic violence

IPV - intimate partner violence

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (English language)

AQ - Aggression Questionnaire

**BDHI - Buss-Durkee Hostility Inventory** 

**BPAQ - Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire** 

**BPAQ-SF- Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire-Short Form** 

**CBT - Cognitive behavioral therapy** 

**GAM - The General Aggression Model** 

#### **CONCEPTUAL RESEARCH MILESTONES**

#### The topicality and importance of the research

The problem of domestic violence in general, and the psychology of the victim and the domestic abuser in particular, is broad and complex. The various approaches have generated multiple concepts, theories, typologies and models, the movement of which from one scientific field to another, their mutual interspersion and reappearance in a more or less renovated form makes it difficult to identify them.

The issue of domestic violence (DV) and the methods of reducing this phenomenon has long been overdue in catching the attention of researchers, even though it has always been relevant to society. For a considerable period, aggression and violence within families were regarded as legitimate and justified matters, perpetuated through cultural mentalities as a moral and normative condition in the consciousness of many traditional societies. However, starting from the 1970s, with the development of culture and feminist and egalitarian movements, domestic violence (DV) became a concern for the health sphere and public policies in many countries. It has been universally recognized not only for the sufferings of the victims but also for the considerable costs it imposes on the medical, legal-legislative, social assistance, and economic systems [25].

In this regard, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted Resolution WHA 49.25 in 1996, declaring domestic violence (DV) a priority for the health system and urging member states of the United Nations (UN) to eliminate violence against women and children. Today, it is universally recognized that DV represents a threat to the safety, freedom, health, and integrity of individuals. This has prompted the international community to place the fight against family violence within the paradigm of protecting the fundamental rights of the child and of humans recognized by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (November 29, 1989), the United Nations Declaration on Violence Against Women (Resolution 48/104/20.12.1993), the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (May 11, 2011), as well as other international documents recommending states to take all necessary political, administrative, and financial measures to prevent and combat the phenomenon. In Romania, as in the Republic of Moldova, the concern for domestic violence (DV) has been articulated "largely due to external pressures, the need to align with European and international standards and, especially, to the dimension of protection and assistance provided to the victim, whether a child or a woman" [21, p.5]. Consequently, Romania, as an EU member state, has aligned its legislative framework with European and global standards (National Strategy against Family Violence, Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence, ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, etc.).

Although significant progress has been made in Romania regarding DV awareness campaigns, prevention, and legislation, in 2022 there were over 70,000 cases of DV registered [23], and in the first months of this year, there was a 3.6% increase in DV cases compared to the same period of the previous year [18]. These figures demonstrate that tolerance for acts of domestic violence remains high in Romania, with aggressors, victims, and acts of DV remaining highly relevant.

The present research aligns with the ongoing concerns of specialists worldwide regarding the reduction of the incidence of DV, which gives it undeniable importance, especially considering the unanimous agreement on the need to understand the phenomenon in its complexity.

The importance of studying the subject is determined by the insufficient research dedicated to family aggressors and methods of reducing aggression.

In Romanian society, as in most societies worldwide, family aggressors "are predominantly male (91.1%), a situation that extends to trends observed in homicides in general or in violent crime" [2, p. 28], thus we considered it opportune for the study to focus on individuals criminally convicted for acts of DV, serving custodial sentences in Romanian penitentiaries.

**Description of the research field and identification of the research problem.** In recent decades, the complex issue of domestic violence (DV) has remained in the spotlight of researchers, both nationally and globally. It is recognized that the effective approach to family violence requires close collaboration between various sectors, such as the justice system, social services, healthcare system, and education, giving it an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary character. Thus, DV has become a subject of interest for researchers from various fields: psychology, sociology, pedagogy, jurisprudence, medicine, and even economics, taking into account the social, economic, cultural, and psychological dimensions of the phenomenon.

Currently, the international specialized literature on the topic of family violence is extensive and diverse, but somewhat limited when it comes to research focusing on the personality dimensions of family aggressors, especially within the prison environment. In this context, our research objective is to analyze the relationships that may exist between the manifestations of family aggression and the pathological and non-pathological dimensions of personality, coping mechanisms, experiences of violence in the family of origin, and substance use. In this regard, as epistemological landmarks in conceptualizing the research of the selected variables, a series of works and experimental endeavors have served as references:

*Internationally*, the issue of DV and aggressive behavior has been studied by several authors: ABRAHAMS, N., MATHEWS, S., MARTIN, L.J., LOMBARD, C., ALLEN, J.J., ANDERSON, C.A. BUSHMAN, B.J. BANDURA, A., among others. Personality dimensions of aggressors have been of interest to the following researchers: J. GUNN and J. GRISTWOOD, 1975, TALLEY, A., ARLIN, B.J. JEFFREY, V.C., CAMLIBEL,

D.A., CAN, S.H., HENDY, H.M., COLEMAN, D.H., COOPER, A., SMITH, E.L., CUNHA, O., GONÇALVES, R.A., and others. Significant contributions on the incidence of Personality Disorders in cases of violence are found in works by: HUSS, M.T., DUTTON, D.G., BODNARCHUK, M. LOGAN, C., JOHNSTONE, L.; Some authors have created research instruments on aggression and violent behavior: A. H. BUSS, A. DURKEE, 1957, BUSS, A.H., PERRY, M.; Several authors have evaluated the impact of various recovery programs for DV victims: ECKHARDT, C.I., MURPHY, C.M., WHITAKER, D.J., SPRUNGER, J., DYKSTRA, R., WOODARD, K.; Intervention programs on aggression in the prison environment can be found in works by: BENNETT, L., STOOPS, C., CALL, C., FLETT, H., VINCENT, N., 2002, HUSS, M.T., LANGHINRICHSEN-ROHLING, J.

In Romania, significant research on DV issues is signed in various professional areas: Social intervention in domestic violence: LIICEANU, A., SAUCAN, D.Ş., MICLE, M.I., CÎMPEANU, I.; About the meanings and social implications of violent crime: DIMA, G., BELDIANU, I.F., MIHAIU, S., 2021; STOICAN, G., 2020, LIICEANU, A., SAUCAN, D.Ş., MICLE, M.I., 2004, BALICA, E., 2009; Important sources on the perspective of gender policies and Romanian feminist currents are found in: MIHĂILESCU, Ş., 2002, POPESCU, L., 2009; From the psychological perspective of DV, trauma through violence, and the profile of the victim and family aggressor, important studies are found in: TURLIUC, M.N., 2009, MITROFAN, N., CIULUVICĂ, C., 2012, MUNTEAN, D., BONEA, G.V., 2018, D. NASTAS, 2002.

In the Republic of Moldova, the issue of DV has been approached more from the perspective of its impact on the victim: RUSNAC, S., GONŢA, V., CLIVADĂ, S., ZMUNCILA, L., 2009, 2018; BODRUG-LUNGU, V., I. RACU, 2014, IU. RACU, 2020, 2021, BOLEA, Z., 2017. Among the authors who directly or tangentially addressed the issue of victimological prevention of crimes committed through violence, we mention the following authors: GLADCHI GH., MARTÎNCIC EV., BACIU GH., RUSNAC S., SÂMBOTEANU D., DOLEA I., RAILEAN D., BUJOR V., LARII I., CIOBANU I., BEJAN O., ŢURCAN V., BÎRGĂU M., BRÎNZĂ S., STATI V., GRAMA M., MANOLE-TĂRANU, D.

Examining the theoretical landmarks of research and synthesizing experiences in the field has led to the identification of the following contradictions: Once recognized as a social problem, DV has become a heavily researched topic, seeking to understand its nature and causes, as well as identifying types of aggressors. In this regard, traditional approaches have conceptualized and described DV as a crime in which a male aggressor abuses his partner to control and dominate her, to make her do what he wants, without considering her rights. Feminist analyses, in particular, have highlighted the "power and control" type of aggressor [26, p.6], but have not highlighted a clear profile based on personality traits, dimensions, and predictors of violent behavior.

Family aggressors, generally violent men, have been classified into homogeneous subgroups based on individual characteristics such as pathological personality traits and the nature and frequency of violence [15]. At the same time, there is a significant number of theoretical and empirical studies regarding typologies of family aggressors advocating for the reconceptualization of DV as a heterogeneous phenomenon.

Therapy for aggressors, on the other hand, has a relatively short history, with the first attempts mentioned during the establishment of the first shelters for battered women [7]. Meta-analyses conducted to date have revealed contradictory data regarding the effectiveness of court-mandated therapy for DV/IP offenders. Subsequent, more methodologically rigorous studies have presented mixed results regarding the effectiveness of therapy for male aggressors. Recent analyses on the effectiveness of interventions for family aggressors have revealed contradictory results [7]. Moreover, there is no evidence to demonstrate that one program or type of intervention is more effective than another. Classic intervention programs are based either on a feminist model, a cognitive-behavioral model, or a combination of the two, making it unlikely to provide a significant solution to the DV problem. For this reason, it is necessary to explore new programs and/or approaches to DV [27].

Thus, the described social context generates the research problem, which consists in resolving the contradiction between the acute need to reduce violent behavior among family aggressors and the lack of psychological intervention programs for inmates convicted of family violence, experimentally verified.

**Research aim**: Identification of the family aggressor profile in Romania, criminally convicted for DV, based on personality traits and dimensions and experimental validation of the Integrative Intervention Program for Aggression Reduction, eligible for implementation in the prison environment.

**Research Hypothesis**: The profile of family aggressors, criminally convicted for DV, will be heterogeneous, including not only aggressiveness but also a series of personality traits relevant to the association with DV, as well as some psychosocial factors associated with predictors of violent behavior. Furthermore, the reduction of aggressiveness will be possible through the application of a well-oriented integrative psychological intervention program implemented in the prison environment.

#### **Research Objectives:**

- 1. Determining the conceptual references defining aggressiveness and DV, the profile of family aggressors, triggering factors, and psycho-social intervention in cases of domestic violence.
- 2. Analyzing the validity, fidelity, and internal consistency of the Romanian version of the Aggression Questionnaire (AQ) developed by A.H. Buss and M. Perry (1991).

- 3. Identifying types of aggression in men serving sentences for DV offenses and identifying the profile of family aggressors based on personality dimensions, cognitive-emotional coping strategies, and emotional distress.
- 4. Examining differences between types of aggressors based on substance use and experiences of violence in the family of origin.
- 5. Developing and validating the Integrative Intervention Program for Aggression Reduction among male offenders convicted of DV.
- 6. Establishing a particular theoretical framework and new scientific knowledge specific to the DV domain from the perspective of influencing the profile of family aggressors to reduce the phenomenon.

The research methodology is represented by theories of aggression (J. Dollard, 1939, R.A. Baron and D.R. Richardson, 1994, C.D. Spielberger, G. Jacobs, S. Russell, and R.S. Crane, 1983, C.A. Anderson and B.J. Bushman, 2002); explanatory theories of DV (A. Bandura, Jean-Marie Domenach, 1978, L.E. Walker, 2009, A. Ruddle, 2017); conceptions regarding personality dimensions correlated with aggressiveness (M. McMahon, E. Pence, 1996, P.T. Costa, 1989, K. Hennig, 2005, J.P. Sharpe, S. Desai, 2001); psychological conceptions regarding the specifics of DV and violent couple relationships (O.W. Barnett, R.W. Fagan, J.M. Booker, 1991).

The study was conducted on different samples of inmates serving custodial sentences in several penitentiaries in the South-Muntenia Region of Romania, respecting ethical and legal norms, depending on the research objectives.

Given the exclusively quantitative nature of the research, the test method was used. In this sense, the instruments used in the study were carefully selected to measure the proposed variables to be investigated, standardized, and adapted to the Romanian population. Thus, for measuring aggressiveness, it was considered necessary to adapt and validate the Aggression Questionnaire AQ on the delinquent population. For assessing personality traits, the Zuckerman-Kuhlman Personality Questionnaire (ZKPQ) was used. Cognitive-emotional coping traits were evaluated using the CERQ instrument developed by Garnefski, Kraaij, and Spinhoven (2002). Personality dimensions were assessed using the SCID-II personality questionnaire (DSM-IV), a semi-structured diagnostic interview assessing the 10 personality disorders on Axis II of the DSM-IV, as well as Depressive Personality Disorder and Passive-Aggressive Personality Disorder (included in Appendix B of DSM-IV). To assess the risk of aggression, the C1 Questionnaire, a structured interview grid used in the prison environment, was used. Each instrument was accompanied by scales for collecting socio-demographic and criminological data.

The research hypotheses were formulated in accordance with the objectives proposed for each stage of the research. For the analysis and validation of hypotheses, a series of multivariate statistical analyzes and processing appropriate to each analysis were used. Thus, the operationalization of the AQ aggression instrument involved factorial and validity analysis, identifying the aggressor profile involved cluster analysis, hierarchical, and k-means. Moreover, variance analyses (MANOVA and univariate ANOVA, as well as two-way ANOVA MR) or correlational analyses (Pearson correlation, bilateral) were used.

To analyze the effectiveness of the program developed to reduce aggression in individuals convicted of DV offenses, the method of a single-group experiment was used, considering that the research was conducted in the prison environment, which makes randomization and creating equivalent treatment groups difficult. Evaluation was performed at three time points (pre-test-intermediate-post-test).

The scientific novelty and originality consist of: creating a reference framework for addressing the DV phenomenon from the perspective of family aggressors; scientific configuration, validation, and adaptation to the delinquent population of a questionnaire for measuring aggressiveness; conducting extensive theoretical-empirical research regarding the personality dimensions of family aggressors, criminally convicted for DV in Romania; identifying the peculiarities of cognitive-emotional coping strategies and emotional distress in different types of aggressors; developing the psychological profile of family aggressors; identifying psychosocial predictors of DV in family aggressors; theoretical foundation of the integrative model of psychological intervention regarding aggression reduction in male offenders convicted of DV.

**Theoretical Significance**: The research's theoretical significance arises from scientific knowledge of the meaning of aggression and DV, the study of the evolution of DV research, conceptualization of personality dimensions and predictors of DV in the literature, grounding the instrumental basis for determining types of family aggressors, establishing particular aspects of DV and its correlates, structuring the psychological profile of family aggressors, and providing theoretical foundation for the Integrative Intervention Program aimed at reducing aggressiveness.

#### **Practical Value:**

- The research's practical value lies in the selection and adaptation of research instruments related to types of aggression in men serving custodial sentences for DV offenses, fundamental personality dimensions, cognitive-emotional coping strategies, and emotional distress;
- Additionally, the research experimentally investigates the personality dimensions of family aggressors criminally convicted for DV in Romania;
- Develops and validates the Integrative Intervention Program aimed at reducing aggressiveness in male offenders convicted of DV,

- Formulates theoretical conclusions and practical recommendations for psychologists, prison psychologists, contributing to the promotion of psychological knowledge and practical support in working with offenders.
- The results can be used as educational material in the continuous training and professional development of specialists in the penitentiary system.

#### **Research Results Contributing to Addressing the Scientific Problem:**

- 1. The adaptation and validation of the Aggression Questionnaire AQ on the delinquent Romanian population resulted in obtaining a valuable instrument with significant psychometric qualities. The empirical process revealed a valid, reliable instrument for assessing aggressiveness and its secondary traits among offenders. In this regard, 24 items were retained that load the factors Anger-F (9 items), Physical Aggressiveness-FA (7 items), Hostility-O (5 items), Verbal Aggressiveness-AV (3 items), as well as the overall Aggressiveness score-AGT that includes all items of the questionnaire, i.e. the sum of the factor scores. The factor analysis of the main components supporting the original structure of the AQ with four factors, in accordance with the model proposed by the authors that can successfully complement the battery of aggression assessment tests in prisoners.
- 2. The research identified a profile of aggressors among men convicted for DV offenses. The investigative process included the use of aggression questionnaire factors translated and validated, as well as a series of personality traits relevant to association with DV. The results indicated four clusters, four typologies of aggressors termed as non-pathological aggressors (NP), dysphoric/borderline aggressors (DB), antisocial/general violent aggressors (AV), and subtypes of antisocial aggressors (ASS). Differences were demonstrated between types of aggressors regarding substance use, as a predictive factor for DV.
- 3. Additionally, the study showed differences between types of aggressors concerning exposure to violence in the family of origin. The research results indicated that the familial aggressor profile in the Romanian context is similar to that of offenders worldwide, revealing coherence between types of aggressors, both in general aspects and specific characteristics.
- 4. An Integrative Intervention Program for aggressors was developed based on national and international standards, taking into account participants' needs. The program's effectiveness analysis, following specialized literature in the field, demonstrated significant effect sizes and high-test power for all variables of interest associated with DV, indicating the program's robustness. The results demonstrate subjects' willingness to change, assuming responsibility for their actions, and decreasing aggressiveness and negative beliefs about women, particularly partners.

5. The research successfully developed an empirically validated intervention program for aggressors. The quasi-experimental design of the research was deemed acceptable, considering both the number of program participants and the challenges of subject randomization in the prison environment.

The results enable a deeper understanding of the profile of men who commit domestic violence offenses and demonstrate the effectiveness of an intervention program, paving the way for the development of new programs aimed at reducing the phenomenon of domestic violence in Romania. The thesis fills knowledge gaps in the context of Romanian domestic violence by integrating the perpetrator's profile, developing aggression assessment tools, and providing methodological guidelines for psychological intervention.

The scientific results have been approved and implemented through their dissemination in doctoral committee meetings at the "Ion Creangă" University Doctoral School of Psychology, through publications in scientific journals: ICER12022 Proceedings, 2022, Spania; European Proceedings of Educational Sciences, EpES; Journal of Criminology, Criminalistics and Penology, București; in collections of papers from international scientific conferences: EduLearn, 15th annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies, Palma de Mallorca (Spania); 2nd International Conference on Social Sciences, Humanities and Education; 1st International violence and prevention of violence congress book, Turcia; International Conference "Education from the Perspective of the Future Classroom Concept", 2020-2023, Chișinău, Moldova; and national Issues of socio-humanistic sciences and modernization of education, Chișinău. Eleven scientific papers have been published on the research topic. The intervention program has been approved by the Directorate of Penitentiaries and proposed for implementation in the Romanian prison system.

The thesis is structured into four chapters: introduction, three analytical chapters, general conclusions and recommendations, accompanied by bibliography and annexes.

**Key concepts** addressed include: domestic violence, aggression, family perpetrator, prison environment, and inmates.

#### THESIS CONTENT

**The Introduction** presents arguments regarding the relevance and importance of the research problem, describes the situation in the research field, states the problem, aim, objectives of the research, and the research methodology.

**Chapter 1 of the thesis**, titled "Family Perpetrator: Typologies and Interventions," is dedicated to analyzing the theoretical framework of the investigated problem and presents: concepts of aggression and violence, the concept of domestic violence and domestic violence theories. In the context of the research, a working

definition of domestic violence (DV) is formulated, types of perpetrators identified in the literature on domestic violence, and intervention programs for family perpetrators are discussed. In this chapter, the work focused on analyzing the literature to define theoretical constructs that would allow experimental research on the profile of family perpetrators among men convicted of DV and the development of an intervention program to reduce their aggression.

The theoretical synthesis revealed that aggression and violence are complex heterogeneous constructs that have attracted significant attention from researchers, not only due to the magnitude of the problem but also because of their personal, social, and legal consequences.

The empirical theories presented provide different explanatory frameworks for conceptualizing DV. To enhance the conceptual clarity of DV, a working definition of DV was developed, encompassing all documented forms of intentional violence (emotional/psychological violence, physical violence, sexual aggression/abuse, controlling/threatening behavior, and coercion), systematically and repetitively applied, primarily between intimate partners (boyfriend and girlfriend, married, long-term relationships) and towards children (whether from the relationship or outside it), with the goal of dominating and controlling the partner. Representative studies identified in the literature on perpetrator typology were selected for this research. It is noted that cluster-based typology, which includes violence severity and generality, perpetrator psychopathology, and type of pathology, as predictors of aggression, enjoys considerable support from researchers. However, unanimity regarding this typology has not yet been demonstrated.

The analysis of the literature on intervention for perpetrators demonstrates a significant number of studies regarding intervention effectiveness. The analyzed studies show that interventions for DV perpetrators have gained considerable momentum worldwide, aiming to prevent or at least reduce the prevalence of this form of violence. However, the evaluation of the effectiveness of these programs has revealed different results.

The second chapter of the thesis, "Profile of Family Perpetrators among Men Convicted of Domestic Violence in Romania: Descriptive Research," is dedicated to presenting and analyzing the results of descriptive research on the profile of family perpetrators among a Romanian sample of men serving custodial sentences for acts of DV, applying methods similar to those in previous investigations identified in the literature, but using a different set of instruments.

The research objectives were as follows:

- Validation study of the Romanian version of the Aggression Questionnaire (AQ) developed by A.H. Buss and M. Perry (1991). Analysis of internal consistency of the Aggression Questionnaire.

- Identification of a profile of familial aggressor based on personality dimensions, emotional distress, rumination as a cognitive-emotional coping strategy, and instrumental aggression in men serving sentences for domestic violence offenses.
- Examination of possible differences between types of aggressors regarding substance use and exposure to violence in the family of origin.

The literature review revealed the Aggression Questionnaire developed by A.H. Buss and M. Perry (1992) as a widely used diagnostic instrument for aggression in populations of different ages [1], including studies conducted on inmates, both male and female [22], leading to its selection as the assessment tool for aggression in the present study. Moreover, the questionnaire is based on a clear theoretical model and has demonstrated excellent psychometric properties [9].

The validation study was conducted on a sample of inmates serving custodial sentences in several penitentiaries in the South-Muntenia Region of Romania, from October 2021 to March 2022.

The sample included 363 men convicted for various offenses. Of these, 116 (31.95%) were serving sentences for crimes such as murder, manslaughter, rape, domestic violence, pimping, and human trafficking. The participants had a mean age of 39.39 years (SD = 12.34), ranging from 20 to 72 years. 121 participants were married (33.6%), and 115 of them (31.9%) were in a relationship. 167 (46.4%) participants had at least eight years of education.

In this study, we integrated the four factors of the original version of the AQ: 1) Physical aggression (nine items); 2) Verbal aggression (five items); 3) Anger (seven items); and 4) Hostility (eight items).

Factorial data analysis method was used to test the structure of the main components. Therefore, by the nature of the method, the obtained data were subjected to correlation analysis. The results revealed significant correlations (p <0.001) between the questionnaire items, indicating the reduction of dimensionality. Additionally, the multicollinearity of the data was analyzed (VIF <10) to determine the individual contribution of variables to a factor. Based on the scores obtained from the subjects, descriptive statistical indicators were calculated, which were relevant to the Gaussian distribution of responses.

Regarding reliability, internal consistency was evaluated using Cronbach's Alpha ( $\alpha$ ). The results showed excellent internal consistency indices for all items. Also, relevant internal consistency indices were obtained for each factor identified in the factorial analysis, as well as for the total aggression score. The internal consistency indices obtained indicate that a standardized questionnaire for assessing aggression in the delinquent population was obtained, which is stable and relevant: for the Anger factor,  $\alpha = 0.81$ , for the Physical aggression factor  $\alpha = 0.86$ , for the Hostility factor  $\alpha = 0.81$ , and for the Verbal aggression factor  $\alpha = 0.73$ .

Regarding discriminant validity, the four subscales of the AQ showed positive intercorrelations. The results showed high correlations between verbal aggression and physical aggression (r = 0.654, p = 0.000). Anger correlated significantly with verbal aggression (r = 0.616, p = 0.000), physical aggression (r = 0.541, p = 0.000), and hostility (r = 0.479, p = 0.000). Hostility correlated significantly with physical aggression (r = 0.410, p = 0.000) and verbal aggression (r = 0.350, p = 0.000). All these results signify that each factor captures a different characteristic of the aggression construct. Significant correlations between the four factors identified in the confirmatory analysis were also obtained by N. H. Mazlan and A. Ahmad (2012) in a sample of incarcerated women. A.H. Buss and M. Perry demonstrated significant associations between factors in the original study [6].

Considering the significant correlations between the questionnaire factors, based on the subjects' responses, the score for the total Aggression score was calculated, i.e., the sum of the subfactors' scores. Cronbach's alpha for the entire questionnaire is  $\alpha = 0.97$ .

Regarding the profile of the familial aggressor, the research hypotheses were as follows:

- 1. The profile of the familial aggressor is heterogeneous.
- 2. There are differences between types of aggressors regarding substance use.
- 3. There are differences between types of aggressors regarding exposure to violence in the family of origin.

The assessment instruments were carefully selected, operationalizing personality traits with the Zuckerman-Kuhlman Personality Questionnaire (ZKPQ) [28], cognitive-emotional coping traits were assessed using the CERQ instrument [11], personality dimensions were evaluated with the SCID-II (DSM-IV) personality questionnaire, and the risk of aggression was evaluated using Questionnaire C1, a structured interview grid used in the penitentiary environment. Additionally, the analysis included the Aggression Questionnaire (AQ).

The research was conducted on a sample of inmates, which included 173 men convicted for various domestic violence offenses. Among them, 104 (60.46%) were serving custodial sentences for crimes such as murder, manslaughter, assault causing death, rape, and family violence. The participants' age ranged from 21 to 70 years (M=38.76; SD=11.217). 100 subjects had completed junior high school, 8 grades (61.3%), 40 had completed 10 grades (23.3%), and 33 had completed 12 grades (15.4%).

For investigating the profile of the familial aggressor, in line with previous research strategies [13, 14, 16, 17, 19], the selected variables were subjected to hierarchical analysis to obtain empirical subtypes. The following variables were selected to create the clusters: depressive personality disorder (DPD), paranoid personality disorder (PPD), narcissistic personality disorder (NPD), borderline personality disorder (BPD), antisocial personality disorder (ASPD), personality traits impulsivity, neuroticism-anxiety, and aggression-

hostility, rumination as a cognitive-emotional coping strategy, and instrumental aggression traits, namely physical aggression and hostility.

To estimate the number of clusters, a dendrogram was used to analyze the overall solution provided; secondly, the number of cases in each cluster was analyzed; thirdly, the literature on typologies of aggressors was reviewed [17].

For the present research, hierarchical analysis was considered a favorable solution, allowing the creation of aggressor subgroups. For the k-means cluster analysis, z-transformations were performed for all variable scores to standardize the measurement intervals.

Subsequently, to validate the hierarchical analysis, a k-means partitioning analysis of the obtained clusters was performed. Based on the group means for the studied variables, 72 subjects (41.6%) were grouped into cluster 1 and were named non-pathological aggressors (NP), 21 subjects (12.1%) were grouped into cluster 2, named dysphoric/borderline (DB), 28 subjects (16.2%) were grouped into cluster 3, named antisocial/general violent (AV), and 52 subjects (30.1%) were grouped into cluster 4 and were named antisocial subtype (ASS). The representation of aggressors across clusters was similar  $\chi 2(24) = 92.94$ , p=0.000. Overall, these results resemble the typology proposed by A. Holtzworth-Munroe and colleagues (2000) [12].

To verify the significance of the combination of variables included in the analysis, MANOVA analysis was used. The analysis showed a significant multivariate result of the "aggressor type" factor, Pillai's = 1.597, F(36, 480) = 34.93, p <0.001. Additionally, the effect size was statistically significant  $\eta p$  2 = .981, and the test power was high  $1-\beta = 1.00$ .

ANOVA analysis revealed significant differences mediated by the type of aggressor for physical aggression, explaining 49.6% of the variance [F(3,169)=55.35, p=0.000]. The effect size was high ( $\eta$ p2 = .49), and the observed power was also high (1- $\beta$  = 1.00). Post-hoc comparison with Bonferroni correction demonstrated that AV type (M=21.46) and DB type (M=13.42) reported significantly more physical aggression compared to NP type (M=11.33) and ASS type (M=12.59). Significant differences were also recorded regarding hostility as an aggression trait, with AV type (M=9.39) and DB type (M=8.90) reporting significantly higher averages compared to the other types, namely NP (M=5.97) and ASS (M=7.17), explaining 49.9% of the variance [F(3,169)=56.01, p=0.001]. The effect size was high ( $\eta$ p2 = .49), and the observed power was also high (1- $\beta$  = 1.00).

Regarding personality traits, post-hoc comparison with Bonferroni correction demonstrated that DB type (M=10.38) and ASS type (M=9.23) reported a marked impulsive trait compared to AV type (M=6.57) and NP type (M=5.93), explaining 35% of the variance [F(3,169)=55.35, p=0.000]. The effect size, above 0.14, was high ( $\eta p2 = .35$ ), with the observed power also being high (1- $\beta = 1.00$ ). For the aggression-hostility trait,

significant differences were noted between the identified aggressor types, with DB type (M=9.76) recording higher rates compared to AV type (M=1.71), ASS type (M=3.37), and NP type (M=1.5), explaining 61.8% of the variance [F(3,169)=91.12, p=0.000]. The effect size was high ( $\eta$ p2 = .61), with the observed power also being high (1- $\beta$  = 1.00). The neuroticism-anxiety trait was characteristic of DB type (M=11.14), explaining 54% of the variance [F(3,169)=66.5, p=0.000]. Post-hoc analysis with Bonferroni correction indicated significant differences between DB type and NP type (M=3.84), ASS type (M=8.98), and AV type (M=5.96) [F(3, 169)=30.35, p=0.000,  $\eta$ p 2=0.54, 1- $\beta$ =1].

Regarding the depressive component, post-hoc comparison with Bonferroni correction revealed significant differences for depression, with DB type (M=4.38) reporting significantly higher rates compared to NP type (M=1.43), AV type (M=1.92), and ASS type (M=3.21), [F(3,169)=36.86, p=0.000]. The effect size was high ( $\eta p2 = .39$ ), with the observed power also being high ( $1-\beta = 1.00$ ).

High rates are also recorded in the dysphoric component of personality for the DB type (M=5.52), compared to the NP type (M=2.59), AV type (M=3.00), and ASS type (M=4.22) [F(3,169)=27.17, p=0.000]. The effect size is large ( $\eta p2 = .32$ ), and the observed power is also high (1- $\beta$  = 1.00).

Regarding the affective factor, post-hoc tests with Bonferroni correction revealed significant differences between the DB type (M=9.33) and the ASS type (M=8.25) and between the NP types (M=3.73) and AV types (M=5.82) [F(3,169)=46.26, p=0.000] for the narcissistic dimension of personality. The effect size is large ( $\eta$ p2 = .45), and the observed power is also high (1- $\beta$  = 1.00). Additionally, the affective component of the borderline trait is much more prominent for the DB type (M=9.85) compared to the other types of aggressors, namely NP (M=2.37), AV (M=2.92), and ASS (M=5.28) [F(3,169)=68.92, p=0.000,  $\eta$ p2=0.55, 1- $\beta$ =1]. Lastly, the analysis of variance indicated significant differences for the antisocial facet, explaining 44.7% of the variance. Posthoc tests with Bonferroni correction demonstrated that AV aggressors (M=9.85) and ASS (M=4.28) exhibit more antisocial behaviors compared to NP types (M=2.16) and DB types (M=2.64) [F(3,169)=45.49, p=0.000] for the narcissistic dimension of personality. The effect size is large ( $\eta$ p2 = .55), and the observed power is also high (1- $\beta$  = 1.00).

Emotional distress characterizes the DB type (M=47.04) more, multivariate analyses indicating significant differences compared to other types [F(3, 169)=11.88, p=0.000,  $\eta$ p2=0.174, 1- $\beta$ =1].

For the rumination trait, as a cognitive-emotional coping mechanism, the differences in means between aggressor subtypes are less significant, namely NP (M=12.77), DB (M=12.61), AV (M=12.46), with a higher average observed in the ASS type (M=14.25), explaining only 4% of the variation [F(3, 169)=2.91, p=0.000,  $\eta p = 0.04$ , 1- $\beta = 0.04$ , 1- $\beta = 0.04$ . The results are presented in Table 1.

The group of aggressors called non-pathological, cluster 1, is the type of aggressor described in the specialized literature as "the family-only fighter," because outside the family, they adopt an attitude and behavior that are appropriate [15, 19].

Cluster two, the type of aggressors called dysphoric/borderline (12.1%), is characterized by psychological suffering. This type of aggressors does not seek to censor their emotions or personal shortcomings.

Cluster three, called antisocial/general violent, can be described as the most violent category, committing frequent acts of severe domestic violence, including psychological and sexual abuse.

Cluster four, the antisocial subtype, is usually more moderate in domestic or extrafamilial violence, despite somewhat similar characteristics to the antisocial/general violent type.

Table 1. Multivariate analysis of the effect between types of aggressors

	NP (72)		DB (21)		AV (28) ASS (52)			) F		ηp <sup>2</sup>	1-β
	M	SD	M	SD	M	AS	M	SD		•	
Depressive_Trait	1.43	1.19	4.38	1.43	1.92	1.27	3.21	1.43	36.86***	.396	1.00
Paranoid_Trait	2.59	1.62	5.52	1.16	3.00	1.78	4.28	1.25	27.17***	.325	1.00
Narcissistic_Trait	3.73	2.28	9.33	2.83	5.82	2.91	8.25	2.38	46.26***	.451	1.00
Borderline_Trait	2.37	2.20	9.85	2.63	2.92	2.14	5.28	2.09	68.95***	.550	1.00
Antisocial_Trait	2.16	2.25	2.64	2.59	9.85	3.71	4.28	2.91	45.49***	.447	1.00
Rumination	12.77	3.48	12.61	2.24	12.46	3.03	14.25	3.31	2.91***	.049	.687
Emotional_distress	24.84	17.17	47.04	18.83	31.50	18.99	40.75	19.57	11.88***	.174	1.00
Impulsivity	5.93	2.36	10.38	2.57	6.57	1.91	9.23	2.63	30.33***	.350	1.00
Neuroticism	3.84	2.54	11.14	3.35	5.96	2.63	8.98	2.10	66.05***	.540	1.00
Aggression- Hostility	1.50	1.81	9.76	2.73	1.71	1.32	3.34	2.40	91.12***	.618	1.00
Physical_aggressio n	11.33	2.83	13.42	3.57	21.46	4.36	12.59	2.91	55.35***	.496	1.00
Hostility	5.97	3.46	8.90	2.01	9.39	2.07	7.17	1.11	56.01***	.499	1.00

Note. NP = Non-pathological; DB = Dysphoric/borderline; AV = Antisocial/Violent; ASS = Antisocial. \*p < .05. \*\*p < .01. \*\*\*p < .001.

To test the hypothesis of the study, which stated that There are differences between types of aggressors regarding substance use, an analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used. The statistical processing of the data revealed significant differences between types of aggressors and substance use [F(3, 169)=26.945, p=0.000,  $\eta p2 = .324$ ,  $1-\beta = 1.00$ ] (Table 2.19.). Post-hoc analysis demonstrated significant differences between the AV type (M=25.42) and the NP (M=14.77), DB (M=17.71), and ASS (M=17.32) types regarding substance use, p<0.001. The effect size is significant ( $\eta p2 = .324$ ), and the power of the test is high ( $1-\beta = 1.00$ ).

Table 2. Analysis of variance of the substance use variable effect

Tip	Media	AS	N	F	ηp <sup>2</sup>	1-β
NP	14.77	3.84	72		-	
DB	17.71	4.73	21			
AV	25.42	7.89	28	26.945***	.324	1.00
ASS	17.32	5.62	52			
Total	17.62	6.41	173			

<sup>\*</sup>Note: N=173; df(3,169); p<0.001; NP-non-pathological type; DB-dysphoric/borderline type; AV-antisocial/general violent type; ASS-antisocial subtype

Substance abuse significantly discriminates one abuser from another, as relevant scores for substance use were recorded in the general violent aggressor type (M=25.42).

Regarding the third hypothesis of the study, there are differences between types of aggressors regarding exposure to violence in the family of origin to verify this, we also used one-way ANOVA to investigate the effect of exposure to violence in the family of origin on types of aggressors. The statistical processing of the data revealed significant differences between types of aggressors and violence in the family [F(3, 169)=40.2016, p=0.000,  $\eta$ p2 = .416, 1- $\beta$  = 1.00] (Table 2.21.). Post-hoc analysis demonstrated significant differences between the AV type (M=11.57) and the NP (M=6.83), DB (M=7.78), and ASS (M=7.81) types regarding violence in the family of origin, p<0.001.

Table 3. Analysis of variance of the family violence variable effect

Tip	Media	AS	N	N F		1-β
NP	6.83	1.43	72			
DB	7.78	1.79	21			
AV	11.57	2.66	28	40.216***	.417	1.00
ASS	7.81	2.17	52			
Total	8.01	2.53	173			

<sup>\*</sup>Note: N=173; df(3,169); p<0.001; NP-non-pathological type; DB-dysphoric/borderline type; AV-antisocial/general violent type; ASS-antisocial subtype

According to the social theory of aggression, the initiation, production, and maintenance of aggressive behavior in a specific situation depend on: the experiences an individual has in violent situations, including their own aggressive behaviors and those observed in others (observing other people exhibiting aggressive behavior causes emotional arousal in observers, increasing the likelihood of imitating aggression and even intensifying it); the degree of success of aggressive behaviors exhibited by the individual themselves or observed in others (a disinhibitory function of a model teaches observers that they can get away without being punished for aggressive behavior); the likelihood that aggression will be socially rewarded or even self-

administered praise; cognitive, social, and environmental factors [3, 4]. In this sense, it is universally recognized that exposure to violence in the family has negative consequences [20; 24].

In the third chapter of the study, entitled An integrative intervention model in the prison environment to reduce aggression in inmates convicted of domestic violence. Formative experiment, we proposed an intervention program for family aggressors based on an integrative model, with the evaluation of the results also being quantitative. The program developed was experimentally validated for each of the analyzed variables, namely aggression and violence against the partner, emotional distress, and negative cognitive-emotional coping strategies.

Study objectives:

Obtaining institutional approval for conducting the study in the Penitentiary;

Development of inclusion criteria for participants in the research sample, in accordance with the study's purpose;

Designing the experimental design;

Development of the intervention program

Implementation of the intervention program;

Analysis and psychological interpretation of significant differences between testing moments regarding the effectiveness of the program.

**Study hypothesis:** Participation in an integrative intervention program for aggressors facilitates the reduction of aggression in men convicted of domestic violence.

The study was conducted on a sample of 21 men convicted of various DV offenses, according to the Criminal Code. Of these, 4 (19%) are serving sentences for homicide, 6 subjects (28.7%) for assault and other violence, 4 subjects (19%) for attempted murder, 5 subjects (23.8%) for sexual assault, and 2 subjects (9.5%) for fatal assault. 9 of the subjects (42.9%) are divorced, 4 of them (19%) are widowers, 4 are in a relationship (19%), and 4 are married (19%). Participants ranged in age from 20 to 45 years, with an average M=2.81 and SD=1.167.

The program was based on an integrative model, combining cognitive-behavioral, psychoeducational, narrative, and experiential approaches.

The study design was based on the analysis of variance model, with an intra-subject type strategy, in which the group of subjects is subjected to a treatment applied only once, with three measurements of dependent variables.

Iterative analysis revealed that the subjects participating in the program were categorized as DB (52.4%), ASS (33.3%), and NP (14.3%).

Given the statistical results obtained (Table 4), we affirm that the hypothesis of the study in which we stated that Participation in an integrative intervention program for aggressors facilitates the reduction of aggression in men convicted of domestic violence is confirmed, and the program can be applied to the general population of aggressors in Romania.

Table 4. Mean, standard deviation, and two-way ANOVA results for the investigated variables

Variabil-	D	В	AS	SS	N	P	Ticc	Е		2	1.0
Variabile	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	Effect	$\mathbf{F}$	p	ηp²	1-β
Refocusing on planning											
M1	7.45	3.29	11.28	2.92	9.66	4.61	Gr	245.42	.000	.932	1.000
M2	8.54	3.07	10.42	3.10	10.00	4.35	M	36.39	.000	.669	1.000
M3	14.7 2	3.55	13.57	2.82	15.33	1.15	GrxM	3.75	.025	.294	.728
Blaming others											
M1	13.2 7	3.34	12.42	3.69	14.33	3.215	Gr	505.04	.000	.966	1.000
M2	8.90	2.02	7.85	.89	9.33	2.08	M	30.06	.000	.626	.999
M3	8.18	2.18	8.00	2.76	8.00	.00	GrxM	.136	.874	.015	.068
Ruminatio	n										
M1	8.90	1.44	9.00	1.63	8.66	3.21	Gr	382.89	.000	.955	1.000
M2	7.63	.80	7.71	1.79	7.33	2.08	M	17.20	.000	.489	1.000
M3	5.54	1.69	4.14	1.86	6.33	2.08	GrxM	.379	.822	.040	.127
General ag	gressi	ion									
M1		1.44	9.00	1.63	8.66	3.21	Gr	427.47	.000	.960	1.000
M2	7.63	.80	7.71	1.79	7.33	2.08	M	40.19	.000	.691	1.000
M3	5.54	1.69	4.14	1.86	6.33	2.08	GrxM	2.18	.090	.195	.584
VIP											
M1	14.9 0	5.41	16.28	5.18	14.33	5.03	Gr	215.35	.000	.923	1.000
M2	9.45	4.22	9.57	2.63	9.66	4.04	M	28.57	.000	.614	1.000
M3	6.09	1.37	7.00	1.52	6.57	1.59	GrxM	.216	.894	.023	.087
Anger											
M1	11.0	2.72	9.85	1.57	10.00	2.64	Gr	298.83	.000	.943	1.000
M2	8.45	1.91	7.42	2.50	8.66	2.51	M	32.07	.000	.641	1.000
M3	6.18	2.18	6.28	2.21	4.66	2.51	GrxM	.97	.432	.098	.272
Physical ag	gress	ion									
M1	8.09	1.44	8.71	3.90	13.66	.57	Gr	147.26	.000	.891	1.000
M2	5.72	2.28	5.57	3.69	7.00	1.73	M	73.90	.000	.804	1.000

M3	3.45	1.63	3.42	2.63	4.33	3.05	GrxM	3.56	.022	.284	.761
Emotional distress											
M1	40.2 7	21.9 7	41.85	17.65	37.33	8.08	Gr	117.72	.000	.867	1.000
M2	23.6	9.93	29.00	9.25	27.00	1.73	M	23.19	.000	.563	1.000
M3	15.4 5	5.41	14.00	5.94	20.00	6.55	GrxM	.525	.718	.055	.161

<sup>\*</sup>Note: df (2,18); M=moments of evaluation: M1 – pre-test measurement, M2 – intermediate measurement, M3 – post-test measurement; t = type of aggressor: DB – dysphoric/borderline, ASS – antisocial subtype, NP – non-pathological;

Regardless of the orientation and approach of different types of programs for family aggressors, their intention is to produce change, to assume responsibility for the committed acts, and to prevent recidivism.

The evaluation of the proposed variables was conducted in three stages of the research, namely pre-test, intermediate, and post-test. The analysis of the program's effectiveness was done, in accordance with the literature in the field, based on the effect size and test power. In this sense, significant effect size values were recorded ( $\eta p2 > 0.5$ ), as well as high test power for all variables of interest associated with DV, demonstrating the robustness of the program. The results obtained demonstrate the subjects' desire for change, the assumption of responsibility for the committed acts, as well as the decrease in aggression and negative beliefs regarding women in general and romantic partners in particular. Considering the results obtained, we can affirm that an empirically validated intervention program for aggressors has been developed.

Differences between the obtained subtypes of aggressors obtained through cluster analysis of personality variables and dimensions were also analyzed at the three testing moments. Thus, the statistical processing of the obtained data showed that the group of subjects consisted of dysphoric/borderline (DB), antisocial subtype (ASS), and non-pathological (NP) aggressors. The analysis of variance did not reveal a statistically significant effect of the program between the intermediate testing moment and the final testing moment of the variables, with two exceptions: planning refocusing and physical aggression. For the other variables of interest, different effect sizes were obtained ( $\eta p2=0.01$ , the lowest statistical value, and  $\eta p2=0.28$ ), as well as different test powers. Somewhat, these results are not surprising at all, considering that we are talking about the core of personality. Furthermore, there are recommendations for aggressor interventions to extend over a longer period of time to achieve adequate results. It should be noted that the program did not aim for a type-centered intervention.

Regarding the program's efficiency, a considerable limitation is that the change results recorded by the subjects in the research group could not be compared with the testimonies of their victims, so it cannot be correlated with the risk of recidivism. Also, a limitation of this research is the absence of a follow-up evaluation

and the fact that an evaluation of the program's effectiveness from the facilitator's perspective was not conducted.

#### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The obtained results allowed the shaping of the following general conclusions:

It was theoretically argued that aggression and, especially, violence manifest as forms of expression of objective contents of the offense, while IPV represents a palette of aggravating circumstances determined by the special relational (intimate) and spatial (cohabitation) quality between the victim and the aggressor.

The Aggression Questionnaire (AQ) was adapted and validated on the Romanian delinquent population. The exploratory factorial analysis successfully replicated the structure with 4 factors reported in the initial questionnaire, namely verbal aggression, physical aggression, anger, and hostility. The Romanian version managed to retain 24 items corresponding semantically and in factorial loading with the conception of the four proposed factors by the authors. A reliable, short, and easy-to-administer assessment instrument was obtained, which can be of real help to specialists in measuring aggression characteristics, thus enabling the early identification of men with high levels of aggression.

The research demonstrated that the profile of family aggressors is heterogeneous. The typologies of aggressors include, in addition to aggression, a series of personality traits relevant to the association with IPV, as well as a series of descriptive symptomatic characteristics for personality disorders. The analysis of the obtained data allowed the identification of four types of aggressors, empirically validated, who commit offenses involving IPV. The categories of offenders identified converge in number and descriptive content with similar typologies theoretically postulated and empirically revealed in incarcerated or non-incarcerated populations in other countries and cultures. Identifying aggressor typologies is an important step in IPV research. The fact that they differ from each other in terms of the severity, frequency, and generality of IPV, levels of anger, and the presence of aggression associated with psychopathology draws attention to the fact that these extremely aggressive men, once identified, need stricter and longer-term supervision from social workers and judicial agents involved in their reintegration process and to prevent recidivism.

Additionally, the present study demonstrated that there are differences between types of aggressors regarding certain factors of IPV, namely substance use and exposure to violence in the family of origin.

An integrative intervention program was developed, implemented, and experimentally validated in the prison environment to reduce aggression in men sentenced for IPV. Although the number of participants in the intervention is relatively small, and the representation of participants by types of aggressors is unbalanced, the intervention is successful, highlighted in the differences between the inter-test and post-test. The effect size and test power are statistically significant, demonstrating the effectiveness of the intervention program in

reducing aggression in men serving custodial sentences for IPV offenses. By applying the program, change can be achieved in aggressors, reducing aggression, developing adaptive cognitive-emotional coping strategies, and improving irrational beliefs about women and violence in couple relationships.

The results obtained have allowed the construction of a particular theoretical framework and new scientific knowledge specific to the IPV domain from the perspective of influencing the family aggressor profile to reduce aggression in men convicted of IPV. The study hypotheses were confirmed, with the final effect being in resolving the scientific problem, namely addressing the contradiction between the acute need to reduce aggressive behaviors in inmates convicted of IPV and the lack of experimentally verified psychological intervention programs.

The obtained results demonstrate that this research is coherent and integrated, bringing a novelty and relevance element to Romanian research in the field.

Summarizing the research conclusions, we formulate **recommendations:** 

- (a) For prison psychologists:
- Identification of motivation tools for the participation of inmates convicted of offenses involving IPV in rehabilitation programs;
- Use of the Integrative Intervention Program to reduce aggression in men sentenced for domestic violence in prison environments;
  - (b) For researchers:
  - Researching other personality variables that can define the aggressor profile;
- Identifying socio-demographic and psychological factors that generate aggressive behavior in domestic offenders in the Romanian context;
- Developing screening tools with adequate psychometric qualities capable of capturing different aspects of IPV facilitators;
  - Developing intervention programs aimed at offenders to reduce domestic violence and prevent recidivism.
  - (c) For professionals in public policy:
  - Public safety and health policy analysis to reduce the risk of IPV acts;
- Scientific results, theoretical, and practical information included in the present research can constitute the basis of an intervention guide for professionals working with family aggressors, psychologists, social workers.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 1. ARANOWSKA, E., RYTEL, J. Factorial structure of the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPQA) in polish population. In: *Studia Psychologica*. 2012, no.12(2), pp.133–151.
- 2. BALICA, E. Criminalitatea violentă. Tendințe și factori de risc. București: Editura Oscar Print, 2008, 318p. ISBN: 978-973-668-201-8.
- 3. BANDURA, A. *Aggression: A social learning analysis*. International Psychotherapy Institute. 1973. 1116 p.
- 4. BJØRKLY, S. Psychological theories of aggression: Principles and application to practice. In: D. Richter and R. Whittington, eds. *Violence in mental health settings: Causes, consequences, management.* 2006. 338 p.
- 5. BRYANT, F.B., SMITH, B.D. Refining the architecture of aggression: A measurement model for the Buss–Perry Aggression Questionnaire. In: *Journal of Research in Personality*. 2001, no. 35, pp.138–167. doi:10.1006/jrpe.2000.2302.
- 6. BUSS, A.H., PERRY, M. The Aggression Questionnaire. In: *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. 1992, no. 63(3), pp. 452-459.
- 7. CHRISTENSEN, K.B. Domestic violence: A study of men's violence in close relationship. Malmö Universitet. 2018. 38 p.
- 8. CUNHA, O., PEIXOTO, M., CRUZ, A.R., GONÇALVES, R.A. Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire: Factor structure and measurement invariance among portuguese male perpetrators of intimate partner violence. In: *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. 2021, 37p.
- 9. ECKHARDT, C., NORLANDER, B., DEFFENBACHER, J. The assessment of anger and hostility: A critical review. In: *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 2004, 9, 17–43.
- 10. FERARO, K.J. *Current Research on Batterer Intervention Programs and Implications for Policy*. The Battered Women's Justice Project, the US Department of Health and Human Services, Grant #90EV0440. Publisher: Family Violence Institute, Northern Arizona University, 2017, 24p
- 11. GARNEFSKI, N., KRAAIJ, V., SPINHOVEN, P. Manual for the use of the cognitive emotion regulation questionnaire. Leiderdorp: DATEC, 2002, 9p.
- 12. HAMBERGER, K.L, LANGHINRICHSEN-ROHLING, J. Antisocial disorders and domestic violence: Treatment considerations. In Alan R. Felthous and Henning Sass (Ltd. Editors), *The International Handbook of Psychopathic Disorders and the Law*, 1st Eds., 2007, pp.497-517. Publisher: John Wiley & Sons.
- 13. HOLTZWORTH-MUNROE, A., MEEHAN, J.C., HERRON, K., REHMAN, U., STUART, G.L. Testing the Holtzworth-Munroe and Stuart batterer typology. In: *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. 2000, no. 68, pp.1000-1019. DOI:10.1037//0022-006X.68.6.1000.
- 14. HOLTZWORTH-MUNROE, A., STUART, G.L. Typologies of Male Batterers: Three subtypes and the differences among them. In: *Psychological Bulletin*. 1994, vol. 16, no. 3, pp. 476-497.
- 15. HUSS, M., LANGHINRICHSEN-ROHLING, J. The identification of the psychopathic batterer: The clinical, legal and policy implications. In: *Aggression and Violent Behavior*. 2000, no. 5(4), pp. 403–422.
- 16. HUSS, M.T., LANGHINRICHSEN-ROHLING, J. Assessing the Generalization of Psychopathy in a Clinical Sample of Domestic Violence Perpetrators. In: *Law and Human Behavior*, 2006, 30(5), 571-86.

- 17. HUSS, M.T., RALSTON, A. Do batterer subtypes actually matter? Treatment completion, treatment response, and recidivism across a batterer typology. In: *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. 2008, no. 35, pp. 710-724. DOI:10.1177/0093854808316218.
- 18. ILINCESCU, A. 160 de cazuri de violență domestică pe zi în România / Nerespectarea ordinelor de protecție, în creștere cu 26%. HotNews, București, 2023, 11 dec.
- 19. LANGHINRICHSEN-ROHLIN, J., HUSS, M.T., RAMSEY, S. The clinical utility of batterer typologies. In: *Journal of Family Violence*. 2000, no. 15(1), pp.37-53.
- 20. LILA, M., GRACIA, E., CATALÁ-MIÑANA, A. Individualized motivational plans in batterer intervention programs: A randomized clinical trial. In: *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. 2018, no. 86(4), pp. 309–320. [citat 27 martie 2022]. Disponibil:
- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324491417\_Individualized\_motivational\_plans\_in\_batterer\_inter\_vention\_programs\_A\_randomized\_clinical\_trial
- 21. LOEBER, R., STOUTHAMER-LOEB, M. Family Factors as Correlates and Predictors of Juvenile Conduct Problems and Delinquency. In: *Crime and Justice*, 1986, 7, 29–149.
- 22. MAZLAN, N.H., AHMAD, A. The Malay-translated version of the Aggression Questionnaire (AQ): The validity and the identification of types of aggression among female prisoners. In: *ASEAN Journal of Psychiatry*, 2012, 13, 146–156.
- 23. PÏRVU, C. Cifrele violenței domestice: în ultimii 8 ani, 426 de femei au fost ucise în România de parteneri sau membri ai familiei. Mediafax, București, 2023, 7 feb. [citat 13 august 2023]. Disponibil: <a href="https://www.mediafax.ro/social/cifrele-violentei-domestice-in-ultimii-8-ani-426-de-femei-au-fost-ucise-in-romania-de-parteneri-sau-de-membri-ai-familiei-21580477">https://www.mediafax.ro/social/cifrele-violentei-domestice-in-ultimii-8-ani-426-de-femei-au-fost-ucise-in-romania-de-parteneri-sau-de-membri-ai-familiei-21580477</a>
- 24. POPA, M. *Statistici multivariate aplicate în psihologie*. Iași: Polirom, 2010. 360 p. ISBN 978-973-46-1794-4.
- 25. ROBINSON, L.R. *Investigating a batterer typology: the role of personality characteristics, attachment, and family of origin dynamics*: A Dissertation to the Texas A&M University, 2005. 97 p. [citat 23 august 2021]. Disponibil: <a href="https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/147124204.pdf">https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/147124204.pdf</a>
- 26. SMITH, C.A., THORNBERRY, T.P., The Relationship Between Childhood Maltreatment And Adolescent Involvement In Delinquency. In: Criminology, 2006, 33(4), 451 481.
- 27. WALKER, L.E. *The Battered Woman Syndrome*. 3rd ed. New York: Springer Publishing Company, 2009. 511 p.
- 28. WILSON, D.B., FEDER, L., OLAGHERE, A. Court-mandated interventions for individuals convicted of domestic violence: An updated Campbell systematic review. In: *Campbell Systematic Reviews*. 2021, no.17(1), 23bp. DOI:10.1002/cl2.1151.
- 29. ZUCKERMAN, M. Zuckerman-Kuhlman Personality Questionnaire (ZKPQ): An alternative five factorial model. In: B. de Raad, & M. Perugini, eds. *Big Five Assessment*. Seattle: Hogrefe & Huber Publishers, 2002, pp. 377-396.

#### LIST OF THE AUTHOR'S PUBLICATIONS ON THE THESIS TOPIC

#### a. Scientific journals

**Săbăreanu, L.M.,** Oprea, C.E. *THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TEACHING COGNITIVE EMOTION REGULATION STRATEGIES ON REDUCING AGGRESSION IN A ROMANIAN DELINQUENT POPULATION: A PILOT STUDY*. In: ICERI2022 Proceedings, 2022, 6005-6006. ISBN: 978-84-09-45476-1. ISSN: 2340-1095 https://library.iated.org/publications/ICERI2022/start/975

**Săbăreanu, L.M.,** Gonța, V., Oprea, C.E. *FACTOR STRUCTURE OF THE AGGRESSION QUESTIONNAIRE: STUDY ON THE ROMANIAN DELINQUENT POPULATION.* In: European Proceedings of Educational Sciences, EpES., 2022, 982-989.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369931535\_Factor\_Structure\_Of\_The\_Aggression\_Questionnaire\_Study On The Romanian Delinquent Population

Săbăreanu, L.M., Gonța, V. Prevalence Of Personality Disorders At Detainees In A Romanian Maximum-Security Penitentiary. In: European Proceedings of Educational Sciences, EpES., 2022.

https://www.europeanproceedings.com/article/10.15405/epes.23045.98

**Săbăreanu, L.M**. ABATERI DISCIPLINARE ÎN PENITENCIAR ȘI CARACTERISTICI DE PERSONALITATE LA DEȚINUȚII ADULȚI. In: Revista de Criminologie, Criminalistica si Penologie, Bucharest Iss., 2017, 1/2, 141-158.

https://www.proquest.com/docview/2188519989?sourcetype=Scholarly%20Journals

#### **b.** International Scientific Conference

**Săbăreanu, L.M.,** Gonța, V. *THE INFLUENCE OF DE EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES IN THE FAMILY OF ORIGIN ON THE PERSONALITY DISORDERS AND AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR*. In: 1st International violence and prevention of violence congress book, 1-13 October 2021, Tokat ISBN: 978-975-7328-83-4.

Săbăreanu, L.M., Gonța, V. *PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF CRIMINAL OFFENDER*. In: 2nd International Conference on Social Sciences, Humanities and Education (October, 21-22, 2022).ISBN: 978-625-00-1031-0. **Săbăreanu, L.M.**, Oprea, C.E., Gonța, V. 'WALKING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES': REDUCING AGGRESSION IN A ROMANIAN DELINQUENT POPULATION THROUGH ACTIVE LEARNING TECHNIQUES. In: EduLearn, 15th annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies, Palma de Mallorca (Spain). 3rd - 5th of July, 2023. In press.

**Săbăreanu, L.M.,** Oprea, C.E., Vîrlan, M. PERCEPTION OF SOCIAL DEVIANCE IN A ROMANIAN DELINQUENT POPULATION: A QUALITATIVE STUDY. In: EduLearn, 15th annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies, Palma de Mallorca (Spain). 3rd - 5th of July, 2023. In press.

#### c. Proceedings of National Scientific Conferences with International Participation

**Săbăreanu, L.M.,** Gonța, V. *MODELUL PSIHOPEDAGOGIC DE DIMINUARE A AGRESIVITĂȚII ÎN MEDIUL PENITENCIAR*. In: Conferința "Educația din perspectiva conceptului Clasa Viitorului" 3, Chisinau, Moldova, 4-5 noiembrie 2022. <a href="https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag\_file/43-52">https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag\_file/43-52</a> 11.pdf

**Săbăreanu, L.M.,** Gonța, V. Fenomenologia tulburărilor de personalitate în mediul penitenciar. In: Conferința "Educația din perspectiva conceptului Clasa Viitorului" 2, Chișinău, Moldova, 12-13 noiembrie 2021.

https://ibn.idsi.md/vizualizare articol/165106

#### d. Proceedings of National Scientific Conferences

**Săbăreanu, L.M.,** Gonța, V. *IMPACTUL PRACTICILOR PARENTALE DIN FAMILIA DE ORIGINE ASUPRA PERSONALITĂȚII AGRESORILOR FAMILIALI*. In: Probleme ale științelor socioumanistice și modernizării învățământului. Seria 22, Vol.2, 8-9 octombrie 2020, Chișinău: Universitatea Pedagogică de Stat "Ion Creangă, 2020, pp. 132-139. ISBN 978-9975-46-449-9; 978-9975-46-451-2.

http://dir.upsc.md:8080/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/2127/Conf\_UPSC\_2020\_Vol\_II\_p132-139.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

#### **ADNOTARE**

#### Săbăreanu Laurențiu-Mihai

# Profilul agresorului familial. Un model integrativ de intervenție în mediul penitenciar pentru reducerea agresivității la deținuții condamnați pentru violență domestică Teză de doctor în psihologie, Chișinău, 2023

**Structura tezei:** introducere, trei capitole, concluzii generale și recomandări, bibliografie, 136 pagini text de bază, 18 tabele, 26 figuri, 3 anexe. Rezultatele obținute sunt publicate în 11 lucrări științifice.

Concepte-cheie: violența domestică, agresivitate, agresor familial, profil, intervenție, deținuți.

**Scopul cercetării:** studiul de față și-a propus să identifice profilul agresorului familial pe baza trăsăturilor și dimensiunilor de personalitate și validarea empirică unui program integrativ de intervenție pentru reducerea agresivității la bărbații condamnați penal pentru acte de violență domestică.

Obiectivele cercetării: analiza literaturii de specialitate în domeniul cercetării în vederea clarificării conceptelor teoretice; validarea versiunii românești a Chestionarului agresivității AQ prin analiza factorială confirmatorie și determinarea fiabilității instrumentului; identificarea unui profil al agresorului; examinarea posibilelor diferențe între tipurile de agresori privind consumul de substanțe și experiențierea violenței în familia de origine; elaborarea și aplicarea unui program integrativ de intervenție în vederea reducerii agresivității la bărbații condamnați penal pentru VD.

Noutatea și originalitatea științifică constă în validarea și adaptarea pe populația delincvențială a unui chestionar de măsurare a agresivității, precum și în implementarea unui program de intervenție pentru reducerea agresivității la deținuții condamnați pentru violență domestică. Teza este rezultatul cercetărilor proprii, pe baza informațiilor obținute din surse care au fost citate și indicate în text, figuri, tabele și bibliografie conform normelor de citare a surselor și a respectării legislației privind drepturile de autor, ceea ce îi conferă originalitate.

**Rezultatele obținute** permit o mai bună înțelegere a profilului persoanelor, bărbați, care comit infracțiuni prin violență domestică; de asemenea demonstrarea eficienței unui program de intervenție creează premisele dezvoltării de noi programe de intervenție pentru agresorii familiali în vederea reducerii fenomenului de violență domestică în România.

Valoarea teoretică: teza completează lacunele de cunoaștere ale fenomenului de violență domestică în spațiul românesc prin integrarea profilului agresorului, contribuie la îmbogățirea literaturii de specialitate în domeniu, precum și la dezvoltarea bateriei de teste destinate evaluării agresivității la persoanele care ispășeșsc pedepse privative de libertate pentru fapte de violență domestică.

Valoarea aplicativă: teza de față are implicații semnificative în practica clinică și judiciară, în elaborarea politicilor publice sociale și de sănătate referitoare la violența domestică și la agresorii familiali, precum și în cercetare.

Implementarea rezultatelor științifice: aspectele cele mai importante ale cercetării au fost prezentate, discutate și analizate în cadrul conferințelor științifice organizate în instituțiile superioare de învățământ din Republica Moldova, precum și la conferințe internaționale.

#### ADNOTATION

#### Săbăreanu Laurențiu-Mihai

Profile of the family aggressor. An integrative model of intervention in the penitentiary environment to reduce aggressiveness in prisoners convicted for domestic violence

PhD Thesis in Psychology, Chisinau, 2023

**Thesis structure**: introduction, four chapters, general conclusions and recommendations, bibliography, 136 pages of basic text, 18 tables, 26 figures, 4 appendices. The results are published in 11 scientific papers.

**Key concepts**: domestic violence, aggression, domestic abuser, profile, intervention, prisoners.

**Aim of the research**: The present study aimed to identify the profile of the family aggressor based on personality traits and dimensions and to validate empirically an integrative intervention program to reduce aggression in men convicted of domestic violence.

**Research objectives**: The review of research literature to clarify theoretical concepts; validation of the Romanian version of the AQ Aggression Questionnaire through confirmatory factor analysis and determining the reliability of the instrument; and the practical-applicative objectives involved the operationalisation of aggression in men convicted of domestic violence; the outline of the profile of the aggressor; examination of possible differences between types of aggressors in terms of substance use and experiences of violence in the family of origin; the development and implementation of an intervention program aimed at improving aggression and domestic violence in men convicted of such acts.

Scientific novelty and originality lies in the validation and adaptation of a questionnaire for measuring aggressiveness on the delinquent population, as well as in the implementation of an intervention program to reduce aggressiveness in prisoners convicted of domestic violence. The thesis is the result of my own research, based on information obtained from sources that have been cited and indicated in the text, figures, tables and bibliography according to the rules of citation of sources and compliance with copyright law, which gives it originality.

The results obtained allow a better understanding of the profile of male perpetrators of domestic violence offences; also the demonstration of the effectiveness of an intervention programme creates the premises for the development of new intervention programmes for domestic abusers in order to reduce the phenomenon of domestic violence in Romania.

**Theoretical value**: the thesis completes the knowledge gaps of the phenomenon of domestic violence in Romania, contributes to the enrichment of the literature in the field, as well as to the development of the battery of tests designed to assess aggressiveness in people serving custodial sentences for acts of domestic violence.

**Application value**: this thesis has significant implications for clinical and judicial practice, public health and social policy-making on domestic violence and domestic abusers, and research.

**Implementation of scientific results:** the most important aspects of the research were presented, discussed and analysed at scientific conferences organised in higher educational institutions in the Republic of Moldova, as well as at international conferences.

#### **АННОТАЦИЯ**

Сэбэряну Михай-Лауренциу. Профиль домашнего агрессора. Модель вмешательства для снижения агрессии у заключенных, осужденных за домашнее насилие. Кандидатская диссертация по психологии, Кишинев, 2024 г.

**Структура диссертации**: введение, три главы, общие выводы и рекомендации, библиография, 136 страниц основного текста, 18 таблиц, 26 рисунков, 3 приложения. Полученные результаты опубликованы в 11 научных статьях.

Ключевые понятия: домашнее насилие, агрессия, семейный агрессор, заключенные.

**Цель исследования**: выявить профиль семейного агрессора на основе особенностей и характеристик личности и эмпирически обосновать программу интегративного вмешательства по снижению агрессии у мужчин, осужденных к уголовной ответственности за акты семейного насилия.

Задачи исследования: уточнение теоретических представлений; валидация опросника AQ по агрессии посредством подтверждающего факторного анализа и определения надежности инструмента; определение профиля агрессора; изучение различий между типами агрессоров, в зависимости от злоупотребления психоактивных веществ и подвергающихся насилию в семье происхождения; разработка и применение программы интегративного вмешательства с целью снижения агрессии у мужчин, осужденных за CH.

**Научная новизна и оригинальность** заключается в валидации и адаптации на правонарушителях опросника измерения агрессии, а также во внедрении интервенционной программы по снижению агрессии у осужденных за насилие в семье.

**Полученные результаты, способствующие решению важной научной проблемы**, позволяют лучше понять профиль мужчин, совершающих преступления посредством насилия в семье, а также продемонстрировать эффективность программы вмешательства для агрессоров с целью уменьшения явления домашнего насилия в Румынии.

**Теоретическая ценность** заключается в том, что диссертация дополняет пробелы в знаниях о феномене семейного насилия, характерном для румынского региона, путем интеграции профиля агрессора, разработки батареи тестов, предназначенных для оценки агрессии, а также путем методологических ориентиров психологического вмешательства.

**Прикладная ценность** определяется тем, что диссертация имеет применение в клинической и судебной практике благодаря модели оценки и экспериментально обоснованной программе психологического вмешательства, которая способствует снижению агрессии у лиц, отбывающих наказание в виде лишения свободы за акты домашнего насилия.

**Внедрение научных результатов:** наиболее важные аспекты исследования были представлены, обсуждены и проанализированы на научных конференциях в Республике Молдова, а также на международных конференциях.

### SĂBĂREANU LAURENȚIU-MIHAI

# PROFILUL AGRESORULUI FAMILIAL. UN MODEL INTEGRATIV DE INTERVENȚIE ÎN MEDIUL PENITENCIAR PENTRU REDUCEREA AGRESIVITĂȚII LA DEȚINUȚII CONDAMNAȚI PENTRU VIOLENȚĂ DOMESTICĂ

Specialitatea: 511.02 - Psihologia dezvoltării și psihologia educațională

Rezumatul tezei de doctor în psihologie

Aprobat spre tipar: data Formatul hârtiei 60x84 1/16

Hârtie ofset. Tipar ofset. Tiraj ... ex...

Coli de tipar.: ...

Comanda nr. ....

Denumirea și adresa instituției unde a fost tipărit rezumatul