



# The Nonjustice System: An Imagined Courtroom Scenario

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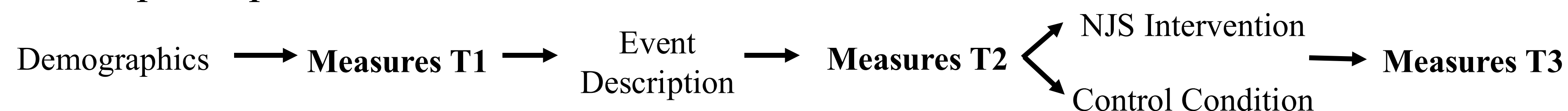
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## Introduction

- A meta-analysis done by Kimmel and Rowe (2020) has concluded that the desire to seek revenge linked to grievances can be a primary motive for many acts of violence.
- When an offense occurs, it prompts unforgiveness in individuals, which encompasses revenge (McCullough et al., 1997). The feeling of revenge is complex and linked to many different aspects of a certain incident.
- The Non-Justice System (NJS) was created to control motivations related to revenge. It works to target interpersonal conflict to identify the feelings of victimization and the associated feelings with the conflict.
- The NJS allows people to go through an imagined courtroom scenario and decide their verdict about a situation in which they felt they were treated unjustly.
- This intervention has included past study iterations with imagined scenarios, leading to weaker results.
- This study aims to examine the effects of previous NJS study runs on a particular recruited population.

## Methods

- Using CloudResearch, an online sampling platform, and Qualtrics, the study was conducted with the following criteria:
  - All participants: a) male and female; b) aged 18-65; c) who self-disclose as (i) having been harmed, neglected, or mistreated in a way that they perceive unfair or unjust, and (ii) having experienced **very** recently (within the **past week**) what they would describe as significant, of repeated, and intrusive feelings or fantasies of wanting or craving justice, revenge or punishment against the person(s) **who hurt or wronged them**.
- Participant data
- The experimental group had 78 people, and the control group had 74 people, totaling 152 participants

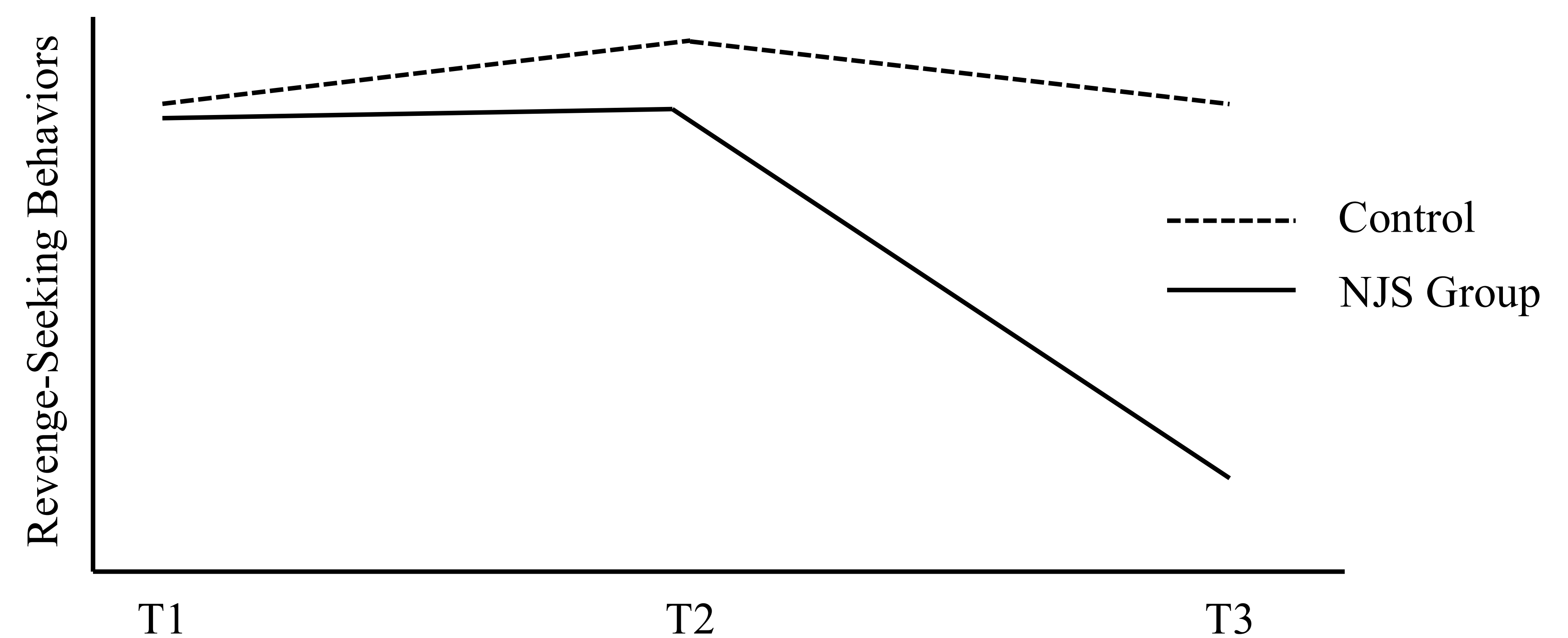


## Measures

- Transgression-Related Interpersonal Motivations Inventory (TRIM-18) (McCullough et al., 2006)
- Batson Empathy Scale (Batson et al., 1987)
- State-Specific Rumination Inventory (SSR) (Wade et al., 2008)
- Positive and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS-10) (Thompson, 2007)
- Single-Item Stress Measure (SSI) (Elo et al., 2003)
- Patient Health Questionnaire-4 (PHQ-4) (Kroenke et al., 2009)

## Results

- A repeated measures analysis of variance was used to examine the differences between groups at the three time points.
- The groups did not vary much between T1 and T2, which was to be expected, since the participants were engaged in the same activities.
- Out of the 11 variables measured (revenge, avoidance, benevolence\*, empathy\*, rumination, stress, injustice, negative affect, positive affect\*, anxiety, depression, stress), we had significant results for 10 of the variables.
  - \*The graphs for these variables would be opposite as we would expect them to increase, not decrease
- We had no significant difference for positive affect, which means we decreased negative affect, but didn't increase positive affect.



## Discussion

- This study has much more promising results than previous versions.
- It shows that this intervention is helpful in decreasing revenge-seeking behaviors in individuals who have been wronged by others. This study will be replicated in hopes of shoring our results with others.
- Aside from our main variables, we can look into other qualitative data, or choices that were made in the study to further examine revenge-seeking behaviors.
- Next steps:
  - Preregistering this study for a second run and writing an article on the findings
  - Adding a measure for aggression (ex. Wanting to hurt the person(s) who wronged them)
  - Adding more to the debrief/consent to clarify study purposes/metaphor
- With the help of James and Loren, I will remain project manager of this next study run after I graduate from Luther.

