Everyone longs for the ideal love, but as the song goes, love hurts. This book is about the romantic ideology of love and the ironic dangers that goes with it. The chapters argue that romantic ideology implies extreme behavior. Love is generally considered a moral, altruistic, and well-intentioned emotion; however, this idealized notion of love is far from realistic. People have committed the most horrific crimes in the name of the altruistic ideals of religion and love. Even if popular media depicts that love is all we need, recent statistics in the United States show a remarkable number of the victims of love. There is a reported increase in the number of sufferers depression and suicide after a bad breakup or divorce. This book includes a major case study concerning men who have murdered their wives or partners allegedly ‘out of love’. It is estimated that over 30% of all female murder victims in the US die at the hands of a former or present spouse or boyfriend. Killing the one you love is not an example of ‘loving too much’ but of how love can go wrong when totalitarianism and extremism, rather than compromise and accommodation, are the guiding principles. The murderous dictator who proclaims that he ‘loves his people too much’ fits neatly into this category.

A tremendous outpouring of psychological research on sexual orientation has occurred in recent years, and interested readers have been hard-pressed to keep up with the pace of scholarship in this field. In particular,
the last decade has seen a great increase in research on psychology and sexual orientation. This book contains a review of contemporary psychological research and theory on sexual orientation in their specific fields of work. The book is divided in four parts: concepts, theories, and perspectives; development over the life course; domains of experience; and communities and contextual issues. Individual chapters focus on topics such as bisexual and transgender identities, biological foundations of sexual orientation, emergent adulthood in lesbian and gay lives, same-sex romantic relationships, sexual orientation and mental health, family formation and parenthood, sexual orientation and hate crimes, and race and ethnicity among lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities, along with many more relevant areas.

**Neighborhoods, Culture, and Violent Crime**

Kevin H. Wozniak

in Thugs and Thieves: The Differential Etiology of Violence

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Item type: chapter

The idea that community factors influence the violent behavior of individuals comes from classic sociological theory. In this chapter, we collected a comprehensive set of studies reporting an empirical association between community characteristics (social disorganization, social networks, collective efficacy) and violent crime. In addition, we examine the qualitative literature on violent subcultures to glean evidence related to the differential etiology of violence. For the most part, indicators of social disorganization are not more consistently associated with violent than nonviolent offending, though we examine some analytic practices that might account for these null findings. We conclude that the most promising differential predictors of violence are likely to be measures of disorder. We also argue that emerging evidence indicates that subcultural beliefs may influence criminal behavior in a crime-specific way, though this preliminary conclusion is largely based on a small number of qualitative studies and requires further exploration.

**Alcohol, Drugs, and Violent vs. Nonviolent Crime**

Kevin H. Wozniak

in Thugs and Thieves: The Differential Etiology of Violence

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Media attention was directed at drug use as a cause of violence for decades. Meanwhile, empirical evidence centered on alcohol. This chapter evaluates the ability of alcohol and drug use to differentially predict violent compared to nonviolent offending. We collected a comprehensive set of empirical studies, published in English, that report findings related to this issue. The body of literature indicates that violent and nonviolent offenders drink a great deal of alcohol. The pattern of findings suggests that while nonviolent offenders may drink more often, violent offenders are more likely to be intoxicated at the time of their crime. In spite of the high degree of mass media attention and wide assumptions in the general public, evidence on drug use and violence was very mixed and depended on the measure of drug use.

Summary of Findings and Recommendations for Future Research
Kevin H. Wozniak

This chapter provides a systematic summary of findings from the substantive chapters in this book on the topics of intelligence, school, attachment to parents, parental warmth and rejection, child abuse, poverty, community factors, and substance use. In it, we provide recommendations for future research on violent behavior and violent crime, to distinguish its causes from those of nonviolent offending. Highly detailed recommendations for hypothesis tests for each topic (intelligence, executive functions, academic achievement, school bonding, parental attachment, parental warmth, parental rejection, child abuse, poverty, communities, alcohol and drug use) are also outlined.

Theoretical Conclusions and Recommended Policies for Strengthening Violence Prevention
Kevin H. Wozniak
In this chapter, we conclude from the body of findings in previous chapters that the “differential etiology of violence” hypothesis, as a general matter, is supported. Thus, we argue that using general theories of criminality to predict violence, in particular, is not defensible. We also explore the policy implications of the findings reported in this book. We make the case that the timing for significant policy changes is propitious, and we advocate holistic and comprehensive approaches. Returning to the substantive chapters, we provide specific policy implications tuned to violence prevention. The recommendations emphasize developmental prevention, in the form of academic aid, cognitive therapies, and parent interventions. We also emphasize abuse prevention and treatment for abused children. Additional information about poverty and community programs is provided, and we explore some of the difficulties that arise when drug policy is used in attempts to prevent violence.

Impacts of Civic Engagement on Programs, Organizations, Neighborhoods, and Society

S. Mark Pancer

in The Psychology of Citizenship and Civic Engagement

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This chapter examines the impact of civic engagement at the organizational, neighborhood, state, and country levels. Research indicates that when citizens participate as decision makers in community organizations, those organizations provide services that are more appropriate, accessible, and better utilized. Such organizations tend to be more representative, inclusive, accountable, and effective. Neighborhoods with higher levels of civic participation have a greater sense of community, better leadership, lower rates of crime, and their citizens are healthier and happier. States and countries with high levels of civic participation experience better health and mental health, with lower rates of disease, mental health problems, and suicide. They also have lower crime rates. Research evidence indicates that they are also more prosperous economically, have healthier and better-educated children, and are better governed.
Wrong Turns and Dead Ends
Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

in Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens Through the Twenties

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Item type: chapter

Some kinds of problems appear to be more prevalent in emerging adulthood than in any subsequent adult life stage. This chapter first examines rates and sources of externalizing problems (including automobile accidents, crime, and substance abuse) and internalizing problems (including depression, anxiety, and eating disorders). Then the theory of emerging adulthood is applied to understanding why some of these problems are especially prevalent in this life stage, using the five features of emerging adulthood as a framework. Finally, trends in the past two decades are examined in rates of some externalizing problems, and possible reasons for those trends. Most trends are positive, especially in automobile accidents and crime, but certain kinds of substance use have increased.

What We Don’t Know About Violence
Kevin H. Wozniak

in Thugs and Thieves: The Differential Etiology of Violence

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Today, most criminological theory and research does not distinguish between violent and nonviolent crime. Instead, many criminologists accept the existence of a unidimensional construct, called variously criminality, deviance, delinquency, conduct disorder, antisociality, or aggression, which includes a variety of behaviors including theft, property damage, drug use, and violence. This is not unique to the field of criminology. Even in the field of psychology, there are those who focus on “antisocial” characteristics and conduct disorders in theory and research. In this chapter, we outline the reasoning for a differential etiology of violence per se. We make the case that the research on violence is incomplete, and we explain the methodological challenges for disentangling the causes of violence from the causes of nonviolent criminal activity.
Exploring Why
Kevin H. Wozniak

in Thugs and Thieves: The Differential Etiology of Violence
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This chapter will provide the reasoning for choosing three external factors—poverty, community, and substance use—as worthy of evaluation in the differential etiology of violence. We examine the concept of criminal motivation and link it to the study of poverty and violence. We also explore characteristics of communities that might distinguish those with high rates of violence. Finally, we discuss the special “contextual” problem of alcohol and drug use and proposed causal processes that lead to violent behavior.

Intelligence, Executive Function, and Violence
Kevin H. Wozniak

in Thugs and Thieves: The Differential Etiology of Violence
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In our first substantive chapter, we provide a comprehensive review of studies that have tested associations between indicators of intelligence (broadly construed to include executive functions and other cognitive measures) and physical aggression or violence. This includes studies of verbal ability, performance intelligence, and the PIQ > VIQ discrepancy. We found that there is much evidence indicating that violent offenders have greater intelligence and executive functioning deficits than nonviolent offenders do, and we were surprised to find that it is unclear whether intellectual deficits are associated with nonviolent-only offending at all. We conclude that measures of intelligence and executive functioning are differentially associated with violent behavior.
Academic Achievement, Other Educational Factors, and Violent Behavior

Kevin H. Wozniak

in Thugs and Thieves: The Differential Etiology of Violence

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Item type: chapter

The school experience is central to the lives of millions of children. Here, we evaluate the ability of school measures to differentially predict violent as compared to nonviolent offending by providing a comprehensive review of studies that have tested associations between school factors (academic achievement, reading, math ability, school attachment, parent education, learning disability, school problems, and academic attainment) and physical aggression or violent behavior. The findings indicate that school measures are consistently correlated with violent behavior and some measures are also related to nonviolent offending. Nevertheless, the body of findings call into question the idea that factors such as reading, parent education, and academic attainment are associated with nonviolent-only offending at all. Discrepancies in academic deficits between violent and nonviolent offenders support the conclusion that academic achievement is a differential predictor of violence. Other measures of school factors remain good prospects for further study.

Parental Warmth and Rejection in the Etiology of Violence

Kevin H. Wozniak

in Thugs and Thieves: The Differential Etiology of Violence

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This chapter provides a review of research on parental warmth and parental rejection and their associations with physical aggression and violence. There is consistent evidence that parental warmth is inversely associated with violent behavior, but the effects are not very strong. By contrast, there is robust evidence that indicators of parental rejection, seen as the far end of a warmth-rejection continuum, are correlated with physically aggressive and violent behavior. The studies as a whole suggest that violent offenders have experienced less warmth and greater rejection from parents than nonviolent-only offenders. The evidence suggests that low parental warmth is associated with nonviolent
offending as consistently as it is with violent offending. The association between parental rejection and offending is clearly more consistent for violent than nonviolent antisocial behavior. The finding is important in light of commentary made about the average expectable environment in Chapter 2.

Abuse Victimization, Trauma, and the Differential Etiology of Violence
Kevin H. Wozniak

in Thugs and Thieves: The Differential Etiology of Violence

Many authors see child abuse as a very important cause of violent behavior. In this chapter we examined published evidence on the association between physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and trauma and behavior outcomes in victims. The comprehensive review indicates that all forms of abuse, as well as indicators of trauma, are associated with violent offending, but they are also consistently associated with nonviolent offending. The findings also strongly indicate that physical abuse experience is more prominent among violent offenders than nonviolent offenders, however, leading to questions about aspects of physical abuse that lead to violent behavior in victims, rather than general antisociality.

The Role of Poverty in the Differential Etiology of Violence
Kevin H. Wozniak

in Thugs and Thieves: The Differential Etiology of Violence

The deleterious effects of poverty on individuals and communities have long been studied in a variety of scholarly disciplines. Clearly poor, inner-city areas are most likely to have high rates of violence. In this chapter, we focus on studies where empirical associations were reported for both violent and nonviolent outcomes. Aggregate-level studies suggest that neighborhood poverty is associated with both violent crime and nonviolent crime. The evidence that poverty rates, as such, are more consistently related to violent as opposed to nonviolent
offending is yet inconclusive, but when indicators of resource deprivation or concentrated disadvantage are used, there is clear evidence of a differential association with violent crime. Further, in offender studies, violent offenders consistently have lower income than nonviolent offenders and in some, nonviolent offenders have higher SES than nonoffenders. Thus, with several caveats, we conclude that poverty is a good prospect in the differential etiology of violence.