The Cambridge Handbook of Violent Behavior and Aggression
Second Edition

The Cambridge Handbook of Violent Behavior and Aggression presents the current state of knowledge related to the study of violent behaviors and aggression. An important extension of the first Handbook published ten years ago, the second edition maintains a distinctly cross-disciplinary focus by representing the newest scholarship and insights from behavior genetics, cross-cultural comparative psychology/criminology, evolutionary psychology, criminal justice, criminology, human development, molecular genetics, neurosciences, psychology, prevention and intervention sciences, psychiatry, psychopharmacology, public health, and sociology. The Handbook is divided into introductory and overview chapters on the study of violent behavior and aggression, followed by chapters on biosocial bases, individual and interpersonal factors, contextual factors, and prevention and intervention work and policy implications. It is an essential resource for researchers, scholars, and graduate students across social and behavioral science disciplines interested in the etiology, intervention, and prevention of violent behavior and aggression.

ALEXANDER T. VAZSONYI is the John I. and Patricia J. Buster Endowed Professor of Family Sciences, Professor of Psychology, and Professor of Sociology at the University of Kentucky. He is recognized as a leading scholar in criminology and in cross-cultural comparative research on adolescent development and has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers. He was a Fulbright fellow in Slovenia (2004) and the Fulbright-Masaryk University Distinguished Chair in Social Studies (2010) in the Czech Republic. He is editor-in-chief of the Journal of Early Adolescence and the editor of the five-volume Adolescence (2015).

DANIEL J. FLANNERY is the Dr. Semi J. and Ruth W. Begun Professor and Director of the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at Case Western Reserve University. He served as founding director of the Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence at Kent State University. He is the author
of *Wanted on Warrants: The Fugitive Safe Surrender Program* (2013) and *Violence and Mental Health in Everyday Life* (2006). He has more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and has advised the Institute of Medicine, the US Departments of Justice and Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Crime Prevention Council, and the National Resource Center for Safe Schools.

**MATT DELISI** is Professor and Coordinator of Criminal Justice Studies and Affiliate with the Center for the Study of Violence at Iowa State University. He is the author of over 350 scholarly publications, mostly in the areas of pathological criminality, psychopathy, and self-control. A fellow of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, he has consulted on capital murder and multiple-homicide offender cases in numerous federal and state jurisdictions, provided testimony to the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, and consulted on criminal justice policy to a variety of federal stakeholders including the United States Attorney General, United States Probation and Pretrial Services, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
The Cambridge Handbook of Violent Behavior and Aggression

Second Edition

Edited by

Alexander T. Vazsonyi
University of Kentucky

Daniel J. Flannery
Case Western Reserve University

Matt DeLisi
Iowa State University
We dedicate this book to our children Alexander, Philip, Marc, and Katarina (AV); Joseph, Patrick, Ellen, and Katie (DF); Jamison, Landon, and Finley (MD)

Each of you continues to both test and surprise us!
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Contributors

Marcel Aebi
University of Zurich

Robert Agnew
Emory University

Michael T. Baglivio
TrueCore Behavioral Solutions

J. C. Barnes
University of Cincinnati

Danielle Bartolo
Ad Council

Kevin M. Beaver
Florida State University

Sarah Beth Bell
University of Kentucky

Daniel M. Blonigen
Palo Alto University

Julia Blumenstyk
Ad Council

Cashen M. Boccio
Florida State University

Michel Boivin
Université Laval

Linda Booij
Concordia University

Catherine P. Bradshaw
University of Virginia

Anthony A. Braga
Northeastern University

Mara Brendgen
University of Quebec at Montreal

Jeanne Brooks-Gunn
Columbia University

Alexander Butchart
World Health Organization

Deborah M. Capaldi
Oregon Social Learning Center

Kevin R. Carriere
Georgetown University

Jorge M. Carvalho Pereira
University of Utah

Leslie Citrome
New York Medical College

Gabriela Jacqueline Cruz
Metropolitan Autonomous University Campus

Iztapalapa (UAM-I), Mexico City, Mexico

J. J. Cutuli
Rutgers University–Camden

Linda L. Dahlberg
Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Scott H. Decker
Arizona State University

Tamara Del Vecchio
St. John's University

Matt DeLisi
Iowa State University

C. Nathan DeWall
University of Kentucky

Brie Diamond
Texas Christian University
xii Contributors

Hailey L. Dotterer
University of Michigan

J. Mark Eddy
New York University

Brian Enjaian
University of Kentucky

Albert D. Farrell
Virginia Commonwealth University

David P. Farrington
Cambridge University

Jeremy Feiger
Cal State University, Long Beach

Aurelio José Figueredo
The University of Arizona

Daniel J. Flannery
Case Western Reserve University

Mark S. Fleisher
Case Western Reserve University

Heather M. Foran
Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt

Holly Foster
Texas A&M University

Brian Forst
American University

Georgia Garney
Georgetown University

Jennifer R. Gonzalez
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Denise C. Gottfredson
University of Maryland

Gary D. Gottfredson
University of Maryland

Michael R. Gottfredson
UC Irvine

Janette E. Herbers
Villanova University

Richard E. Heyman
New York University

L. Rowell Huesmann
University of Michigan

C. Ronald Huff
UC Irvine

Courtland S. Hyatt
University of Georgia

Luke W. Hyde
University of Michigan

Wesley Jennings
University of South Florida

Stephen S. Leff
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Scott O. Lilienfeld
Emory University

Rachel Lovell
Case Western Reserve University

Sabina Low
Arizona State University

Misty Luminais
Case Western Reserve University

Marianna McBride
Florida State University

Christopher C. McCarty
University of Florida

Heather McLernon
California State University, Long Beach

Krista R. Mehari
University of South Alabama

Christopher Mikton
World Health Organization

Joshua D. Miller
University of Georgia

Fathali M. Moghaddam
Georgetown University

Byongook Moon
University of Texas San Antonio

Victor Mora
World Health Organization

Laura Murray
University of Michigan

Lindsey M. O’Brennan
University of South Florida
Jamie M. Ostrov
University of Buffalo

Elise Pas
Johns Hopkins University

Emily Anne Patch
University of Arizona

Christopher J. Patrick
Florida State University

Marisol Perez-Ramos
Metropolitan Autonomous University Campus
Iztapalapa (UAM-I), Mexico City, Mexico

Kristin J. Perry
University of Buffalo

Alex R. Piquero
University of Texas at Dallas

Jill Portnoy
University of Pennsylvania

William Alex Pridemore
University at Albany-SUNY

Lea Pulkkinen
University of Jyväskylä

Jennifer M. Reingle-Gonzalez
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Meghan L. Rogers
University at Albany–SUNY

Christopher P. Salas-Wright
Boston University

Robert Schug
California State University, Long Beach

Jean Schumer
Oregon State University

Jean R. Séguin
University of Montreal

Chelsea E. Sleep
University of Georgia

Amy M. Smith Slep
New York University

Hans-Christoph Steinhausen
University of Basel

Stacey S. Tiberio
Oregon Social Learning Center

Jorim Tielbeek
VU University Medical Center

Brandon Turchan
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Tracy Vaillancourt
University of Ottawa

Michael G. Vaughn
Saint Louis University

Alexander T. Vazsonyi
University of Kentucky

Frank Vitaro
University of Montreal

Jan Volavka
New York University School of Medicine

Sarah C. Vrabic
Villanova University

Mark Warr
University of Michigan

Tracy E. Waasdorp
Johns Hopkins University

Brandon M. Weiss
Oregon Social Learning Center

Joann Wu Shortt
Oregon Social Learning Center
The second edition of *The Cambridge Handbook of Violent Behavior and Aggression* represents an important extension of the first Handbook, published ten years ago. We believe we have been able to compile the current state of the art and state of our knowledge related to the study of violent behavior and aggression. As we did with the first edition, we maintain the distinctly cross-disciplinary focus, represented by the newest scholarship and insights from behavior genetics, cross-cultural comparative psychology/criminology, evolutionary psychology, criminal justice, criminology, human development, molecular genetics, neurosciences, psychology, prevention and intervention sciences, psychiatry, psychopharmacology, public health, and sociology. We find that this feature is paramount as our understanding of violent behavior and aggression is informed by a multitude of efforts originating from across all these areas of study and disciplines.

Each editor brought to this Handbook different and unique strengths, experiences, and networks of colleagues, which proved critical to being able to successfully recruit the current panel of expert contributors. We were quite fortunate to be able to add Matt DeLisi to our editorial team – he was essential in making the Handbook what it is, in so many different ways. We maintained a similar structure of the Handbook, which is divided into (1) introductory and overview chapters on the study of violent behavior and aggression; (2) chapters focused on biosocial bases; (3) individual and interpersonal factors; (4) contextual factors; and finally, (5) a section on “looking toward the future” that includes four content chapters in addition to a conclusion by the editors, which examines prevention work, intervention efforts, and policy implications moving forward. We omitted a section we had included in the first edition focused on research methodology for studying violent behavior in favor of adding new content, in particular the research on biological bases of violence that has emerged over the past decade, but also with insights looking to the future, related to prevention and intervention efforts. In addition to an entirely new chapter content in a number of contributions, including the editors’ conclusion chapter, new chapters were included on the molecular genetics of aggression and violent crime, on lessons learned from serial sex offenders based on a backlog of sexual assault kits, and on insights about the development of aggression and violence over the life-course, based on long-term longitudinal work from Finland. Each of these contributions, from an internationally renowned panel of experts in their
respective fields, contains important new information.

We believe that the current Handbook continues to differentiate itself from other related work in the published literature and to occupy a unique position in scholarship focused on violent behavior and aggression, by its particular cross-disciplinary focus, by both an in-depth and focused treatment of the study of violent behavior and aggression, and by considering these behaviors across the lifespan of human development, rather than focusing on particular developmental periods. In this sense, the current Cambridge Handbook represents a unique resource for researchers and scholars, but also for graduate students across social and behavioral science disciplines interested in the study and etiology of violent behavior and aggression.

**Acknowledgments**

We would like to thank Cambridge University Press for the opportunity to publish the second edition of the Handbook, in particular Janka Romero, for her encouragement and steadfast support throughout the process. Thank you also to Gabriela Ksinan Jiskrova, a doctoral student at the University of Kentucky, for her tireless assistance with managing the submissions, as well as Matthew K. Weiland at Case Western Reserve University, for his work on the index.

The cover of the Handbook is Franz Marc’s “Fighting Forms” (1914), inspired by the artist’s experiences related to World War I, which would also ultimately lead to his demise, in 1916 near Verdun, France.