



Universiteit  
Leiden

**MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT**  
ZUR ERFORSCHUNG VON  
KRIMINALITÄT, SICHERHEIT UND RECHT



# CAN INCREASED SHORT-TERM MINDSETS AFTER OFFENDING EXPLAIN FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME?

Sebastian L. Kübel

zIRen meeting 2023  
s.kuebel@csl.mpg.de

September 14, 2023



# CRIME IS GREAT...

STRESS  
REDUCTION

GET RICH  
(or die tryin'...)

THRILL

PRAISE BY  
PEERS

(...BUT...)

# SHORT-TERM MINDSETS



„a focus on immediate gratification while disregarding future consequences”



- [1] Forrest et al. (2019)
- [2] Gottfredson & Hirschi (1990)
- [3] Mischel & Ebbesen (1970)
- [4] Shoda et al. (1990)
- [5] Moffitt et al. (2011)

# SHORT-TERM MINDSETS

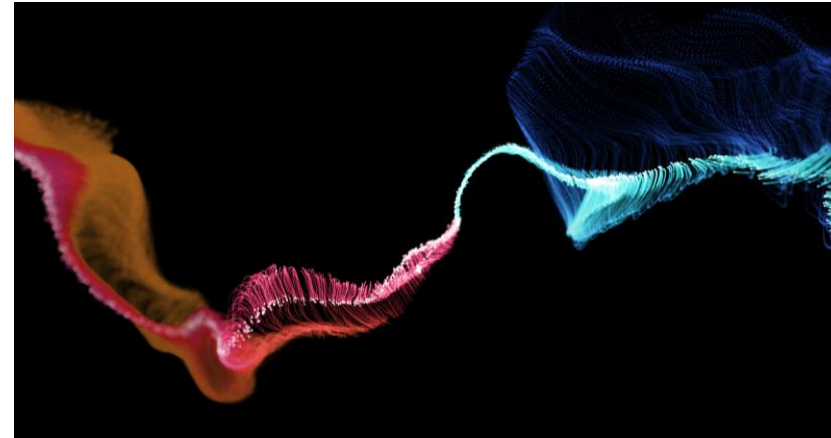


„a focus on immediate gratification while disregarding future consequences”



- [1] Forrest et al. (2019)
- [2] Gottfredson & Hirschi (1990)
- [3] Mischel & Ebbesen (1970)
- [4] Shoda et al. (1990)
- [5] Moffitt et al. (2011)

# SHORT-TERM MINDSETS – UPDATED



- [6] Burt (2020)
- [7] Frankenhuus et al. (2016)
- [8] Steinberg et al. (2008)

„a focus on immediate gratification while disregarding future consequences”





Universiteit  
Leiden

**MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT**  
ZUR ERFORSCHUNG VON  
KRIMINALITÄT, SICHERHEIT UND RECHT



# DELINQUENCY TRAP



Kübel, S. L., Deitzer, J. R., Frankenhuis, W. E., Ribeaud, D., Eisner, M., & van Gelder, J.-L. (in progress). Working title: The delinquency trap: Do increased short-term mindsets after offending promote reoffending and victimization?

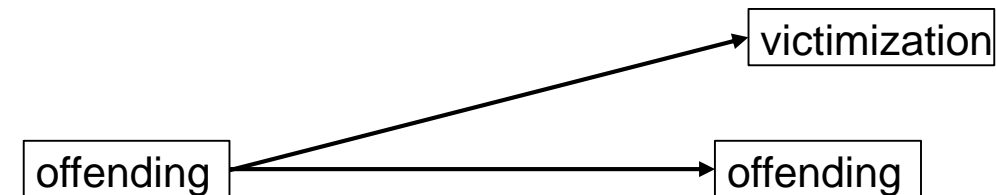


# THE DELINQUENCY TRAP



“When offending triggers processes that make subsequent offending more likely, this can be called a ‘delinquency trap’“

- Potential changes to:
  - Behavior
  - Societal responses
  - Cognition
- Victim-Offender Overlap

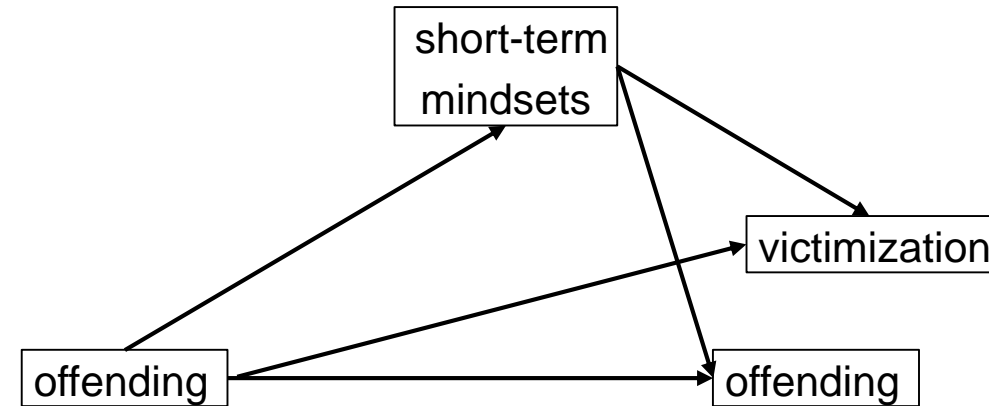


# SHORT-TERM MINDSETS AS EXPLANATION?

Can offending increase short-term mindsets?



- Reinforcement (rewards > costs)
- Future risks and uncertainty
- Identification with deviant self-concept



[9] Caspi et al. (2022)

[10] Daigle & Hoffman (2018)

[11] Bernburg (2019)

[12] Wiley et al. (2013)

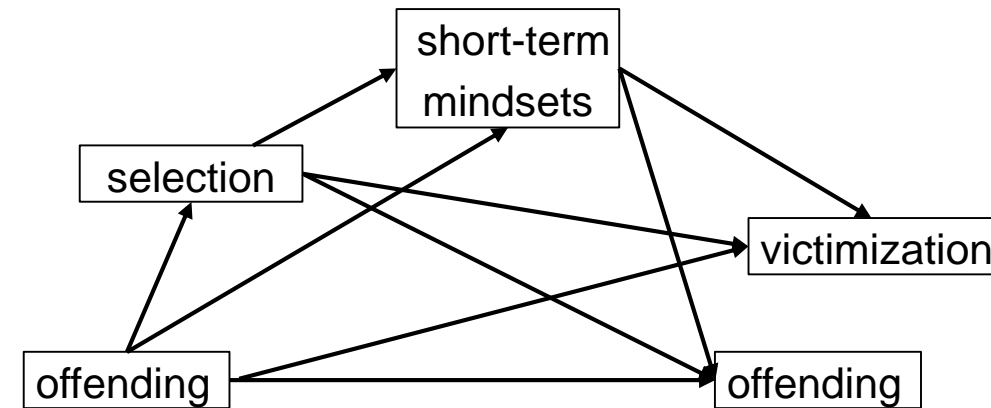




# SHORT-TERM MINDSETS AS EXPLANATION?

Can offending increase short-term mindsets?

- Reinforcement (rewards > costs)
- Future risks and uncertainty
- Identification with deviant self-concept



Selection into criminogenic contexts

- Delinquent peers
- Unstructured unsupervised socializing

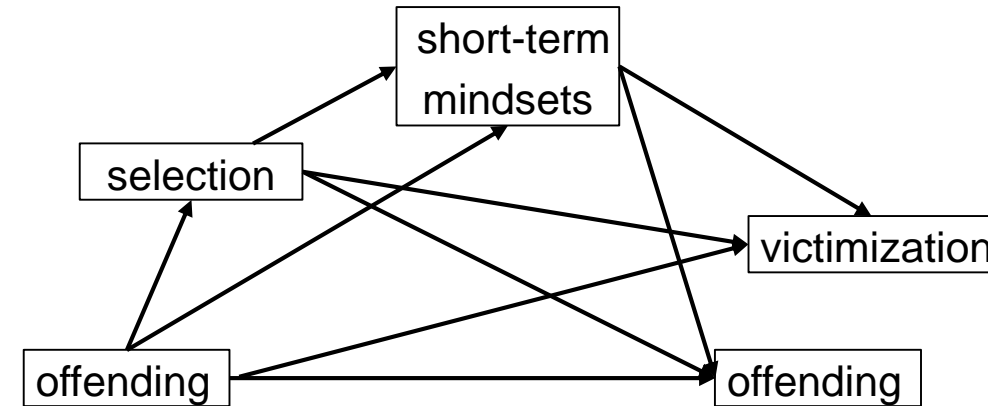
[13] Matsueda & Anderson (1998)  
[14] Meldrum et al. (2012)  
[15] Vásquez & Zimmerman (2014)  
[16] Kübel et al. (under review)



# SHORT-TERM MINDSETS AS EXPLANATION?

Can offending increase short-term mindsets?

- Reinforcement (rewards > costs)
- Future risks and uncertainty
- Identification with deviant self-concept



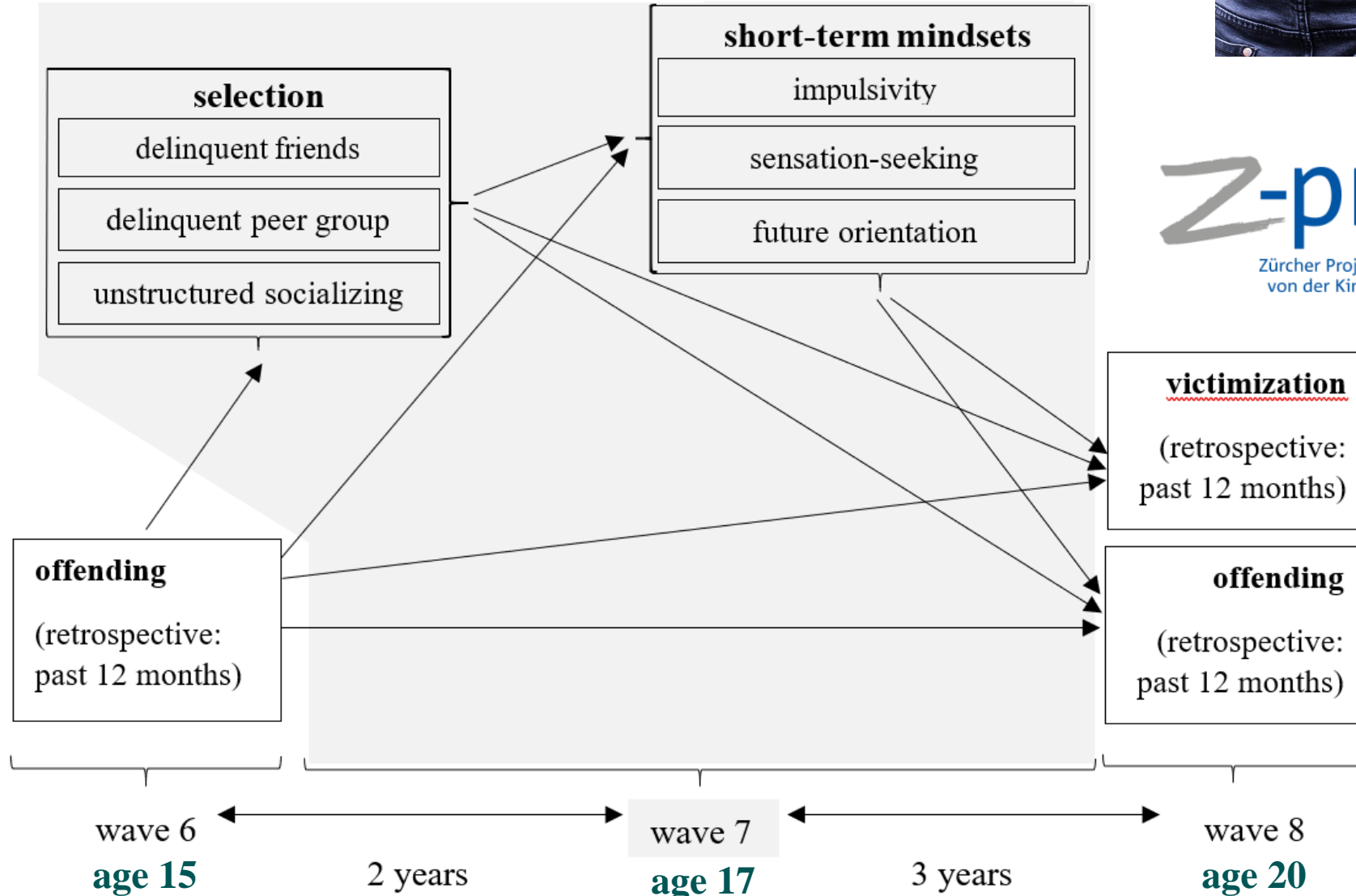
Selection into criminogenic contexts

- Delinquent peers
- Unstructured unsupervised socializing

**Not just effect of sanctions**

[17] van Gelder et al. (2020)

# MODEL



# CONTROL VARIABLES



- **Police contact in response to crime → sanctions**
- **Demographics: age, sex, nationality, SES**
- **Parental monitoring**
- **Prior delinquent friends, delinquent peer group and unstruct. socializ.**
- **Prior victimization**
- **Prior short-term mindsets**



# RESULTS



# RESULTS

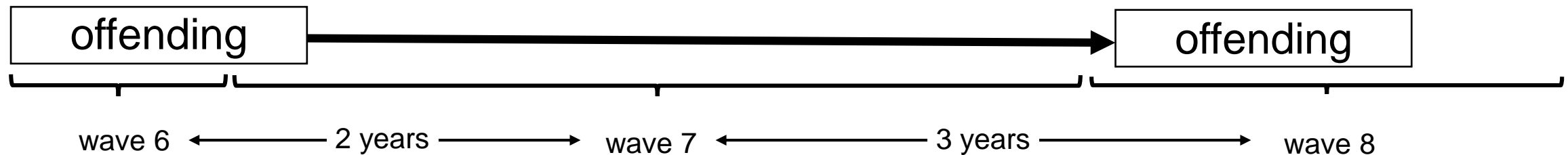


delinquent friends  
delinquent group  
unstructured socializing

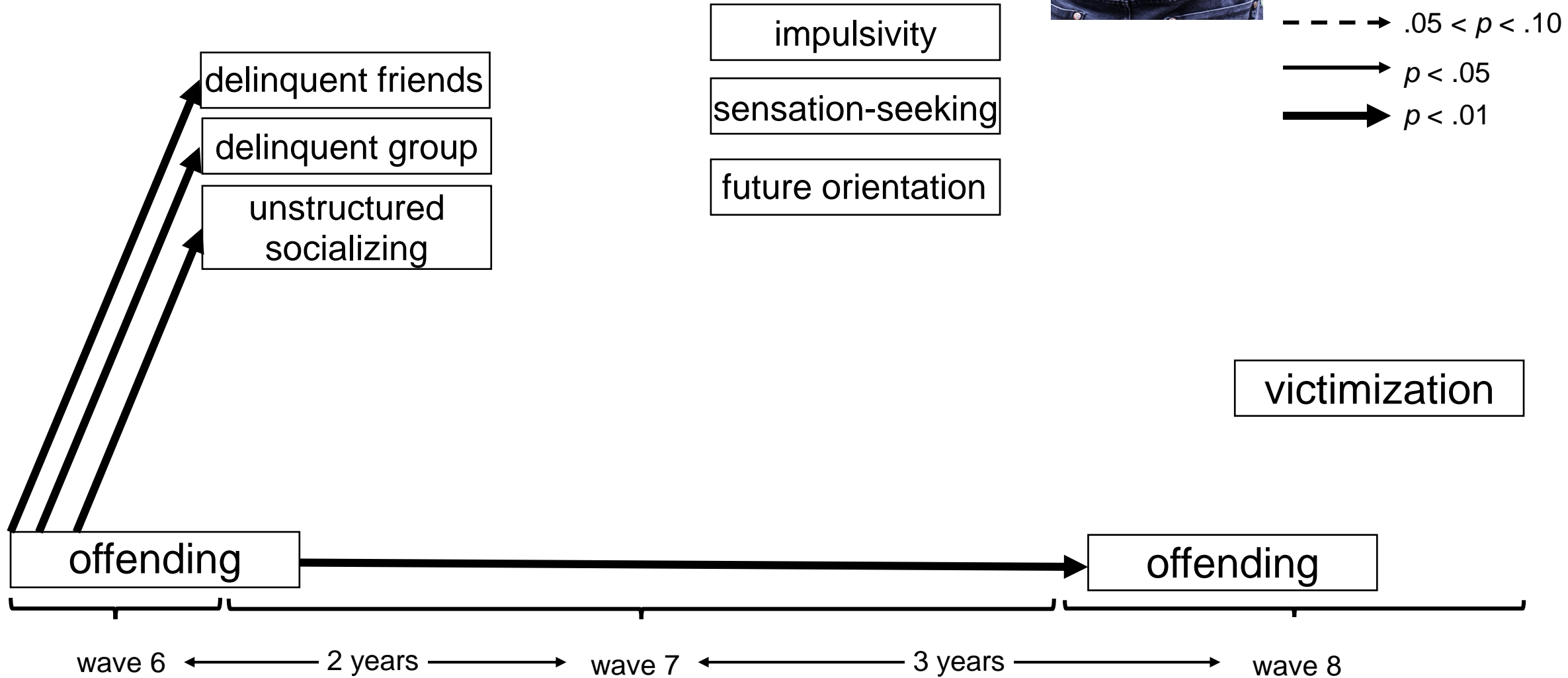
impulsivity  
sensation-seeking  
future orientation

--- →  $.05 < p < .10$   
 ———→  $p < .05$   
 ———→  $p < .01$

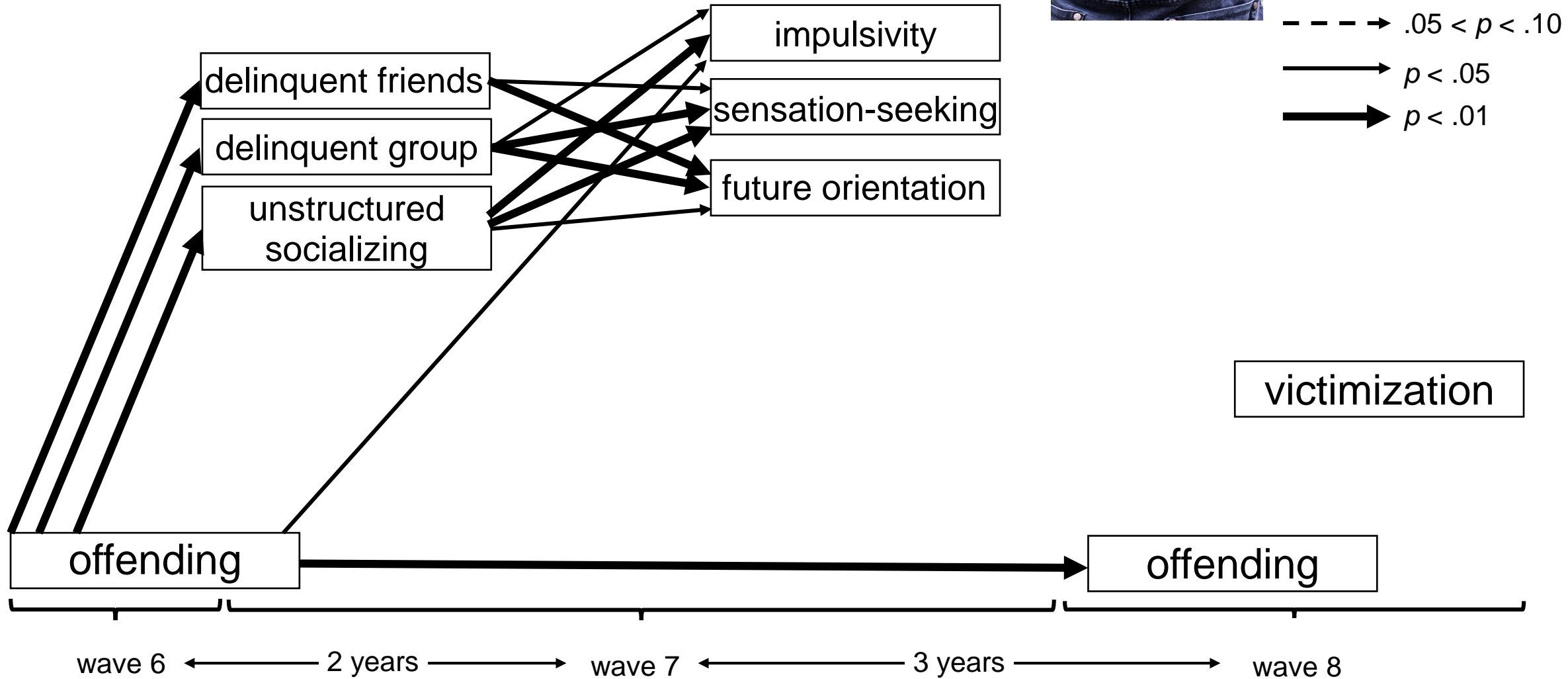
victimization



# RESULTS

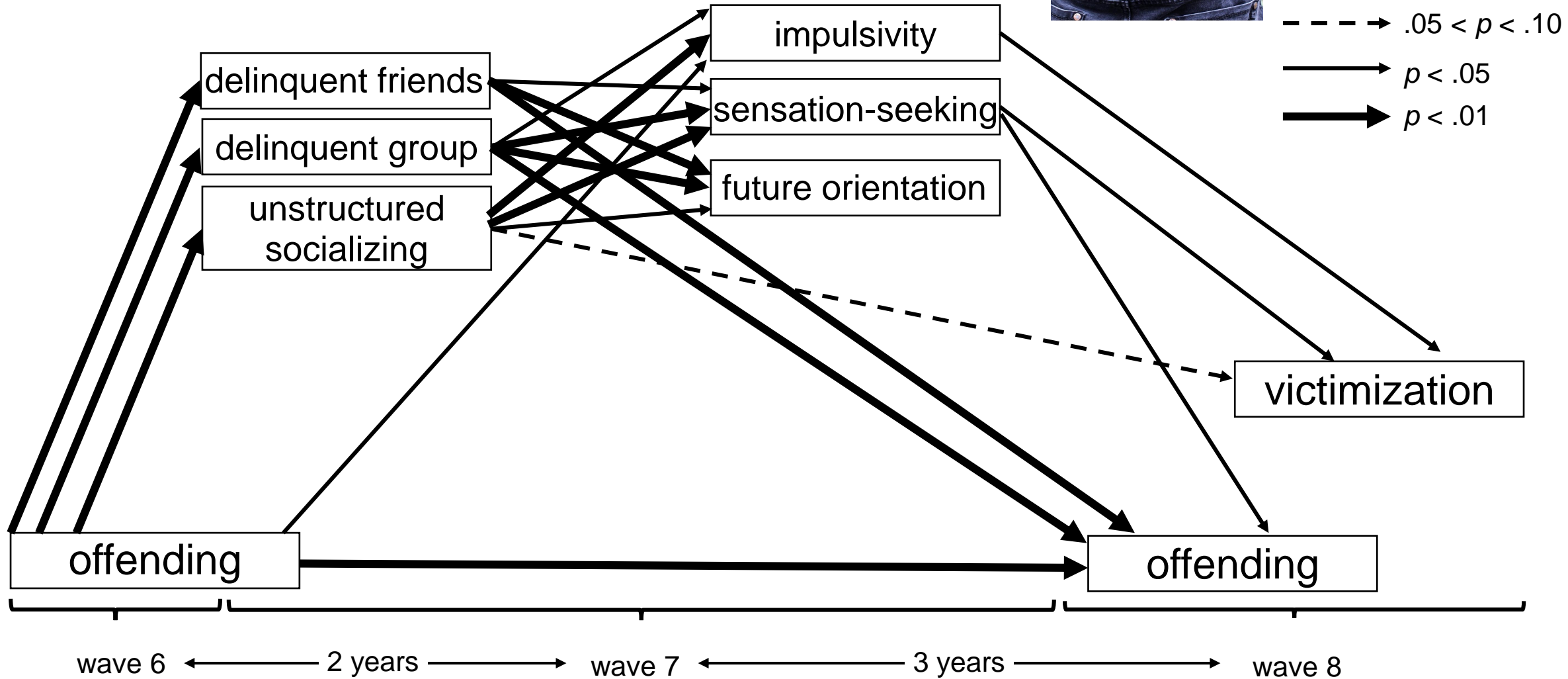


# RESULTS





# RESULTS

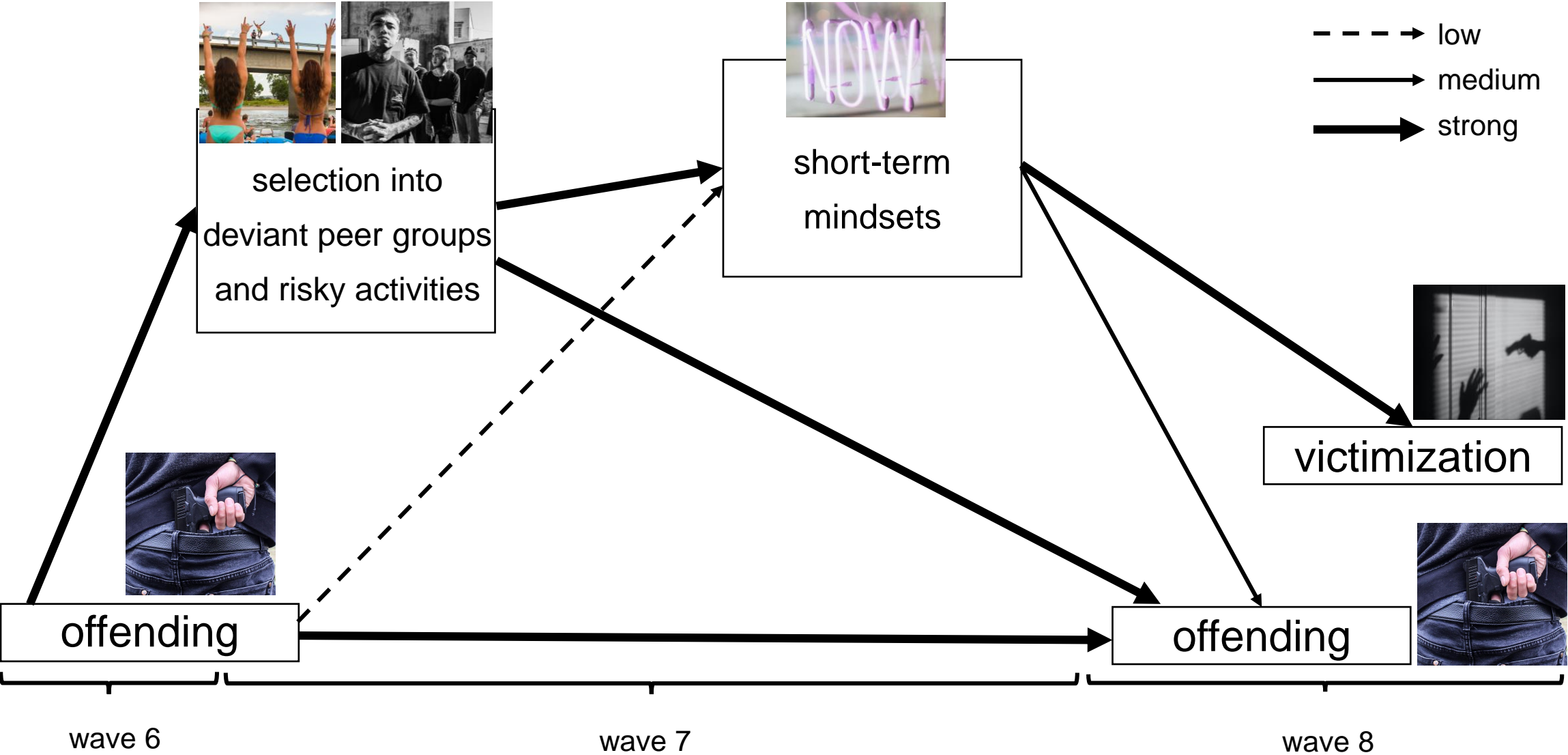


# IN SIMPLE...



## LEVEL OF SUPPORT

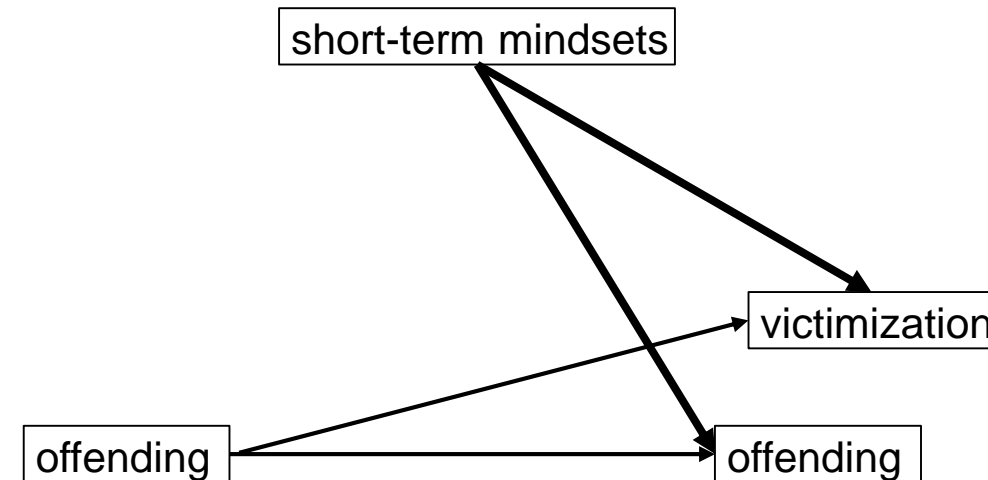
- → low
- → medium
- → strong





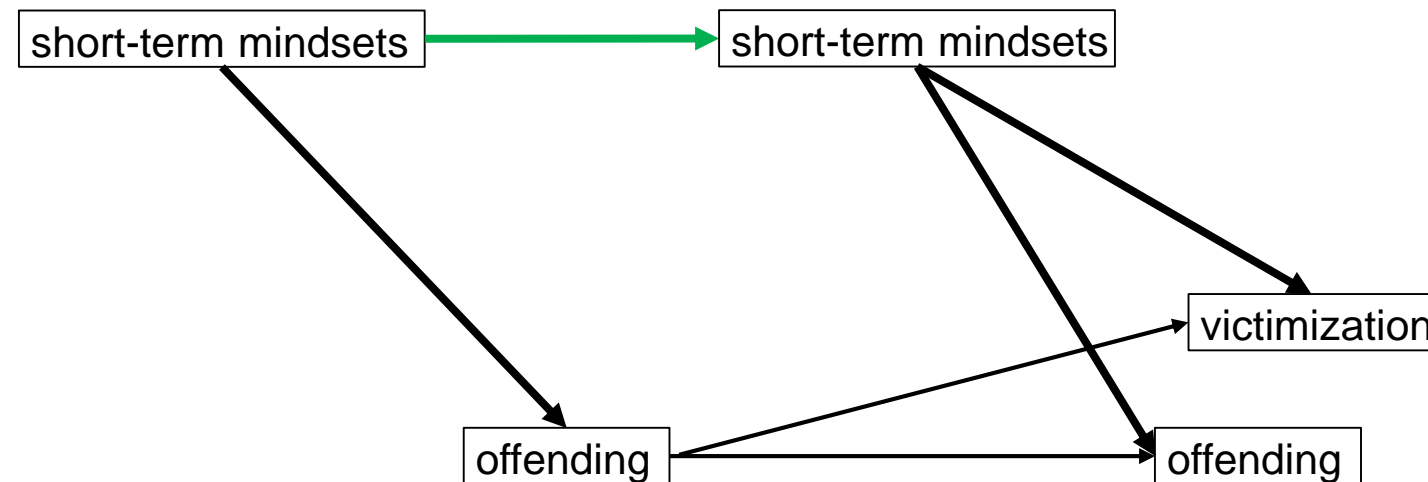
# CONCLUSIONS

➤ **Short-term mindsets affect crime and victimization...**



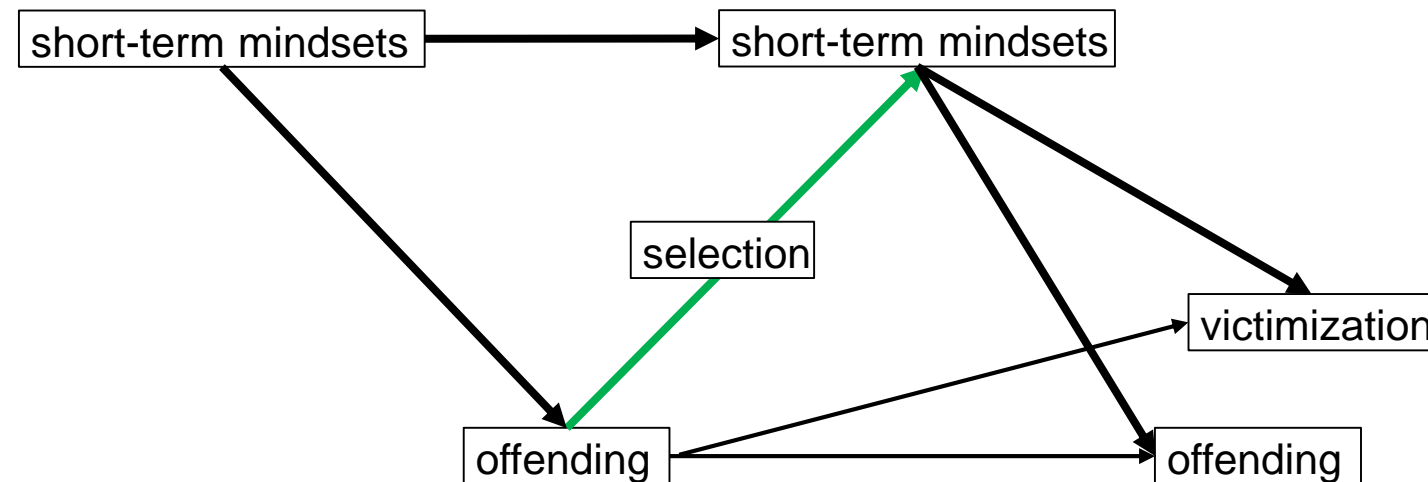
# CONCLUSIONS

- Short-term mindsets affect crime and victimization...
- ... but they are **dynamic** over time ...



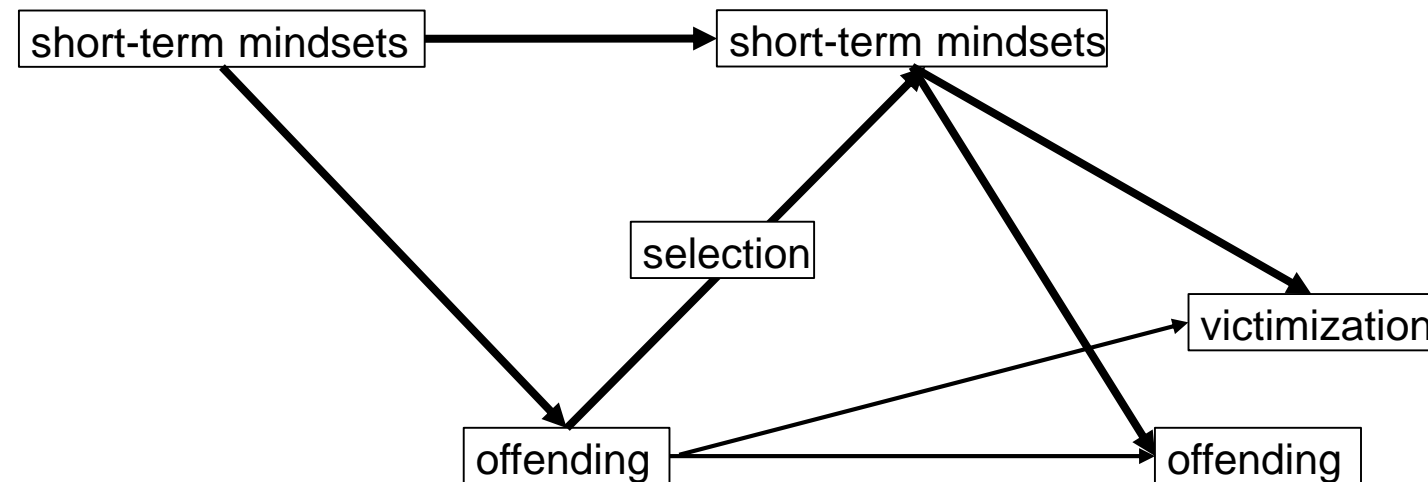
# CONCLUSIONS

- Short-term mindsets affect crime and victimization...
- ... but they are dynamic over time ...
- ... and themselves can be **influenced by committing crime**



# CONCLUSIONS

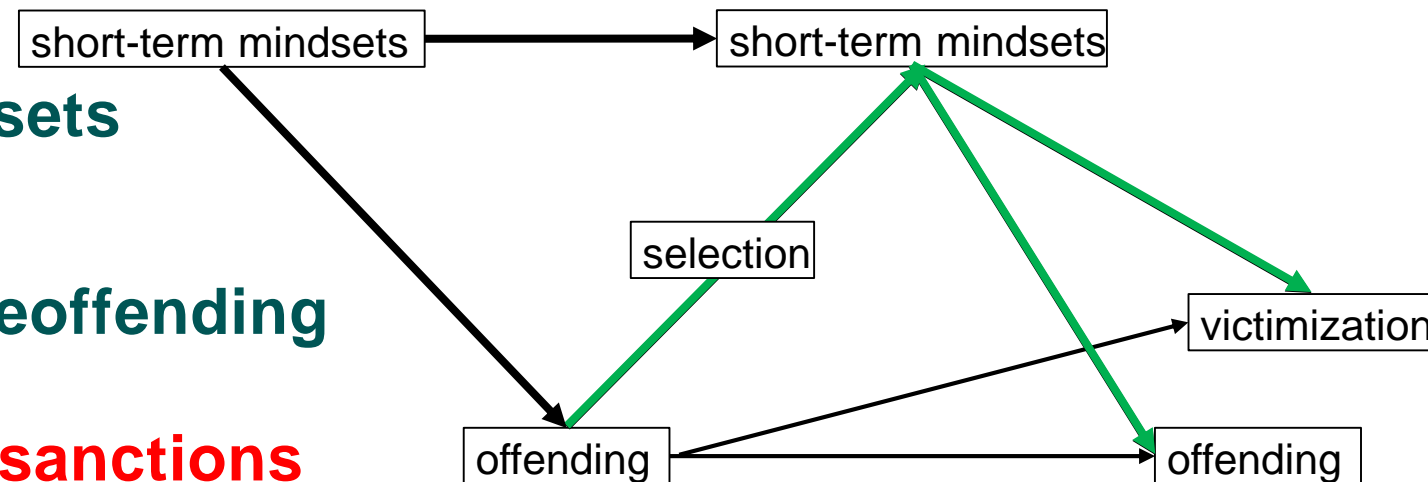
- Short-term mindsets affect crime and victimization...
- ... but they are dynamic over time ...
- ... and themselves can be influenced by committing crime



# CONCLUSIONS

- Short-term mindsets affect crime and victimization...
- ... but they are dynamic over time ...
- ... and themselves can be influenced by committing crime

- Increased short-term mindsets **mediate** the effect of crime on later victimization and reoffending
- effect does **not depend on sanctions**



# SO WHY NO INFINITE TRAP?



Susceptibility  
to peer  
influence  
decreases

Relative  
comparison

Turning  
points

Maturation





# THANKS TO MY COLLABORATORS



Jessica R. Deitzer



Willem E. Frankenhuis



Jean-Louis van Gelder



Manuel Eisner



Denis Ribeaud



# REFERENCES

- [1] Forrest, W., Hay, C., Widdowson, A. O., & Rocque, M. (2019). Development of impulsivity and risk-seeking: Implications for the dimensionality and stability of self-control. *Criminology*, 57(3), 512-543. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9125.12214>
- [2] Gottfredson, M. R. & Hirschi, T. (1990). *A general theory of crime*. Stanford University Press.
- [3] Mischel, W. & Ebbesen, E. B. (1970). Attention in delay of gratification. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 16(2), 329–337. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0029815>
- [4] Shoda, Y., Mischel, W., & Peake, P. K. (1990). Predicting adolescent cognitive and self-regulatory competencies from preschool delay of gratification: Identifying diagnostic conditions. *Developmental Psychology*, 26(6): 978–986. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0012-1649.26.6.978>
- [5] Moffitt, T. E., Arseneault, L., Belsky, D., Dickson, N., Hancox, R. J., Harrington, H., Houts, R., Poulton, R., Roberts, B. W., Ross, S., Sears, M. R., Thomson, W. M., & Caspi, A. (2011). A gradient of childhood self-control predicts health, wealth, and public safety. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 108(7), 2693–2698. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1010076108>
- [6] Burt, C. H. (2020). Self-control and crime: Beyond Gottfredson & Hirschi's theory. *Annual Review of Criminology*, 3(1), 43–73. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-criminol-011419-041344>
- [7] Frankenhuis, W. E., Panchanathan, K., & Nettle, D. (2016). Cognition in harsh and unpredictable environments. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 7, 76–80. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2015.08.011>
- [8] Steinberg, L., Albert, D., Cauffman, E., Banich, M., Graham, S., & Woolard, J. (2008). Age differences in sensation seeking and impulsivity as indexed by behavior and self-report: Evidence for a dual systems model. *Developmental Psychology*, 44(6), 1764. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0012955>
- [9] Caspi, A., Roberts, B. W., & Shiner, R. L. (2005). Personality development: Stability and change. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 56, 453-484. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.psych.55.090902.141913>



# REFERENCES

- [10] Daigle, L. E., & Hoffman, C. Y. (2018). Violent victimization and future expectations: Results from a longitudinal study of at-risk youth. *Victims & Offenders*, 13(6), 798-813. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2018.1479909>
- [11] Bernburg, J. G. (2019). Labeling Theory. In M. D. Krohn, N. Hendrix, G. Penly Hall & A. J. Lizotte (Eds.), *Handbook on crime and deviance* (pp. 176-196). Springer.
- [12] Wiley, S. A., Slocum, L. A., & Esbensen, F. A. (2013). The unintended consequences of being stopped or arrested: An exploration of the labeling mechanisms through which police contact leads to subsequent delinquency. *Criminology*, 51(4), 927-966. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9125.12024>
- [13] Matsueda, R. L., & Anderson, K. (1998). The dynamics of delinquent peers and delinquent behavior. *Criminology*, 36(2), 269-308. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-9125.1998.tb01249.x>
- [14] Meldrum
- [15] Vásquez, B. E., & Zimmerman, G. M. (2014). An investigation into the empirical relationship between time with peers, friendship, and delinquency. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 42(3), 244-256. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2014.03.001>
- [16] Kübel, S. L., Deitzer, J. R., Frankenhuis, W. E., Ribeaud, D., Eisner, M., & van Gelder, J.-L. (under review). Beyond the situation: Hanging out with peers now is associated with short-term mindsets later.
- [17] van Gelder, J.-L., Averdijk, M., Ribeaud, D., & Eisner, M. (2020). Sanctions, short-term mindsets, and delinquency: Reverse causality in a sample of high school youth. *Legal and Criminological Psychology*, 25(2), 199–218. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lcrp.12170>



**Sebastian L. Kübel**

# **Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law**

**Department of Criminology  
Günterstalstr. 73, 79100 Freiburg**

**Phone: +49 761 7081-243**

**E-Mail: [s.kuebel@csi.mpg.de](mailto:s.kuebel@csi.mpg.de)**

**Internet: <https://csi.mpg.de>**

**MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT**  
ZUR ERFORSCHUNG VON  
KRIMINALITÄT, SICHERHEIT UND RECHT

