

## Manuscript Details

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**Title** Humans reciprocate by discriminating against group peers



### Abstract

The evolution of human intergroup conflict is a social science puzzle. Motivated by cycles of intergroup revenge in real-world conflicts, we experimentally test the hypothesis that humans practice group-based reciprocity: if someone harms or helps them, they harm or help other members of that person's group. Subjects played a trust game, then allocated money between other people. Senders whose partners returned more in the trust game gave more to that partner's group members. The effect was about half as large as the effect of direct reciprocity. Receivers' allocations to group members were not affected by their partners' play in the trust game, suggesting that group reciprocity was only triggered when the partner's intentions were unequivocal. We show conditions under which group reciprocity can evolve, and discuss its place in conflict among early humans.

## Submission Files Included in this PDF

### File Name [File Type]

cover\_EHB\_anon.pdf [Response to Reviewers (without Author Details)]

gr\_EHB\_180316\_anon.pdf [Manuscript (without Author Details)]

To view all the submission files, including those not included in the PDF, click on the manuscript title on your EVISE Homepage, then click 'Download zip file'.

## Research Data Related to this Submission

There are no linked research data sets for this submission. The following reason is given:  
Data will be made available on request

## Editor

1. *The reviewers provide numerous constructive comments that will be important address before submitting a revision. Reviewer 2 in particular points out key concerns about theoretical framing, experimental setup, and interpretation which deserve careful consideration. Also, regarding the simulation, I agree with R1 that they don't contribute much to the paper, and that the real potential of the paper is in the empirical ndings.*

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We did our best to address the comments and suggestions of the referees. In line with your comment, we moved the simulations to the supplementary material, and provide a short summary in the text.

## Reviewer #1

1. *This is a well-designed study on an interesting and under-theorized question: does group-based reciprocity drive harm towards outgroups. The manuscript is well-written with the experimental design clearly articulated and it fits within a larger body of experimental work using versions of the DG and TG to explore and test hypotheses about real-world intergroup relationships. I see the key contribution of this manuscript being that it advances a novel and important line of theorizing about the origins of intergroup relationships. In this respect, I am optimistic it will stimulate more theory on this topic.*

*I recommend publication pending minor revisions and have a few general and specific comments below.*

Thank you for the encouraging assessment.

2. *I find the simulations not very convincing and think they could be safely removed from the ms without losing much of substance. But it's also fine if they remain in.*

In line with your and the editor's comments, we kept a summary of the simulations, and moved the more detailed description to the supplementary material.

3. *Their results find group based reciprocity only towards receivers, not senders, which weakens the interpretation from their experimental results. They provide one plausible explanation but it might also be the case that upstream reciprocity doesn't shape these types of intergroup interactions or the experimental design doesn't adequately capture real-world phenomena in this context. Nonetheless, I don't see this as a serious flaw of their paper.*

We believe that the difference between sender and responder behavior makes the results non-trivial, and therefore interesting and pointing at new research directions and insights. We argue this in the following:

We observed group reciprocity only towards receivers, not senders. On the one hand, we find group reciprocity towards receivers, confirming that the experiment was successful in setting up the type of group interactions that triggers group reciprocity. On the other hand, we find *direct* reciprocity towards senders, indicating that responders perceived the TG interaction as meaningful and relevant for the later allocation decisions. We therefore conclude that it is some characteristic of the responder decision, not shared with the sender decision, that triggers group reciprocity.

We agree that that the empirical findings are only a first step to understanding this phenomenon, and that the explanations we put forward in the paper are somewhat tentative at this point. We extended the discussion to allow for varying interpretations, and removed the words "intentional harm" from the title:

One possible interpretation for this difference between senders and responders stems from the distinction between intention-based and outcome-based motives in reciprocal behaviour (Falk and Fischbacher, 2006; Stanca, Bruni, and Corazzini, 2009). In this sense, senders' intentions are more ambiguous, as they do not know what the responder will do. Responders who do not return money, in contrast, are clearly intentionally harming the senders. It is possible that humans generalize *intentions* across group members. That is, if group member 1 takes an action that deliberately harms them, they predict that group member 2 wishes to harm them also. If not returning money is seen as deliberately harmful, while not sending money can be explained by caution or mistrust, then this would generate the difference in group reciprocity that we observe.

Another distinction made in the literature between trust (sender behavior) and trustworthiness (responder behavior) is based on norms and rules of conduct. In their analysis of Adam Smith's *A Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Wilson and Smith (2017) argue that trust is a beneficent act, while breaking trust is misconduct. Accordingly, Wilson and Smith (2017) found that people punish responders but not senders. Similarly, Kimbrough and Vostroknutov (2015) found that 'rule followers' are more trustworthy, but not more trusting, than other individuals. We view these interpretations of our results as tentative. Further research will be necessary to map and understand the boundaries of the group reciprocity phenomenon.

4. *I would have found the claim of “intentional” harm more compelling if they included an unintentional harm as a control. However, I don’t see this as serious enough to warrant running more experiments for the sake of this paper though.*

We use the term “intentional harm” to mean an act that conveys unambiguous intentions to harm. In this sense, senders' decisions in the trust game are not intentional. We clarified in the passage quoted above.

5. *Page 4, Line 199: Typo: “reciprocity” is spelled incorrectly.*

Corrected.

6. *Page 15, lines 842-846: can you unpack this sentence? It’s a little too opaque.*

We rephrased thus:

Group reciprocity may provide another piece of the puzzle. Group reciprocity allows individuals to use reciprocal strategies based on group reputation. Consequently, upstream reciprocity can direct group-level selection in ways parallel to those by which direct reciprocity directs individual-level selection.

7. *Line 84, page 2. Tit-for-tat conflict doesn’t imply general reciprocity including both harm and help but rather reciprocity for harm.*

We now acknowledge this point:

Tit-for-tat conflict looks like negative group reciprocity.

8. Page 3, line 168: chimpanzees do not live in “bands”, which refers to a type of human social organization. They live in “communities”, which is the term for the chimpanzee unit of social organization. Many human hunter-gatherers and some horticulturalists lived in “bands” but not all of them.

Thank you. We have corrected the terminology.

9. Page 16:: “well-defined” institutions? What does ‘well-defined’ mean? Is this a term Kelly uses? If not, I don’t think it’s an accurate assessment of war/ peace systems and would strongly suggest deleting it.

We were thinking of e.g. the payment of blood money or Court of Good Men described in Boehm (1984). Kelly (p. 119) describes the Andaman islanders as having a “war/peace” system and describes the “peace dance” by which they tried to reconcile with European convicts. We have modified our claim:

Some of these societies also have “war/peace systems” featuring institutions for ending conflict as well as beginning it, such as the Andamanese Peace Dance, or the Montenegrin Court of Good Men for ending feuds (Boehm 1984).

10. Page 14, line 780: “the argument of Pietraszewski” is introduced out of the blue as if this is if his ideas were what was designed to be tested in this study. I would suggest rephrasing it or introducing Pietraszewski’s paper earlier in the manuscript.

We have deleted this sentence.

11. Page 14, lines 814–815. Whether HGs had “generally peaceful” relationships is the subject of intense dispute and the authors don’t adequately support this claim and cite work elsewhere in this manuscript that argues to the contrary. This debate can be safely dodged by rephrasing this sentence to say “...group reciprocity can help explain why some groups have relatively peaceful intergroup relationships.” Or “...why hunter-gatherers have lower rates of intergroup violence than horticulturalists or pastoralists”. Neither of these are contentious. For a reference that directly compares rates of death due to warfare between subsistence styles you can cite: Wrangham, Richard W., Michael L. Wilson, and Martin N. Muller. “Comparative rates of violence in chimpanzees and humans.” *Primates* 47.1 (2006): 14-26.

We have gone along with the reviewer’s first suggestion. We think group reciprocity is better able to explain differences between humans and chimps, than between hunter-gatherers and other subsistence styles. We now say:

We have argued that group reciprocity could help explain why some groups have relatively peaceful intergroup relations. It may also provide a step from the “chimpanzee model” of conflict towards the large-scale, organized intergroup conflicts observed in tribal and state-level societies. For example, Wrangham et al. (2006) provide evidence that hunter-gatherers and farmers have similar levels of lethal violence to chimpanzees but much less non-lethal violence. This could be because the threat of high-level violence can contain low-level violence.

12. *I have several suggestions about references you might consider:*

*P.2. Line 7: the citation to World Bank is strange. You might consider citing a review on group based conflict, these two below cover this terrain more comprehensively:*

*Esteban, J., Mayoral, L., & Ray, D. (2012). Ethnicity and conflict: Theory and facts. science, 336(6083), 858-865.*

*Or*

*Glowacki, Luke, Michael L. Wilson, and Richard W. Wrangham. “The evolutionary anthropology of war.” Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization (2017).*

*The role of parochial altruism and intergroup conflict has been written about more widely than just Choi and Bowles. See for example: Rusch, Hannes. “The evolutionary interplay of intergroup conflict and altruism in humans: a review of parochial altruism theory and prospects for its extension.” Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B: Biological Sciences 281.1794 (2014): 20141539.*

*Citations for tit-for-tat logic would do well to include a review or theory paper consider:*

*Boehm, Christopher. Blood revenge: The enactment and management of conflict in Montenegro and other tribal societies. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1984.*

*Boehm, Christopher. “Retaliatory violence in human prehistory.” The British Journal of Criminology 51.3 (2011): 518-534.*

*Page 156-157: Fry and Soderberg don’t actually show that intergroup conflict among HGs is rare. They only report number of people killed with no denominator. They found 148 killings occurred and were present in all but 3 societies and made up 34% of total killings. So I think it’s a bit off hand on the basis of this to state that conflict appears to have been rare, especially when numerous other reviews find evidence to the contrary, including the one you cite (Wrangham and Glowacki 2012). What you can safely claim is that HGs had lower rates of deaths from warfare than farmers and pastoralists. For support for this you can see Wrangham, Richard W., Michael L. Wilson, and Martin N. Muller. “Comparative rates of violence in chimpanzees and humans.” Primates 47.1 (2006): 14-26.*

Thank you for the very helpful suggestions! We updated the references. We’ve deleted the claim that HG conflict is rare; we kept the World Bank report in to make a point about the economic costs of conflict. New citations have been added.

## Reviewer #2

*The research questions are important and likely of interest to the readers of E&HB. I value the idea of the the experimental design in general and the results (partly) support the authors' hypotheses. Hence, there are several things to like about the manuscript. That said, however, there are also a number of weaknesses in the theoretical overview, the experiment, and the interpretation of results. I describe my concerns and suggestions in detail below in the order of appearance in the paper.*

Thank you for the positive assessment and for the helpful suggestions.

1. *The introduction is well written. However, this overview misses some important work. In my view, the authors need to discuss the theory of group-bounded reciprocity by Yamagishi and colleagues, which is closely related to the present work. The authors already cite some of this work, but do not discuss it. There is also recent empirical research supporting and extending this theory, which might be helpful for interpreting the present results and putting them into context.*

We agree that Yamagishi's work is important. As we understand it, his key argument is that altruism within a group is related to an expectation of reciprocity within the "container" of the group. Our analysis complements this by relating between-group behaviour to reciprocity. We now mention this in Footnote 4:

This argument is a between-group parallel to Yamagishi and Kiyonari (2000), which argues that expectations of generalized reciprocity lie behind altruism within a group.

2. *The simulation results appear quite important and relevant for the present paper. I strongly suggest including them in the main text. The results provide important insights for the hypotheses of the experiment. However, in the current form, the simulation and its parameters are not discussed with regard to other simulation work in the field of direct/indirect reciprocity. The authors should rewrite this section to help the less informed reader understanding and interpreting their results. Of course, this requires substantial rewriting.*

Following the other reviewer and editor's comments, we have moved the results to an online appendix. We now discuss them more briefly, and we hope more clearly, as follows:

While group reciprocity can benefit the group, to evolve it must increase individual fitness. In the supplementary materials, we report on a series of simulations tracking the evolution of group reciprocators under different environmental parameters. The key result is that when the relative cost of helping (or failing to harm) a target is low enough, relative to the benefit supplied to the target and to the group size, group reciprocity can evolve to fixation in a group. The mechanism is that groups with a high share of group reciprocators learn to cooperate with each other, while not helping groups that have a high share of selfish types. Selfish types in cooperative groups free ride on the group reputation, exploiting members of other cooperating groups, thereby gaining higher fitness than the group reciprocators in their group. Nonetheless, if the share of group reciprocators within the group varies sufficiently between groups, group reciprocators are overrepresented in the cooperative groups, and therefore have higher fitness overall. The high benefit/cost ratio required for group reciprocity to evolve fits the “chimpanzee model” of conflict where an attack is only launched if it is low risk. It may also explain why most salient examples of group reciprocity are seen in the negative domain of harm and conflict: when the benefit/cost ratio is high, hurting or refraining from helping is a “nasty” action, since it imposes a large loss on the target for a small gain to oneself.

3. *The dictator game is not well explained. From the methods section and the instructions I guess the allocator had to allocate the remaining 70 tokens and could nothing keep for him/herself? In this case, this is a third-party dictator game (with some fixed endowment for the allocator) and allocations have nothing to do with prosociality, i.e., they are not costly to the allocator. This is an important limitation and the authors should at least discuss this.*

The aim of this design is to best capture group reciprocity, rather than to study costly prosociality. As can be seen in our response to comment #10 below, this design choice eliminates potential confounds. We clarify in the following:

Each player in the group of three had to allocate 100 tokens within the group. The allocator always received exactly 30 tokens, and could freely allocate the remaining 70 tokens between the other two players. Previous research has found that people do not harm, but refrain from helping negatively perceived outgroups (Weisel and Böhm, 2015). Accordingly, we set the parameters of the game so that an equal division between the other two players provides them with 35 tokens each, more than the allocator’s own share.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The allocator’s decision is not costly, which might have introduced additional confounding considerations. As our aim in this paper is to identify and study the qualitative characteristics of group reciprocity, we accept the limitations that this choice imposes on the ability to estimate the *magnitude* of preferences for group reciprocity.

4. *Potentially even more critically, it is explained: “Each player in the group of three had to allocate 100 tokens within the group.” Did participants know about that? This introduces the confound that all allocations may not be based on own preferences based on the trust game allocations (e.g., reciprocity concerns) but could also be based on participants reciprocity to their belief about others’ reciprocity based on the trust game. In other words, I might give more to a*



*person because I expect this person give more to me because of direct/group-based reciprocity or group-based preferences. In this case, all behavior may be based on direct (expected) reciprocity based on participant's beliefs. In my view, this undermines the whole idea of the otherwise well-designed experiment.*

An important feature of the design is that only one dictator allocation is implemented. Therefore, each participant makes a decision conditional on being the only allocator. Also, participants in the allocation stage do not know which treatment their partners are in, nor which role they played in the preceding trust game. That is, when A is group-reciprocating to B, it is likely that A is a neutral player from B's viewpoint. We elaborate on these points in the following:

One round of the six rounds was randomly chosen for payment. In that round, the payoffs of the members of each group were determined by the allocation decision of one randomly chosen player in the group. No feedback was provided between rounds. At the end of the stage, players learned the payoff round, whether their allocation was chosen to determine payoffs, and their payoff for the round. Thus, all allocation decisions were completely independent of each other, both within and between participants.

5. *The authors do not explain how the payment of participants worked. From the instructions I conclude that decisions were incentivized. How big were the stakes and what were the average payments?*

We added details on the payments:

The average payment was approximately \$18) for a duration of 70 minutes. The lowest and highest payments were approximately \$6 and \$32, respectively.

6. *Was the SVO slider measure incentivized? Given it was not and considering the additional weakness that it was assessed at the end of the experiment and could be affected by participants' experiences in the previous parts, I do not see how this can be interpreted at all. As a last point, SVO was assessed with in-group recipients, which differs from the usual approach where recipients are unknown others (although there is some evidence that the results are equivalent, e.g., Böhm, Fleiss & Rybníček, 2017). Although the authors are cautious regarding the interpretation of their results in relation to SVO, I think these results should be dropped completely from the results section. This does not mean that I suggest to drop the information from the methods section that this variable was assessed, but it should be clearly explained why this data could not be used in any meaningful analyses. This is really a pity because it would have been interesting, particularly with regard to parochial altruism, how SVO relates to the other results.*

We clarify in the revised manuscript that all decisions were incentivized. We further qualify the results with the SVO partners being in-group members. Despite the shortcomings, we believe that most readers would be curious to see a brief (two sentences) report of the SVO results.

7. *How was the mixed-effects analysis specified? Did you consider random intercepts, random slopes, or both among subjects to consider the within-subjects homogeneity in error terms?*

The description of our statistics referred to a previous specification. We corrected it to read:

All reported statistical tests are based on linear regressions with standard errors clustered by session.

I.e., we ran simple linear regressions, we clustered errors by session rather than by subject, and they are not bootstrap clusters. Clustering errors at the highest level is recommended by Cameron, Gelbach, and Miller (2011). We could also have included per-subject random intercepts. Below, we show the results if we do so:

	Allocation	Discrimination	Reciprocity
<b>Senders</b>			
Baseline	35.00 (—)	4.15 (1.29)	—
Direct Reciprocity	33.98 (1.06)	21.94 (1.84)	15.64 (5.14)
Group Reciprocity	34.40 (0.76)	8.09 (1.49)	7.77 (3.65)
In-Group	38.98 (1.06)	15.46 (1.83)	0.20 (5.11)
<b>Responders</b>			
Baseline	35.00 (—)	2.25 (1.00)	—
Direct Reciprocity	35.38 (0.95)	22.17 (1.64) ***	20.87 (4.76) ***
Group Reciprocity	34.79 (0.69)	6.10 (1.25) **	1.20 (3.46)
In-Group	42.13 (0.95) ***	17.17 (1.65) ***	4.72 (4.76)

Estimates are virtually the same as in Table 2 in the paper. In particular, the Group Reciprocity parameter remains significant for senders but not receivers. We also tried to run models with per-individual reciprocity slopes, but these failed to converge. Although we would like to get estimates of subject heterogeneity in reciprocity, that is probably asking too much of these data, which have only six decisions per subject.

8. *The is a typo on p.11: It should be THE SECOND column of Table 2.*

Corrected to state “the first data column”.

9. *I am puzzled about the difference regarding senders and responders in group-based reciprocity. Although the authors suggest one possible explanation in the Discussion, I think there could be an alternative explanation. That is, participants who play in the later position of the trust game, i.e., responders, may perceive their back-transfer already as reciprocity and see no need to reciprocate again in the later allocation game.*

This explanation can be ruled out, as responders do reciprocate directly towards their TG partner. We address this point more generally in the discussion:

On the one hand, we find group reciprocity towards receivers, confirming that the experiment was successful in setting up the type of group interactions that triggers group reciprocity. On the other hand, we find *direct* reciprocity towards senders, indicating that responders perceived the TG interaction as meaningful and relevant for the later allocation decisions.

10. *Related to the point above, the behavior(s) in the trust game are insufficiently controlled in the analyses of the allocation game. The trust game is quite complex. Responders' back-transfers may be influenced by the absolute amount sent in the first place. For instance, if a responder received only a small amount by the sender, he/she might be less willing to make a fair back-transfer compared to a sender who received a larger, "fair" amount. These "level differences" need to be considered, and therefore, the whole analyses presented could be biased.*

The amount sent is indeed correlated with the proportion returned. So mean senders are "treated" with a lower proportion returned, creating a potential confound. However, recall that in the Allocation Games, senders have to allocate a fixed amount between two others. While sender behavior in the Trust Game might correlate with pro-sociality, There is no reason that it would correlate *ex ante* with preference for one group rather than another. We tested this argument by rerunning the Sender group reciprocity regression, interacting amount sent with share returned. The coefficient on receiver's kindness remained large and significant at 5%; coefficients on amount sent, and on its interaction with share returned, were small and insignificant:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	31.580	2.260	13.972	< 0.001***
kindness	9.882	4.593	2.151	0.033*
sent (demeaned)	-0.029	0.058	-0.505	0.614
kindness $\times$ sent (demeaned)	0.067	0.135	0.491	0.624

We address this in new Footnote 3:

Responders who receive higher amounts also return a higher share. As a result, senders with a more positive TG experience are, on average, those who sent more in the TG, creating a potential confound. There is no reason, however, why different senders should systematically discriminate between groups in a non-costly way. Indeed, the results hold when we control in the regression for the amount sent and its interaction with the share returned.

11. *In the introduction, the authors mention differences between positive and negative reciprocity but rarely relate to this differentiation when presenting their results. This requires controlling (e.g., mean center) for the baseline allocations, both in the analyses and when displaying the results (i.e., in Figure 2).*

We agree that it would be good to differentiate positive and negative group reciprocity, and originally we included some statistical analysis along these lines. We dropped this because our statistical power is not really high enough for the purpose. We now mention this as a limitation in the discussion.

12. *More generally, it is not clear what are the consequences of the mechanism the author suggest and discuss at the end. Given that people display group-based reciprocity, should they seek group-based markers? Should groups enforce group-based signals, potentially more so when they are prosocial rather when they are aggressive/non-cooperative across group boundaries? I think the discussion could be improved a lot by suggesting some testable hypotheses for future research.*

Yes, that is a potential implication. We now mention it in the discussion as follows:

Furthermore, by making group reputation a valuable asset, group reciprocity could encourage groups to differentiate themselves symbolically from others, and to police their members' behaviour towards outgroups—both behaviours that we indeed observe in humans (Fearon and Laitin, 1996).
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# Humans reciprocate by discriminating against group peers

AUTHORS UNDISCLOSED

## Abstract

The evolution of human intergroup conflict is a social science puzzle. Motivated by cycles of intergroup revenge in real-world conflicts, we experimentally test the hypothesis that humans practice group-based reciprocity: if someone harms or helps them, they harm or help other members of that person's group. Subjects played a trust game, then allocated money between other people. Senders whose partners returned more in the trust game gave more to that partner's group members. The effect was about half as large as the effect of direct reciprocity. Receivers' allocations to group members were not affected by their partners' play in the trust game, suggesting that group reciprocity was only triggered when the partner's intentions were unequivocal. We show conditions under which group reciprocity can evolve, and discuss its place in conflict among early humans.



*Keywords:* Upstream reciprocity, group identity, intergroup conflict.

Word count: 3129

# 1 Introduction

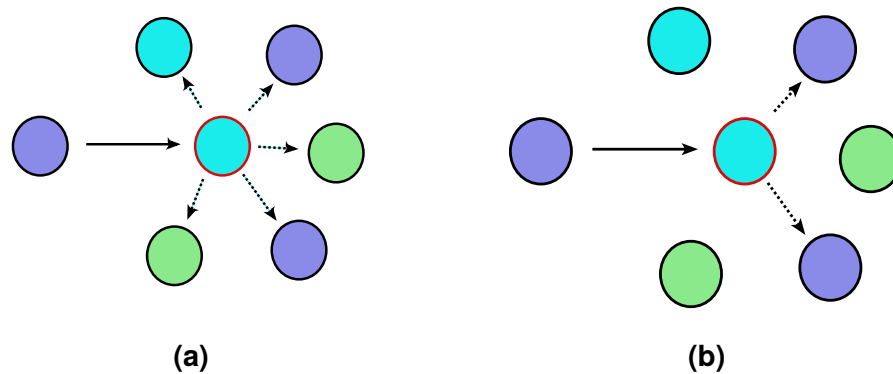
Human society is organized in groups, including families, clans, firms and nations. This structure is reflected in individual behaviour and cognition. Humans identify with their ingroup and are altruistic and prosocial towards ingroup members; towards outgroup members, they display stereotyping and prejudice (Balliet, Wu, and De Dreu, 2014; Chen and Chen, 2011; Chen and Li, 2009; De Dreu, Balliet, and Halevy, 2014; Tajfel and Turner, 1979; Yamagishi and Kiyonari, 2000). Group structure provides the backdrop for intergroup conflict—from economic and political competition to inter-ethnic violence and war—which is pervasive in the species (Esteban, Mayoral, and Ray, 2012) and has serious economic costs (World Bank, 2011).

Intergroup conflicts often follow a tit-for-tat logic, in which one group's violence leads to revenge from the other side (Chagnon, 1988; Haushofer, Biletzki, and Kanwisher, 2010; Horowitz, 1985; Horowitz, 2001; Shayo and Zussman, 2010). This suggests that humans practice intergroup *reciprocity*. Reciprocity is a well-known mechanism that may underlie the evolution of cooperation (Nowak, 2006, 2012). While in direct reciprocity, individuals help those who have helped them in the past (and similarly for harm), in indirect reciprocity, individuals help or harm other people than those who have helped them. Indirect reciprocity comes in two flavours: *downstream* reciprocity follows the maxim 'do unto thy neighbour as they have done to others', whereas *upstream* reciprocity follows the maxim 'do unto thy neighbour as others have done unto you'.<sup>1</sup>

In this paper we examine group-based upstream reciprocity, or *group reciprocity*. That is, an individual who is harmed (helped) by a member of an outgroup becomes more likely to harm (help) others from that group. Whereas group-based downstream reciprocity (Bernhard, Fehr, and Fischbacher, 2006; Bernhard, Fischbacher, and Fehr, 2006) follows the maxim 'do unto others as they have done to members of *my* tribe', group-based upstream reciprocity follows the maxim 'do unto others as members of *their* tribe have done to me'

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<sup>1</sup> See Greiner and Levati (2005), Güth, Königstein, Marchand, and Nehring (2001), and Tsvetkova and Macy (2014, 2015) for experimental evidence of upstream reciprocity.



**Figure 1:** Upstream reciprocity. (a) Someone who was helped or harmed becomes more likely to help or harm others. (b) Upstream group reciprocity targets people who belong to the same group as the initial partner.

(Figure ??). Tit-for-tat conflict looks like **negative group reciprocity**.



The concept of group reciprocity may help to explain the evolution of intergroup conflict. The current literature includes three differing approaches to understanding this. While cultural theories argue that there is no innate tendency to intergroup aggression, theories of parochial altruism argue that intergroup violence was a driver of within-group altruism via group selection processes; as a result, intergroup violence can involve self-sacrifice for one's group members (Bowles, 2009; Choi and Bowles, 2007). The "chimpanzee model", by contrast, argues that early humans, like chimpanzees, only attack when odds are very favourable; thus a human tendency to kill outgroups evolved by individual selection alone (Wrangham and Glowacki, 2012). This is supported by evidence that both hunter-gatherers and chimpanzees are rarely wounded when they attack.

Kelly (2000) argues that a defining characteristic of war is "social substitutability", whereby members of a perpetrator's group become legitimate targets for revenge. Social substitutability is especially found in segmented societies, which typically feature strong corporate identities such as extended patrilineal families and clans. Some of these societies also have "war/peace systems" featuring well-defined institutions for ending conflict as well as beginning it, such as the Andamanese Peace Dance or the Montenegrin Court of

Good Men for ending feuds (Boehm, 1984). By contrast, while chimpanzees do practice retaliation and reconciliation among alliances within the community, they do not reciprocate towards other groups. Instead, they attack stranger chimpanzees whenever it is safe to do so. The risk of being attacked forces chimps to avoid territory bordering other communities, which limits their available space for foraging (Wilson and Wrangham, 2003). While this fact seems to favour the evolution of peaceful intergroup relations (Kelly, 2005), that ignores the prisoner's dilemma structure of intergroup relations; while both groups would do better not attacking the other, each group does better by attacking when the odds are good enough. Indeed, peaceful unsegmented societies resolve intergroup conflict by avoiding the other group, which entails a loss of access to valuable resources, and hence lower population density. The evolution of group reciprocity could deter opportunistic conflict. When there is group reciprocity, someone who harms an outgroup member brings retaliation on his own group, and this gives his group members an incentive to maintain peace (Boehm, 1984). Group reciprocity could thus have benefited humans by allowing them to range over wider areas and to have more extensive contacts with outgroups. So, the evidence in Kelly (2000) that population density is associated with war can be read two ways: the development of war, particularly of war/peace systems, may allow different groups to live at high densities in peace.

While group reciprocity can benefit the group, to evolve it must increase individual fitness. In the supplementary materials, we report on a series of simulations tracking the evolution of group reciprocators under different environmental parameters. The key result is that when the relative cost of helping (or failing to harm) a target is low enough, relative to the benefit supplied to the target and to the group size, group reciprocity can evolve to fixation in a group. The mechanism is that groups with a high share of group reciprocators learn to cooperate with each other, while not helping groups that have a high share of selfish types. Selfish types in cooperative groups free ride on the group reputation, exploiting members of other cooperating groups, thereby gaining higher fitness than the group reciprocators in their group. Nonetheless, if the share of group reciprocators within the group varies sufficiently



between groups, group reciprocators are overrepresented in the cooperative groups, and therefore have higher fitness overall. The high benefit/cost ratio required for group reciprocity to evolve fits the “chimpanzee model” of conflict where an attack is only launched if it is low risk. It may also explain why most salient examples of group reciprocity are seen in the negative domain of harm and conflict: when the benefit/cost ratio is high, hurting or refraining from helping is a “nasty” action, since it imposes a large loss on the target for a small gain to oneself.

Another factor that could support the evolution of group reciprocity is intra-group dependencies. If group members help each other, e.g. by providing public goods, then punishing a perpetrator’s group member indirectly harms the perpetrator. Our simulations show that group reciprocity may emerge even absent such intra-group dependencies, but their presence would lower the benefit/cost threshold needed for it to evolve.

Kelly (2000) argues that group reciprocity emerges in a segmented society, where group affiliations are rigid and salient. However, our simulations show that group reciprocity can evolve even without in-group sanctioning or collective norms of group responsibility and liability. That, and real world examples of apparent intergroup revenge in large modern societies, suggest there may be a universal propensity to group-reciprocate. In this paper, we aim to study the existence and form of the proximate psychological mechanism for group reciprocity in modern humans. Although field observations from conflict are highly suggestive, they are loaded with individual and group context and history. Moreover, in the field, group reciprocity and direct reciprocity may be conflated, because it is difficult to distinguish between retaliatory acts directed at groups that include the perpetrator, and acts directed at unrelated group members. We therefore designed a controlled laboratory experiment to test the psychological mechanism by which humans reciprocate towards groups in a clean way. That is, we test the hypothesis that people reciprocate towards groups.

Cleanly identifying group reciprocity requires controlling for three confounds: individual level reciprocity, e.g. if subjects’ actions affect an entire group including the original actor who helped or harmed them; generalized reciprocity,

where subjects reciprocate not specifically towards the original actor's group, but towards other people in general; and strategic interactions, where apparent reciprocity is driven by reputation-building. Our experiment fulfils all three: subjects can differentiate the original actor from his or her group members, they interact both with these group members and with members of other groups, and we minimize strategic concerns by not giving feedback about subjects' actions.

While previous studies looked at retaliation towards groups, this retaliation does not necessarily reflect group reciprocity as defined here. Gaertner, Iuzzini, and O'Mara (2008) found that rejection by one group member leads to more hostility towards the group when the group is perceived as a unified entity. Since hostility was directed towards the whole group, individual and group level reciprocity were confounded. Similarly, Böhm, Rusch, and Gürerk (2016) examine intergroup retaliation using the intergroup prisoner's dilemma paradigm, but cannot distinguish between individual and group reciprocity. Stenstrom, Lickel, Denson, and Miller (2008) manipulated entitativity by making the original perpetrator (a political analyst) an official affiliate of the group (a presidential campaign). Thus, holding the group accountable for its member's action is justified without resorting to group reciprocity. In contrast, we look at how people reciprocate a clear individual act by one group member to an unrelated other group member, where group structure is minimal and free of existing social context.

Our experimental set up was the following. After an initial group-formation stage, participants interacted in two strategic stages. The upstream action, in which the individual could be helped or harmed by another person, was represented by a Trust Game (TG) (Berg, Dickhaut, and McCabe, 1995). In this game, the Sender (S) receives 150 money-equivalent tokens, and chooses how many of them to send to the Responder (R). The amount sent is multiplied by a factor of 3, so that R receives between 0 and 450 tokens, of which he can send any number back to S. While Rs' actions clearly have a benefit/cost ratio of 1 (money returned to S is lost to R), Ss may send money in the expectation of having money returned. In addition, not returning money in the trust game violates a social norm (Kimbrough and Vostroknutov, 2015). For this reason,

we expected R's actions to elicit stronger reciprocity, although we test the effect of both S's and R's actions.

The upstream action was followed by the reciprocal action, in which the individual could help others. We implemented this as an Allocation Game in which subjects divided a fixed amount between two recipients. In Direct Reciprocity rounds, the recipients included the TG partner; in Group Reciprocity rounds, a member of the TG partner's group; and in Ingroup Favoritism rounds, a member of the allocator's group. The other recipient was always a member of a third, neutral, group. Baseline rounds included two neutral recipients, to test whether the TG experience leads to arbitrary discrimination in the absence of any reciprocal or group motivations.

Our expectations were as follows. First, in Direct Reciprocity rounds, individuals' allocations to their TG partner should positively covary with the amount the partner sent (or returned) in the Trust Game. ~~This simply comes from from the well-known theory of direct reciprocity.~~ Second, if group reciprocity is present, then allocations to the TG partner's group member, in Group Reciprocity rounds, should also covary with the amount sent or returned by the TG partner. We also measured participants' social value orientation (Van Lange, 1999). It is plausible that willingness to group-reciprocate should be linked to other social preferences. We were not certain *a priori* whether group reciprocity would be stronger among selfish or among prosocial types. On the one hand, both prosociality and group reciprocity can be seen as actions that benefit the group, by providing support to ingroup members or protecting it from outgroups. On the other hand, negative reciprocity in general may be linked to spite (Johnstone and Bshary, 2004). So we test a non-directional hypothesis here.

## 2 Material and methods

Each session consisted of 24 participants, randomly allocated into six *teams* of four. Each participant was identified throughout the experiment by team colour and individual number (1–4) within the team. At the beginning of the

experiment, participants were informed that the experiment had five distinct stages, and that they might interact with the same people in different stages. Specific instructions for each stage were distributed and read aloud at the beginning of the stage. The five stages were a group formation stage, the TG stage, the Allocation Game stage, a social value orientation elicitation stage (Murphy, Ackermann, and Handgraaf, 2011) and a collectivism scale measurement stage (adapted from the horizontal collectivism scale in Singelis, Triandis, Bhawuk, and Gelfand, 1995). Other than the collectivism measurement, all decisions were incentivized.

Following (Chen and Li, 2009), we created group identity in the first stage by allowing participants to consult each other by anonymous chat while solving a simple task. Participants solved five Raven matrices (see supplementary material). Each matrix was presented on screen for 120 seconds, during which each participant could both send written messages to the team and update her own answer. The final answer submitted at the end of the 120 seconds determined payoffs, with 10 tokens paid for each correct answer. To further boost group identity through a common goal, team members each earned an additional bonus of 5 tokens if all four team members answered correctly.

Next, participants were rematched into pairs to play the one-shot TG. To facilitate understanding, participants played five practice rounds, in which they entered decisions both as S and as R. In the actual interaction, participants could see their TG partner's team colour and individual number.

The third stage Allocation Game consisted of six rounds. In each round, participants interacted in groups of three. Individuals in each group were identified to each other by team colour and number. Each round consisted of a random dictator game, as follows. Each player in the group of three had to allocate 100 tokens within the group. The allocator always received exactly 30 tokens, and could freely allocate the remaining 70 tokens between the other two players. Previous research has found that people do not harm, but refrain from helping negatively perceived outgroups (Weisel and Böhm, 2015). Accordingly, we set the parameters of the game so that an equal division between the other two players provides them with 35 tokens each, more than the allo-

**Table 1:** Matching example

Round	Allocates to		Treatment
1	Red 1	/ Yellow 1	Group reciprocity (GR)
2	Yellow 4	/ Brown 2	Group reciprocity (GR)
3	Green 3	/ Yellow 2	Direct reciprocity (DR)
4	Red 1	/ Brown 1	Baseline (B)
5	Brown 2	/ Brown 4	Baseline (B)
6	Blue 3	/ Green 2	Ingroup (IG)

Note: Example treatments shown for player Blue 2, who played the TG with Yellow 2 (see the supplementary material for the full matching scheme).

cator's own share.<sup>2</sup>

One round of the six rounds was randomly chosen for payment. In that round, the payoffs of the members of each group were determined by the allocation decision of one randomly chosen player in the group. No feedback was provided between rounds. At the end of the stage, players learned the payoff round, whether their allocation was chosen to determine payoffs, and their payoff for the round. Thus, all allocation decisions were completely independent of each other, both within and between participants.

Table ?? shows the matching scheme over the six rounds. Each participant was matched to be in the same group of three with a member of her own team in one of the six rounds (*ingroup* condition), with her TG partner in another round (*direct reciprocity* condition), and in two other rounds with other members of the TG partner's team (*group reciprocity* condition). The remaining two rounds served as the baseline condition. Note that the matching is not independent. For example, if one player is in the direct reciprocity condition, then one other player is in the direct reciprocity condition and the third player is in either the baseline or group reciprocity condition.



The fourth stage implemented the slider measure of social value orienta-

<sup>2</sup> The allocator's decision is not costly, which might have introduced additional confounding considerations. As our aim in this paper is to identify and study the qualitative characteristics of group reciprocity, we accept the limitations that this choice imposes on the ability to estimate the *magnitude* of preferences for group reciprocity.

tion (Crosetto, Weisel, and Winter, 2012; Murphy, Ackermann, and Handgraaf, 2011), in which participants choose nine allocations between themselves and another person. For consistency with the previous stages, the team identity of the partner was known. To keep the decision independent of previous experience with the different teams, we matched participants within teams. Therefore, this measure captures within-group social value orientation. Payoffs were determined by one randomly chosen decision of the nine decisions made by one randomly chosen player in each dyad. The decisions yielded a social orientation angle for each participant, with  $0^\circ$  corresponding to selfishness,  $45^\circ$  to pure altruism, and negative angles to spitefulness.



After the fifth and final stage (a non-strategic and non-incentivised collectivism measurement), participants learned their cumulative payoff in tokens and were paid in private. One hundred and ninety two participants, recruited using ORSEE (Greiner, 2015) participated in eight sessions conducted between June 2014 and January 2015. The experiment was programmed in z-Tree (Fischbacher, 2007). The average payment was approximately \$18 for a duration of 70 minutes. The lowest and highest payments were approximately \$6 and \$32, respectively.

The key outcomes in this design are based on the allocation decisions made in the third stage. Direct and group reciprocity can be both positive and negative, and therefore are not hypothesized to have a systematic effect on the the amount allocated to either the TG partner or to his team mates. Nonetheless—while there is arguably no reason to discriminate between two neutral players—we hypothesize that direct and group reciprocity will lead the allocator to discriminate either for or against the TG partner or his team mates. Consequently, we predict that the absolute difference between the two allocations will be larger in all treatments compared to the baseline. This difference is measured in our ‘Discrimination’ outcome.



We measure reciprocity directly by looking at the effect of the TG experience in the second stage on allocations made in the third stage. We define the experience with the TG partner in two ways. For responders, this is the amount sent to them by their partner. For senders, we calculate the amount returned to them by their partner as a fraction of the money available to the responder.

**Table 2: Allocations and Discrimination**

	Allocation	Discrimination	Reciprocity
<b>Senders</b>			
Baseline	35.00 (—)	4.15 (1.13)	—
Direct Reciprocity	33.98 (2.30)	22.00 (1.51) ***	15.64 (5.12)**
Group Reciprocity	34.39 (0.77)	8.08 (1.61) ***	7.78 (2.37)**
In-Group	38.98 (1.11) ***	15.46 (2.99) ***	0.20 (5.50)
<b>Responders</b>			
Baseline	35.00 (—)	2.25 (0.51)	—
Direct Reciprocity	35.38 (1.08)	22.17 (2.30) ***	20.87 (6.04)***
Group Reciprocity	34.79 (0.62)	6.12 (1.51) **	1.20 (2.08)
In-Group	42.13 (1.99) ***	17.20 (3.40) ***	4.72 (7.62)

Mean allocation, mean discrimination, and reciprocity (marginal effect of TG partner's kindness on allocation) by condition. Robust standard errors clustered on sessions. Significance of comparison to Baseline is marked. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* indicate  $p < 0.05$ ,  $p < 0.01$ , and  $p < 0.001$ , respectively.

Thus, an equal split of the pie implies a value of  $1/2$ , and compensating the sender for his investment implies a value of  $1/3$ . We subsequently define (direct or group) reciprocity as the slope of the allocation made to the TG partner or his team mates on the TG experience.

### 3 Results

We report results on allocations, discrimination between recipients (measured as the absolute difference between the two recipients' allocations), and direct and group reciprocity. All reported statistical tests are based on linear regressions with standard errors clustered by session.

The first data column in Table ?? presents the mean allocations. Participants gave significantly more to members of their own team at the expense of the neutral recipient ( $z = 3.58, p < 0.001$  for senders,  $z = 3.59, p < 0.001$  for responders), establishing that our group formation manipulation was successful in inducing group identity and triggering ingroup favouritism. Allocations to the TG partner and his team mates were not significantly different to the baseline ( $p > 0.43$  for all comparisons). This result suggests that the experience



with the TG partner is, on average, neutral, such that positive and negative experiences balance each other overall.

Nonetheless, both positive and negative treatment of the TG partner or his team mates increase the absolute difference between the two allocations. Indeed, column of Table ?? shows that allocators discriminated significantly more than in the baseline both when interacting with their TG partner ( $z = 9.08, p < 0.001$ ) and with his team mates ( $z = 3.93, p < 0.001$ ). This effect was not significantly different between TG senders and receivers (F test 0.50,  $p = 0.68$ ).

### 3.1 Direct and group reciprocity

The third column of Table ??, *Reciprocity*, reports the slope of allocations regressed on the subjects' experience with their TG partners. The responder's experience with the sender is measured as the share of the endowment that the sender chose to send. The sender's experience with the responder is measured as the share of the received amount that the responder chose to send back. The sender's experience was not defined for the six (out of 96) senders who did not send any money. There is strong direct reciprocity: allocations to the TG partners increase with the TG experience both for senders ( $z = 3.06, p < 0.01$ ) and for responders ( $z = 3.46, p < 0.001$ ).

Group reciprocity, however, is only observed for senders, who allocate less to team mates of a responder who returned less. Responders, although directly reciprocating the TG partner's action, do not systematically discriminate against team mates of a sender who sent little. The regression analysis shows no significant effect of the responder's TG experience on her allocation to the sender's team mates ( $z = 0.58, p = 0.56$ ). The sender's TG experience, on the other hand, significantly increases the allocations made to the responder's team mates ( $z = 3.29, p < 0.01$ ).<sup>3</sup> The estimated ratio of the group and direct reciprocity coefficients is 50%, so that for every allocation dollar a responder

<sup>3</sup> Responders who receive higher amounts also return a higher share. As a result, senders with a more positive TG experience are, on average, those who sent more in the TG, creating a potential confound. There is no reason, however, why different senders should systematically discriminate between groups in a non-costly way. Indeed, the results hold when we control in the regression for the amount sent and its interaction with the share returned.



loses due to an unkind action in the TG, his team mates lose 50 cents. This relationship is shown graphically in Figure ?? (the corresponding figure for direct reciprocity is included in the supplementary material).

Senders' group reciprocity was related to their social value orientation. The slope of the effect of the TG experience on allocations was 15.97 for those with less than median SVO, and -1.06 for those with median or greater SVO (interaction,  $p = 0.061$ ). These results should be interpreted cautiously, since both scores were affected by the TG experience.



## 4 Discussion

Our results show that upstream reciprocity is moderated by social boundaries. Humans respond to harms from outgroup members by discriminating against others in that specific outgroup.

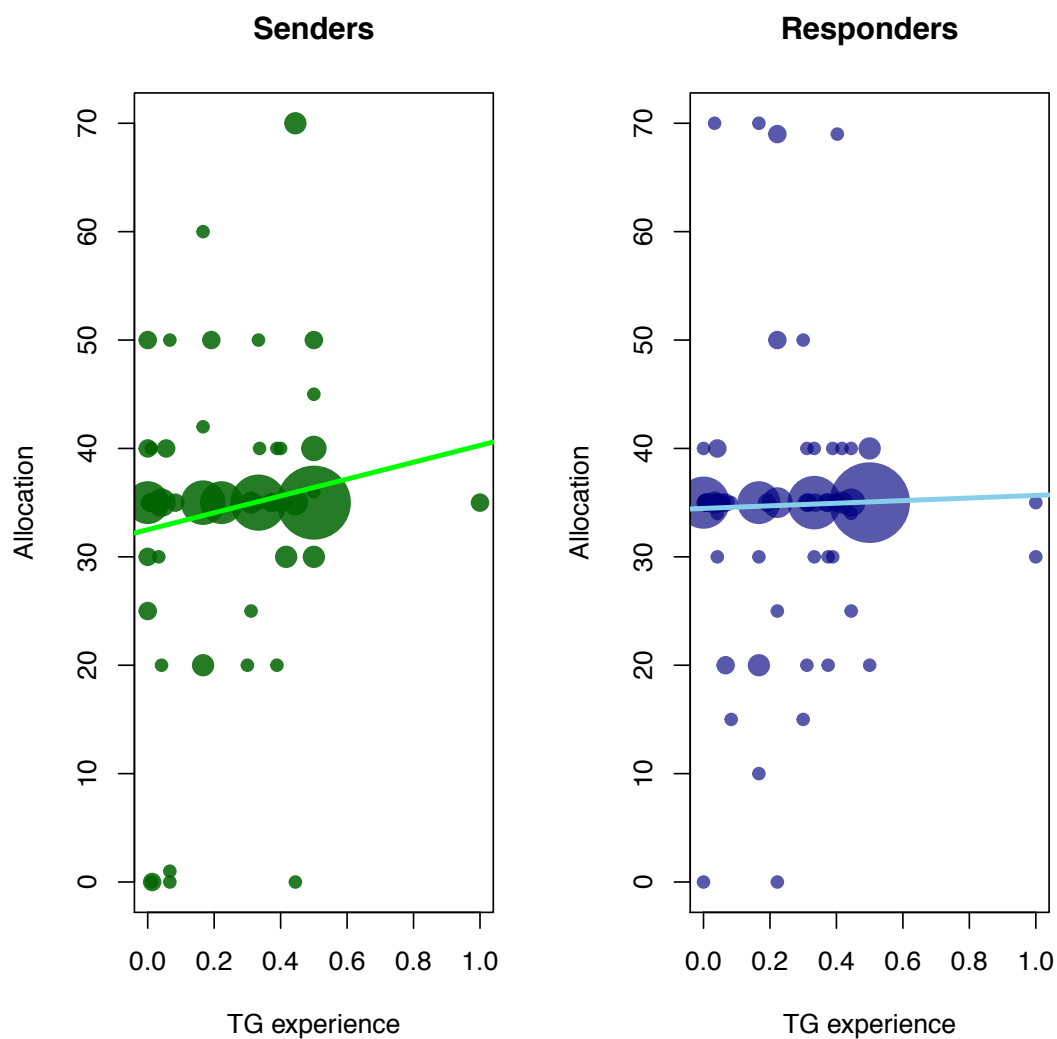


Group reciprocity as a proximate mechanism bears implications for human social cognition. While ingroup altruism and group-based downstream reciprocity require people to differentiate their own group from outsiders—"us" from "them"—upstream group reciprocity requires them to differentiate between different outgroups—between "them and them"—and to keep a mental account of outgroups' reputation. Thus, group reciprocity could provide a cognitive foundation for the phenomena of intergroup prejudice and stereotyping (Allport, 1954).<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, by making group reputation a valuable asset, group reciprocity could encourage groups to differentiate themselves symbolically from others, and to police their members' behaviour towards outgroups—both behaviours that we indeed observe in humans (Fearon and Laitin, 1996).



We observed group reciprocity only towards receivers, not senders. On the one hand, we find group reciprocity towards receivers, confirming that the experiment was successful in setting up the type of group interactions that triggers group reciprocity. On the other hand, we find *direct* reciprocity towards senders, indicating that responders perceived the TG interaction as meaningful and relevant for the later allocation decisions. We therefore conclude that

<sup>4</sup>This argument is a between-group parallel to Yamagishi and Kiyonari (2000), which argues that expectations of generalized reciprocity lie behind altruism within a group.



**Figure 2:** Allocations in the Group Reciprocity condition versus the TG experience. Circles show individual data points (circle size proportional to number of observations). Lines show linear regressions.

it is some characteristic of the responder decision, not shared with the sender decision, that triggers group reciprocity.

One possible interpretation for this difference between senders and responders stems from the distinction between intention-based and outcome-based motives in reciprocal behaviour (Falk and Fischbacher, 2006; Stanca, Bruni, and Corazzini, 2009). In this sense, senders' intentions are more ambiguous, as they do not know what the responder will do. Responders who do not return money, in contrast, are clearly intentionally harming the senders. It is possible that humans generalize intentions across group members. That is, if group member 1 takes an action that deliberately harms them, they predict that group member 2 wishes to harm them also. If not returning money is seen as deliberately harmful, while not sending money can be explained by caution or mistrust, then this would generate the difference in group reciprocity that we observe.

Another distinction made in the literature between trust (sender behavior) and trustworthiness (responder behavior) is based on norms and rules of conduct. In their analysis of Adam Smith's *A Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Wilson and Smith (2017) argue that trust is a beneficent act, while breaking trust is misconduct. Accordingly, Wilson and Smith (2017) found that people punish responders but not senders. Similarly, Kimbrough and Vostroknutov (2015) found that 'rule followers' are more trustworthy, but not more trusting, than other individuals. We view these interpretations of our results as tentative. Further research will be necessary to map and understand the boundaries of the group reciprocity phenomenon.

We mention some caveats and limitations. First, since our study was conducted with students from a rich industrialized democracy, results may not generalize to all cultures (Henrich, Heine, and Norenzayan, 2010). In particular, the link between intentions and moral judgment may vary across cultures (Barrett, Bolyanatz, Crittenden, Fessler, Fitzpatrick, Gurven, Henrich, Kanovsky, Kushnick, Pisor, et al., 2016), and this could affect how group reciprocity plays out in different societies. Second, our experiment did not differentiate between positive and negative group reciprocity: we leave this for future work.

We have argued that group reciprocity could help explain why some groups

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890 have relatively peaceful intergroup relations. It may also provide a step from  
891 the “chimpanzee model” of conflict towards the large-scale, organized inter-  
892 group conflicts observed in tribal and state-level societies. For example, Wrang-  
893 ham, Wilson, and Muller (2006) provide evidence that hunter-gatherers and  
894 farmers have similar levels of lethal violence to chimpanzees but much less  
895 non-lethal violence. This could be because the threat of high-level violence  
896 can contain low-level violence. A further step could be provided by “third party”  
897 group reciprocity. That is, in many ethnic conflicts, a harm from one group to  
898 another is revenged by the entire second group, leading to cycles of intergroup  
899 violence. Third party group reciprocity could result from organized groups  
900 taking collective action to maintain their reputation as reciprocal (and hence,  
901 dangerous to attack).  
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907 Upstream reciprocity is notoriously difficult to understand in evolutionary  
908 terms (Boyd and Richerson, 1989; Nowak and Roch, 2007). Group reciprocity  
909 may provide another piece of the puzzle. Group reciprocity allows individ-  
910 uals to use reciprocal strategies based on group reputation. Consequently,  
911 upstream reciprocity can direct group-level selection in ways parallel to those  
912 by which direct reciprocity direct individual-level selection. We acknowledge,  
913 though do not develop here, two other ways by which group reciprocity may  
914 evolve. First, group members are interdependent, especially in the small groups  
915 that were the norm during most of human evolutionary history. Punishing a  
916 perpetrator’s group member therefore indirectly harms the perpetrator, who  
917 is dependent on his peers for , e.g., public goods provision. Thus, group reci-  
918 procity may bridge upstream indirect reciprocity and direct reciprocity through  
919 intra-group dependencies. Second, the evolution of indirect reciprocity acts  
920 by way of chains of reciprocal actions, which return with some probability to  
921 the original instigator of the chain (Nowak and Roch, 2007). In a population  
922 organised in groups, such that individuals interact more frequently with their  
923 own group members, group reciprocity may increase the likelihood of success-  
924 ful reciprocal chains, facilitating the evolution of upstream reciprocity. These  
925 ideas could be formalized in future work.  
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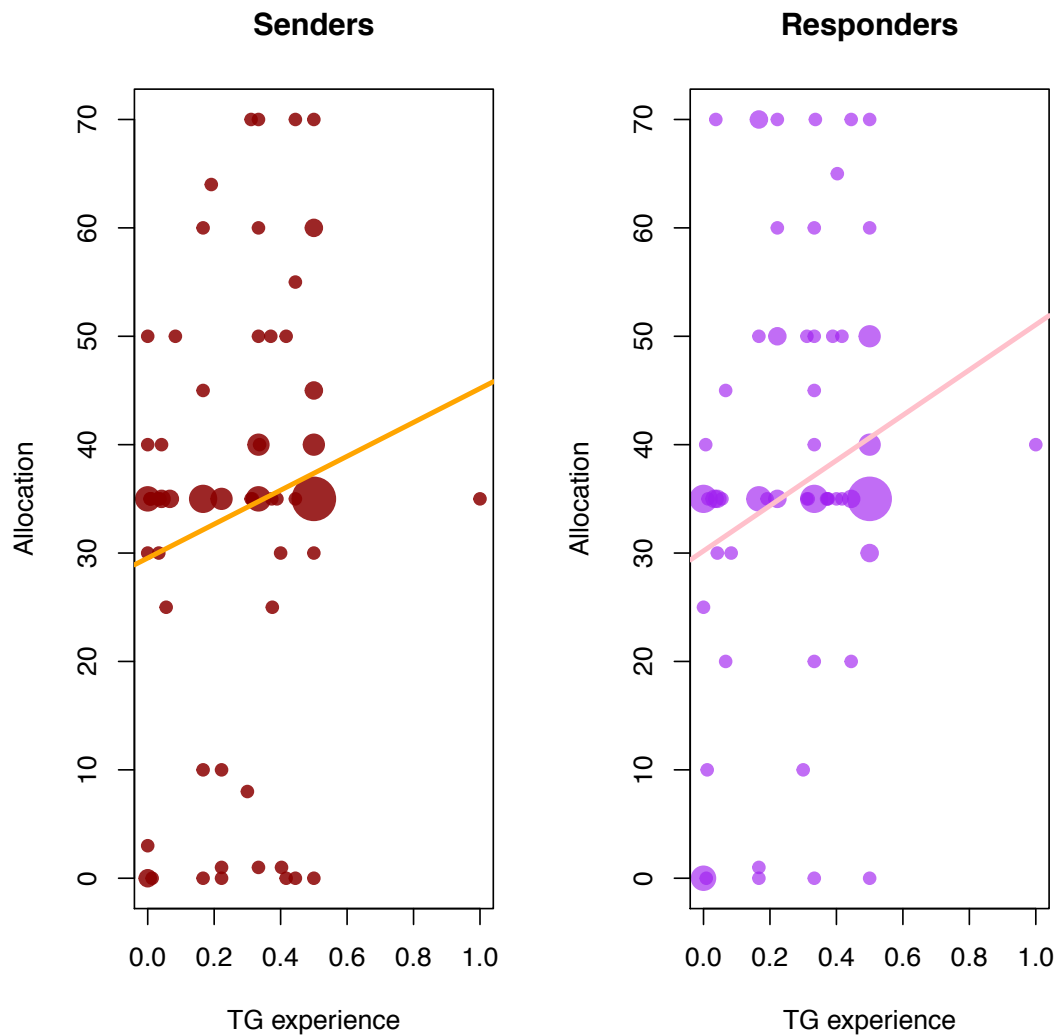


## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

### Appendix A: Complete matching scheme

Period	Group							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Blue 2 (GR) Red 1 (B) Yellow 1 (GR)	Blue 1 (GR) Yellow 2 (GR) Purple 2 (B)	Green 4 (GR) Brown 4 (B) Purple 3 (GR)	Blue 3 (B) Green 3 (GR) Purple 4 (GR)	Red 2 (DR) Brown 2 (DR) Purple 1 (B)	Blue 4 (B) Red 3 (DR) Brown 3 (DR)	Green 1 (IG) Green 2 (IG) Brown 1 (B)	Red 4 (B) Yellow 3 (IG) Yellow 4 (IG)
2	Green 3 (GR) Yellow 1 (B) Purple 1 (GR)	Red 3 (B) Green 1 (GR) Purple 3 (GR)	Blue 4 (GR) Green 4 (B) Yellow 2 (GR)	Blue 2 (GR) Yellow 4 (GR) Brown 2 (B)	Blue 3 (DR) Red 1 (B) Yellow 3 (DR)	Green 2 (DR) Brown 4 (B) Purple 2 (DR)	Blue 1 (B) Brown 1 (IG) Brown 3 (IG)	Red 2 (IG) Red 4 (IG) Purple 4 (B)
3	Red 1 (GR) Brown 4 (GR) Purple 1 (B)	Red 4 (GR) Yellow 4 (B) Brown 1 (GR)	Blue 3 (B) Red 2 (GR) Brown 3 (GR)	Red 3 (GR) Green 2 (B) Brown 2 (GR)	Green 4 (DR) Yellow 1 (B) Purple 4 (DR)	Blue 2 (DR) Green 3 (B) Yellow 2 (DR)	Blue 1 (IG) Blue 4 (IG) Green 1 (B)	Yellow 3 (B) Purple 2 (IG) Purple 3 (IG)
4	Blue 4 (GR) Red 3 (B) Yellow 3 (GR)	Blue 3 (GR) Yellow 4 (GR) Purple 4 (B)	Green 2 (GR) Brown 2 (B) Purple 1 (GR)	Blue 1 (B) Green 1 (GR) Purple 2 (GR)	Red 4 (DR) Brown 4 (DR) Purple 3 (B)	Blue 2 (B) Red 1 (DR) Brown 1 (DR)	Green 3 (IG) Green 4 (IG) Brown 3 (B)	Red 2 (B) Yellow 1 (IG) Yellow 2 (IG)
5	Green 4 (GR) Yellow 2 (B) Purple 2 (GR)	Red 4 (B) Green 2 (GR) Purple 4 (GR)	Blue 3 (GR) Green 3 (B) Yellow 1 (GR)	Blue 1 (GR) Yellow 3 (GR) Brown 1 (B)	Blue 4 (DR) Red 2 (B) Yellow 4 (DR)	Green 1 (DR) Brown 3 (B) Purple 1 (DR)	Blue 2 (B) Brown 2 (IG) Brown 4 (IG)	Red 1 (IG) Red 3 (IG) Purple 3 (B)
6	Red 2 (GR) Brown 3 (GR) Purple 2 (B)	Red 3 (GR) Yellow 3 (B) Brown 2 (GR)	Blue 4 (B) Red 1 (GR) Brown 4 (GR)	Red 4 (GR) Green 1 (B) Brown 1 (GR)	Green 3 (DR) Yellow 2 (B) Purple 3 (DR)	Blue 1 (DR) Green 4 (B) Yellow 1 (DR)	Blue 2 (IG) Blue 3 (IG) Green 2 (B)	Yellow 4 (B) Purple 1 (IG) Purple 4 (IG)

## Appendix B: Allocations in the DR condition



**Figure B.1:** Allocations in the Direct Reciprocity condition versus the TG experience. Circles show individual data points (circle size proportional to number of observations). Lines show linear regressions.

## Appendix C: Experimental instructions

### *Instructions for the experiment*

*<Presented as a pdf document and available throughout the experiment>*

**These instructions are identical to all the participants.**

**The experiment is composed of five separate and different phases.** At the beginning of the experiment, all participants will be allocated into **teams of four**. Each team has a unique **colour**. These teams will remain fixed throughout the experiment.

Before each part, we will distribute and read the relevant instructions for that part. In each part the participants will be reallocated into groups. The number of participants in a group can change from part to part. The payments in the part will be determined according to the decisions of the participants in the team. It is possible, but not necessary, that another participant will be in the same group as you in two different parts. In each part of the experiment you will be able to know which team each of the participants in your group belongs to.

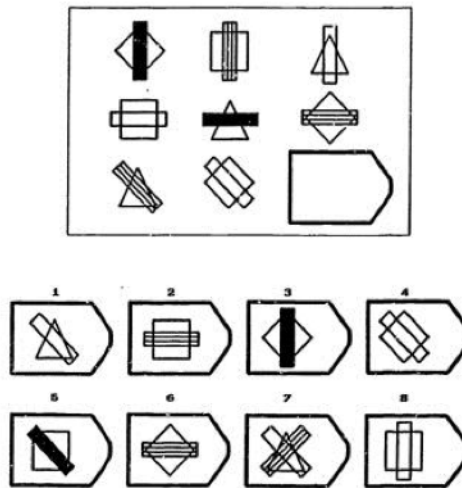
**Your final payment in the experiment will be the total of your gain in all of the parts.**

At the end of the experiment, you will be presented with the payments in each part and your total payment, in points and in shekels. Please remain seated until the experimenter calls you for payment.

**If you have any questions, please raise your hand now and the experimenter will come to you.**

### *Experiments for the first part*

In this part, you and the members of your team perform a pattern completion task. The computer will present you with five questions. Each question is comprised of eight pictures, and the team members will be asked to choose a ninth picture out of eight possible pictures to complete the pattern. For example:



Each team member must answer all of the questions. For each correct answer, the team member will receive **10 points**. Additionally, if all of the team members answer correctly, the whole team will receive a **team bonus of 20 points, to be equally divided among the team members**.

**Each question will be allocated two minutes.** During this time, the team members can **consult each other** using electronic chat. Enter your answer and click Confirm. You can change your answer and click Confirm again at any point during the two minutes. The last answer to be entered is the final answer.

**Attention:** Do not reveal any identifying information. If any participant in the session identifies themselves, we will stop the experiment and release all participants with only the showup fee.

**If you have any questions, please raise your hand now and the experimenter will come to you.**

### *Instructions for the second part*

In this part participants will be matched in **pairs**. In each pair, one participant will be in role A and the other participant in role B. Participant A receives an allocation of **150 points** and decides how many of the 150 points to **send to Participant B**. The amount is **tripled**. Next, Participant B will decide how many points out of the points received to **send back to Participant A**. These points will not be multiplied.

If you are allocated to role A, your payment in this part will be:

150	-	The number of points you sent to Participant B	+	The number of points Participant B sent back	=	Second part earnings
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If you are allocated to role B, your payment in this part will be:

3	×	The number of points Participant A sent you	-	The number of points you sent back	=	Second part earnings
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Before making your decision, you will be able to test the payment calculation in a **practice phase**, in which you will be able to make decisions as both **Participant A** and as **Participant B**. In this stage, you will enter decisions in both roles, and see the final payments. The practice will repeat five times.

**If you have any questions, please raise your hand now and the experimenter will come to you.**

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1481 *Instructions for the third part*  
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1483 In the third part, all participants will be matched in **groups of three**. Each of the  
1484 three participants in the group will choose how to **divide 100 points** between  
1485 the three group members, such that he himself receives **30 points**, and **freely**  
1486 **allocates** the remaining **70 points** between the other two group members. This  
1487 stage has **6 rounds**, and you will be **rematched in a new group**.  
1488  
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1491  
1492 *Payment calculation in the part*  
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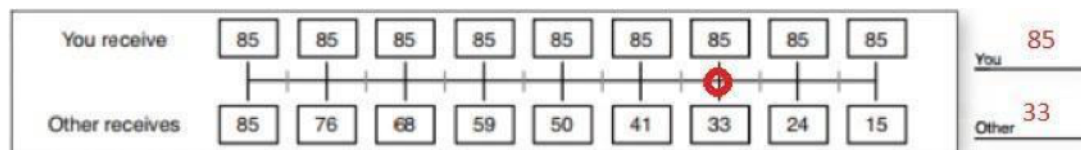
1494 At the end of the experiment, the computer will randomly choose one of the  
1495 six rounds, and one participant in each group. The payment for this part will  
1496 be determined according to the decision of the randomly chosen participant  
1497 in the randomly chosen round.  
1498  
1499

1500 **If you have any questions, please raise your hand now and the experimenter**  
1501 **will come to you.**  
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### *Instructions for the fourth part*

In this part, participant will be matched in **pairs**.

Each participant will be presented with **6 rulers** that include nine possible allocations of money to the two participants. The amount you chose to **keep for yourself** is indicated above each ruler, and the amount you choose to **give to the other participant** is indicated below the ruler. You are to choose your preferred allocation of the nine possible allocations. For example,



You can choose any point on the ruler. For example, assume you chose the point marked in red. You will receive 85 points and the other participant will receive 33 points.

At the end of the part, the computer will randomly choose on of the two participants in the pair and one of the nine rulers. your payment in this part will be determined by the decision of the randomly chosen participant for the randomly chosen ruler.

**If you have any questions, please raise your hand now and the experimenter will come to you.**

### *Instructions for the fifth part*

In this part you will be asked to answer several questions. The questions have to do with the way one sees himself and his surroundings in different situations. Your task is to indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement, using the following scale:

1. Strongly disagree.
2. Disagree.
3. Neither agree nor disagree.
4. Agree.
5. Strongly agree.

Note: there are no right and wrong answers. Please indicate the answer that best reflects your character with respect to the statement. Take your time and think about your answer.