Discussion Questions for Status and Hierarchy Formation

Casualties of Social Combat: School Networks of Peer Victimization and Their Consequences- Faris and Felmlee

1) One variable Faris and Felmlee did not account for was social media. Since its publication, apps like Snapchat, Tik Tok, and Instagram have grown and have reached younger audiences. How would the addition of social media change victimization in this study?

2) For the policy implications from this article the author suggests new avenues for school bullying prevention programs. However, it was not mentioned as to whether the victimization occurred at school. What is the importance of identifying the space where victimization occurs?

In the Eye of the Beholder: Meaning and Structure of Informal Status in Women's and Men's Prisons- Kreager and Colleagues

1) Do you think we would see the same nominations for most influential peers in a unit if this survey was given to the prison guards? What are the benefits of providing surveys to both prison guards and inmates to determine hierarchical status within the prison?

2) Status nominations appeared to be large among a handful of people. The authors argue that it shows a general consensus among residents on who is powerful and influential. Given that *lifers* received more nominations despite their small number (20%, 10%, <3%), would these findings be replicable in units with more *lifers*? Why or why not?

3) In terms of policy, if "old head" narratives create and maintain status hierarchy, and bring some level of social order, what are some implications we can think of regarding inmates transfers between prison facilities.

Murder by Structure: Dominance Relations and the Social Structure of Gang Homicide- Papachristos

1) People low on the internal hierarchy are more likely to face violence from both outside and within. However, having weak and vulnerable members opens the group up to external threats. How do you think gang hierarchies maintain themselves? Do you think gangs want weak members that get taken out by other gangs to use as pawns? Are they artificially creating external attacks against themselves?

2) The article utilizes an economic model of gang homicide. Status is the currency and gangs trade homicides for status within the "economy" of gangs. Is there another model you think better explains this phenomenon?

3) Why do you think intraracial gang violence garners more status than interracial or is the effect caused by some underlying tertiary factor?

4) Being more proficient at being violent would naturally make you a special target for your enemies. Are the key players and high-hierarchy members "cycled" through more often due to their higher status also equaling a higher threat level?

5) Should police create outposts and checkpoints in transitionary space between gangs?

Rules of the Game: Exponential Random Graph Models of a Gang Homicide Network- Lewis and Papachristos

1) We should consider three things as the basis for this question: this paper was published in 2020, with data that is more than 20 years old. Time wise, the authors admit that time could affect rules of the game - "not only did we document an evolving landscape of violence, but also [dynamic change] in the mechanisms that generated it" p.1852. Given that mechanisms of gang violence over the last two decades might have changed, would we need more to prevent gang violence in this era than the authors suggest, as per their findings?

2) If these rules of the game shape whether gang violence will occur, what would you describe as the rule of the game on virtual spaces since gangs also use such spaces? Or where will the virtual space rules fit in among the three rules and why do you think so?

Conti: World's Most Dangerous Ransomware Gang- Burgess

1) Throughout the readings, we saw how status and hierarchy were formed in schools, prisons, and in gangs. However, what we have not discussed is the formation of virtual hierarchies. What are the similarities and differences between a hierarchy in the physical and virtual realm? What role do you think being anonymous online plays in the hierarchy formation?