

Current evolutionary and anthropological perspectives

The Prevailing Interpretation

Third-party punishment is theoretically central to cooperation.

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- Cross-cultural and ethnographic evidence suggests it is:
 - Infrequent in small-scale societies,
 - Less institutionalized,
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The **prevalence and type of punishment**—whether enacted by victims or uninvolved third parties—are **patterned by socioecological features** of societies, including **kinship intensity** and **forms of complexity**.