

Current evolutionary and anthropological perspectives

The Emerging Alternative: Dyadic Entrepreneur & Restoration

Given the apparent rarity of third-party punishment in small-scale societies:

- Fitouchi & Singh (2023) argue: “Consistent with the relation-restoration hypothesis, we find that third-party punishment is rare.”

- Singh & Garfield conclude: “Our findings suggest that... institutionalized penalties function more to restore dyadic cooperation than to enforce norms.”

- **Wiesner (2020) similarly emphasizes restoration: “Emphasis is on amends to the victim for fairness, not punishment of the offender.”**

- The emerging interpretation:
 - Norm regulation in small-scale societies is often restorative.
 - Second-party processes dominate.
 - Third-party punishment is limited or structurally constrained.

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The Prevailing Interpretation

- Third-party punishment is theoretically central to cooperation.