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Relational Aggression in U.S. and Indonesian Children and Adolescents: Gender, Developmental, and Cultural Comparisons

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Oral Presentation 5.1

**RELATIONAL AGGRESSION IN U.S. AND INDONESIAN CHILDREN AND
ADOLESCENTS: GENDER, DEVELOPMENTAL, AND CULTURAL
COMPARISONS**

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Previous studies of aggression in childhood have found that boys, as a group, are more aggressive than girls. The majority of these studies, however, focus only on physical aggression. Recently several studies have been conducted that differentiate relational aggression from physical aggression. Relational aggression involves harming others through the purposeful damage to their peer relationships (i.e., spreading rumors or ostracizing a peer from a group activity). Several studies have found sex differences in relational aggression, as well as physical aggression. The present study explores gender, developmental, and cultural differences and similarities in relational aggression in US and Indonesian children and adolescents' free descriptions of disliked peers. Instances of physical and verbal aggression were also coded. As hypothesized, the results of logistic regressions indicated that males were more likely than females to describe physical aggressive behavior, while females were more likely than males to describe relationally aggressive behavior. These results were found across cultures and age groups. This study extends the research on relational aggression by utilizing a new methodology for cross-cultural research on relational aggression.