

## PERSONALITY AND SOCIOCOGNITIVE EXPLANATORY MODELS OF VARIOUS FORMS OF AGGRESSION OF BULGARIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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**Abstract:** *This study has been aimed at developing psychological explanatory models of various forms of aggression of law enforcement officers, which encompass both personality and sociocognitive factors. The study was conceptually based both on the sociocognitive approach of Anderson and Bushman, and on the personological approach of Caprara, Zimbardo and Bandura. A structured questionnaire, incl. world-known, original and culture-specific measures and scales, was developed and employed by the authors. The study was carried out in October 2017- April 2018 among 736 law enforcement officers from 5 departments of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria in 26 Bulgarian towns. A wide range of personality and sociocognitive characteristics was encompassed and processed by means of a stepwise modelling procedure.*

*The findings suggested different personality and sociocognitive explanatory models for all studied forms of aggression - physical, verbal, indirect, instrumental and displaced aggression. Personality traits such as revengefulness, anger and hostility were found to be among the most powerful predictors of most-studied forms of aggression. The models can be particularly useful to predict the likeliness of any form of aggression, and also to duly handle various acts of aggression among law enforcement officers in Bulgaria.*

**Keywords:** aggression; law enforcement; police officers; personality traits; sociocognitive processes; moral disengagement.

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*Contribution:*

**Diana Bakalova** – Abstract, Method, Results, Conclusion

**Yolanda Zografova** – Theoretical background, References

**Antoaneta Hristova** – Introduction, Discussion

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