

## ABSTRACT

Emotions are responses to goal attainments or blockages emerging in the course of daily social encounters. Emotional responses to being harmed by another were investigated in relation to cognitive appraisals, social factors and gender in participants from Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, and the United States of America. Participants in every cultural group experienced depressive emotions (sadness, fear, anxiety, and shame), hostile emotions (anger, irritation, and annoyance), or both kinds of emotions when they were harmed. Cognitive appraisals of norm violation, responsibility and controllability of the harm-doer, and negative justification predicted hostile emotions, while justification, norm violation, and relationship closeness with the harm-doer predicted depressive emotions. Structural equation analyses supported a culturally universal model of responses to being harmed, with cognitive appraisals, as a whole, mediating the relationship between perceived emotional harm and hostile emotions, but not that between perceived emotional harm and depressive emotions.