

Name: Yeh-Yin Chen

Both bullies and victims share similar characteristics such as maladjustment, low self-esteem, academic, and social-emotional problems. Based upon Tolman's (1948) assumption, their cognitive maps would appear narrow and strip-like with difficulties in adapting within the given environment. Take Tolman's rat experiment as an analogy, if these bullies and victims are those rats, they would hold a relatively simple and single path to the position of the goal. They will not change or vary to specific routes when the new set-up or environment is presented. According to Tolman (1948), having narrow strip maps rather than broad comprehensive maps seems to be caused by "the presence of too strongly motivational or of too strongly frustrating conditions." (There are actually three other causes, "a damaged brain", "an inadequate array of environmentally presented cues", and "an overdose of repetitions on the original trained on path." However, these three will not be discussed here since I think "the presence of too strongly motivational or of too strongly frustrating conditions" would be more relevant to the argument I concern in this paper.)

For example, according to Aronson (1999, 2001), "It is a truism that humans are social animals --- that we are all deeply influenced by other people and the ways they treat us, as well as by the general social climate of any situation" (p.21). For example, it would make one feel happier and less tense and s/he would be more willing to treat others well when s/he is around a pleasant and warm environment and friendly people than when s/he is around a

hostile environment and competitive people. Ironically, although we know that the enormous power of the social situation can have a great impact on individual behavior, we tend to “underestimate the degree of influence the situation exerts on other people and to overestimate the impact of their personalities as determinants of their behavior.” (Aronson, 2001, p. 22) That illustrates that too strong motivations or too intense frustration induced by hostile and competitive social contexts seem to increase the levels of bullying and aggression. In such a social context, just like “normal people in an abnormal situation” (Aronson, 2001), negative situational pressures would lead these victimized youngsters to behaving in a strange or insane manner (either passive or reactive).