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**Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) vocally protest against violations of social expectations**

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## Abstract

Research has shown that great apes possess certain expectations about social regularities and both perceive and act according to social rules within their group. During natural and experimentally induced contexts, such as the inequitable distribution of resources, individuals also show protesting behaviours when their expectations about a social situation are violated. Despite broad interest in this topic, systematic research examining the nature of these expectations and the communicative signals individuals use to express their protests to violated expectations remains scant. Here, we addressed this by exploring whether bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) respond to violations of social expectations in naturally occurring social interactions, focussing on the vocal behaviour of victims following socially expected and unexpected aggression. Expected aggression included conflicts over a contested resource and conflicts that were provoked by the victim, while unexpected aggression was any spontaneous, unprovoked hostility towards the victim. For each conflict, we also determined its severity and the composition of the nearby audience. We found that the acoustic and temporal structure of victim screams was individually distinct and varied significantly depending on whether or not aggression could be socially predicted. Certain acoustic parameters also varied as a function of conflict severity, but unlike social expectation, conflict severity did not discriminate scream acoustic structure overall. We found no effect of audience composition. We concluded that, beyond the physical nature of a conflict, bonobos possess certain social expectations

46           about how they should be treated and will publicly protest with acoustically  
47           distinctive vocal signals if these expectations are violated.

48 *Keywords:* violation of expectancy; social norm; social conflict; audience effect; protest;  
49 scream

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## Introduction

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The notion that animals may possess personal expectations about social regularities or what is permissible within social encounters has been a topic of considerable interdisciplinary interest, including those interested in the evolution of morality, justice and fairness (e.g., Bekoff, 2001, 2004; Brosnan & de Waal, 2012, 2014; de Waal, 2014; de Waal & Tyak, 2003). One hypothesis is that animals possess a sense of ‘social regularity’, i.e., a set of expectations about how they and others should be treated and how resources should be divided (de Waal, 1996).

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Experimental research using food rewards has shown that a range of non-human primates (see Price & Brosnan, 2012; Brosnan & de Waal 2014, for reviews), as well as corvids (Wascher & Bugnyar, 2013) and dogs (Range, Horn, Viranyi, & Huber, 2009), possess certain expectations about resource distribution and will protest against distributional inequities of rewards in which they are disadvantaged. For example, capuchins (*Cebus apella*) and chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) will protest by becoming unwilling to trade for low-value food rewards after observing their partner receiving a higher-value reward for no extra effort (Brosnan & de Waal, 2003; Brosnan, Schiff, & de Waal, 2005). More active behavioural protests have also been observed. For example, during the ‘Ultimatum Game’, an economic game considered to be the hallmark test for a human sense of fairness, chimpanzees protested towards selfish offers proposed by their partner by spitting water and hitting the cage-bars, while human children in the same task made verbalised protests (e.g., “you got more than me”) (Proctor, Williamson, Brosnan, & de Waal, 2013). Another study showed that chimpanzees were prepared to ‘punish’ individuals that stole their food by pulling a rope to cause their reward to fall out of reach

115 (Jensen, Call, & Tomasello, 2007). So far, most studies showing protest to distributional  
116 inequities have been based on paradigms in which subjects are required to perform an  
117 effortful trading task to obtain food rewards (Price & Brosnan, 2012). Whether or not  
118 these forms of protests to distributional inequities relate to a broader sensitivity to  
119 violations of expectation in other social contexts, however, remains less understood.

120       Beyond experiments with food rewards, research into whether animals are  
121 sensitive to inequities and violations of expectations during social encounters has mostly  
122 focussed on social play (Bekoff & Pierce, 2009; Pierce & Bekoff, 2012; van Leeuwen,  
123 Zimmermann, & Davila-Ross, 2011). In one study, juvenile chimpanzees were shown  
124 to follow distinct social rules during play, which they used to guide their rates of play  
125 signalling and levels of play intensity (Flack, Jeannotte, & de Waal, 2004). For example,  
126 juveniles increased their play signalling in the presence of mothers of younger partners,  
127 especially as the intensity of play bouts increased, suggesting that they were sensitive to  
128 the influence that social pressures and third-parties (i.e. maternal interventions) may have  
129 on their interactions and increased play signalling in order to prevent termination of the  
130 play bouts.

131       In the context of aggressive interactions, studies of chimpanzees and rhesus  
132 macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) have suggested that, beyond personal expectations involving  
133 the actor, individuals may also be sensitive to violations of social rules involving third-  
134 parties and are even willing to break up conflicts impartially or sometimes on behalf of  
135 the victim (Boehm 1994; de Waal 1984; Flack, Girvan, de Waal, & Krakauer, 2006;  
136 Goodall 1986; von Rohr, Burkart, & van Schaik, 2011). For example, Townsend,  
137 Slocombe, Emery-Thompson, & Zuberbühler (2007) described a case of a wild adult

138 male chimpanzee interfering against an infanticide attempt by several adult females on a  
139 newly immigrated female's newborn infant. Nevertheless, the cognitive mechanisms  
140 underlying these kinds of intervention behaviours are not well understood, and there still  
141 remains a clear distinction between responses towards violated personal expectations  
142 involving the actor itself as opposed to possessing expectations about how third-parties  
143 should be treated. Beyond bystander interventions, for example, it is not well understood  
144 whether the victim receiving the aggression possesses expectations about how they  
145 should be treated, or whether agonistic interactions are guided by social rules.

146 While the above mentioned studies are valuable in suggesting that animals are  
147 sensitive to social inequities and, in some cases, social rules, most of the available  
148 evidence only indirectly addresses whether animals possess expectations about how they  
149 should be treated in social situations. Moreover, aside from observations of protesting  
150 behaviours occurring in response to inequitable outcomes (e.g., chimpanzees spitting  
151 water at their partner during inequity experiments, Proctor et al. 2013), evidence on how  
152 animals communicatively express their protests to violated expectations remain mostly  
153 anecdotal.

154 To explore whether animals communicatively protest against violated personal  
155 expectations, we carried out a systematic study in which we focussed on naturally  
156 occurring aggressive interactions among bonobos (*Pan paniscus*), a species of great ape  
157 closely related to humans (Pruefer et al., 2012). Specifically, we examined the vocal  
158 behaviour of victims following socially expected and unexpected aggression. By their  
159 nature, aggressive interactions involve conflicts of interests, but they can vary  
160 substantially in how much social expectations are violated, especially if the victim is the

161 target of spontaneous aggression and without prior provocation. To address this, we  
162 compared the acoustic structure of victim screams produced in response to expected and  
163 unexpected aggression, taken from our assessment of the victim's perspective. Expected  
164 aggression was defined as any conflict arising over a contested resource, cases in which  
165 the victim provoked the conflict, or if the conflict could be anticipated in advance.  
166 Unexpected aggression included any spontaneous, unprovoked aggression towards the  
167 subject, initiated by another individual.

168 Like most other primates, bonobos vocalise if they become the target of  
169 conspecific aggression. In chimpanzees, the acoustic structure of victim screams conveys  
170 something about the severity of the attack, but call structure is also affected by audience  
171 composition, with screams indicating more severe aggression in the presence of high-  
172 compared to low-ranking audiences, regardless of the physical nature of the attack  
173 (Slocombe & Zuberbühler, 2007). This indicates that chimpanzees and probably many  
174 other primates (e.g., Gouzoules, Gouzoules, & Marler, 1984) vocalise, not only to  
175 influence the attacker, but also to elicit support from bystanders during or after the fight,  
176 such as interventions and policing (Flack et al., 2006; von Rohr et al., 2012) as well as  
177 consolation, a form of affiliative behaviour offered by bystanders (de Waal & van  
178 Roosmalen, 1979), which helps to reduce distress in the victim (Fraser, Stahl, & Aureli,  
179 2008; Clay & de Waal, 2013).

180 In our study, we were particularly interested in whether protests to perceived  
181 violations of social expectations were acoustically conveyed by bonobo victim screams.  
182 We also examined whether victim screams could be statistically discriminated based on  
183 caller identity, as for these signals to function in an evolutionary sense, they need to be

184 individually distinctive. In addition, we explored whether victim screams varied as a  
185 function of conflict severity, as shown for chimpanzees (Slocombe & Zuberbühler, 2007)  
186 and rhesus macaques (Gouzoules et al., 1984), and the composition of the nearby  
187 audience, as shown for chimpanzees (Slocombe & Zuberbühler, 2007). In chimpanzees,  
188 victims appear to exaggerate their screams in the presence of audience members of equal  
189 or higher rank than their aggressor (Slocombe & Zuberbühler, 2007), presumably to  
190 recruit their alliance support against the aggressor. As bonobo females are socially  
191 dominant in most contexts and regularly intervene in conflicts as allies (e.g., Furuichi,  
192 2011; Vervaecke, de Vries, & van Elsacker, 2000), we examined whether victim screams  
193 varied as a function of the presence of females of equal or higher rank than the aggressor.

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## Methods

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### Behavioural Observations

198 Observations of bonobos were conducted at the ‘Lola ya Bonobo’ sanctuary, Kinshasa,  
199 DR Congo. All data collected complied with APA ethical standards in the treatment of  
200 animal samples, and the study received full ethical clearance from the Lola Ya Bonobo  
201 Research and Ethics Coordinator. Most individuals arrived at the sanctuary as wild-  
202 caught juvenile or infant orphans as a result of the bush-meat and pet trades. Following  
203 several years of rehabilitation with a nursery ‘cohort’, where each individual was  
204 assigned a substitute human mother, individuals were integrated into large, mixed-age  
205 social groups. Individuals spent their days ranging outdoors in one of three naturalistic  
206 forest enclosures (15–20 ha), which were comprised of rainforest, lake, swamp, streams

207 and open grass areas. At night, individuals slept together inside dormitories (approx. 75  
208 m<sup>2</sup>). The bonobos were provisioned 3–4 times per day by caregivers with a variety of  
209 fruits and vegetables as well as a daily soymilk supplement. Their daily routines  
210 remained the same throughout observation periods.

211         We collected data during two observation phases (May–August 2011; May-  
212 August 2012) and pooled the data to maximise sample size. In both periods, we  
213 conducted observations at enclosure 1 (Group 1) and enclosure 2 (Group 2). In 2011,  
214 Group 1 comprised of 25 individuals and Group 2 comprised of 17 individuals. In 2012,  
215 Group 1 comprised of 22 individuals and Group 2 comprised of 20 individuals (Table 1).

216         Observations of agonistic interactions were conducted by Z.C. and an assistant  
217 throughout the day (Observation hours: 2011: Group 1 = 301h, Group 2 = 152h; 2012:  
218 Group 1 = 205h, Group 2 = 187h). Social interactions were recorded from a distance of  
219 3-20m with a Panasonic HD digital camcorder (HDC-SD900) equipped with a directional  
220 microphone (Sennheiser MKH 816T).

221         For each interaction, we recorded the identities of the initial recipient of the  
222 aggression, which we will call the ‘victim’, and the initiator of the conflict, the  
223 ‘aggressor’. We determined the identities of all visible bystanders within 5 m, the  
224 ‘audience’. We also recorded the conflict severity as ‘mild’ or ‘severe’. Mild aggression  
225 included threats (hand shake, bipedal swagger, threat bark, lunge), directed displays or  
226 charges without physical contact, chase pursuits or quick pokes or shoves, and single  
227 grabs without biting. Severe aggression included multiple or severe grabs, hits and bites  
228 and any sort of injurious physical attack.

229 We also determined the social context of the conflict as (1) 'unprovoked  
230 aggression': victim is attacked spontaneously and without any obvious prior provocation  
231 during feeding, resting or travelling; (2) 'resource competition' in the form of (i) 'contest  
232 possession': opponents physically compete aggressively for the same food/object without  
233 either having prior possession; (ii) 'lose possession by forced, aggressive removal':  
234 individual previously holding/in possession of food/object has it taken away from them  
235 by another individual by physical force; (iii) 'win possession': individual forcefully takes  
236 food or object from another individual, which results in an aggressive conflict; (3)  
237 'display aggression': victim is attacked by aggressor as part of a male display in the form  
238 of (i) 'contest hoot charge display': approaching aggressor produces display  
239 vocalisations, known as 'contest hoots' (de Waal, 1988; Genty, Clay, Hobaiter, &  
240 Zuberbühler, 2014), before physically contacting the victim; (ii) 'silent display':  
241 aggressor does a silent charge out of direct sight from the victim (i.e. from behind) before  
242 physically aggressing them; (4) 'play-related aggression': aggressive interventions by  
243 mothers following the production of distress vocalisations of her infant during rough play  
244 between her infant and the victim, or aggressive attacks received from a play partner  
245 following an escalation of rough or aggressive play instigated by the victim; (5)  
246 'redirected aggression': victim is attacked as part of redirected aggression from another  
247 agonistic event with which the victim was uninvolved; (6) 'Other': any cases in which the  
248 observation conditions of the victim before and during the attack were not clear enough  
249 to assess the nature of the conflict.

250 For each conflict, we also determined whether it could be considered 'expected'  
251 or 'unexpected' as taken from our assessment of the victim's perspective, which was

252 informed from existing literature. Unexpected aggression included all cases in which the  
253 victim was attacked spontaneously, without prior provocation or warning. This included.  
254 (1) ‘unprovoked/spontaneous aggression’; (2ii) losing possession by forced, aggressive  
255 removal; (3ii) silent display charges/aggression; (5) ‘redirected aggression’. We  
256 considered ‘losing possession by aggressive, forced removal’ as a form of ‘unexpected  
257 aggression’ following evidence that across a broad number of primate species,  
258 individuals possess a sense of property or possession, behaving as if food or objects  
259 belong to the individual in possession of them, even if low-ranking (e.g., Brosnan, 2012;  
260 Kummer & Cords, 1990; Sigg & Fallet, 1985). Bonobo males at Lola typically include  
261 ‘contest hoots’ in their directed displays towards specific targets (de Waal, 1988; Genty  
262 et al., 2014), therefore as “silent display charges” were rare, we considered them to be  
263 unexpected as they occurred without clear behavioural cueing. Redirected aggression was  
264 considered to be ‘unexpected aggression’ based on the finding that rates of redirected  
265 aggression in bonobos are generally low (Clay & de Waal, 2013) and in some cases,  
266 virtually absent (Palagi & Norscia, 2013). Expected aggression included all cases in  
267 which conflict was predictable, provoked by the victim or expected in some way, i.e. (2i)  
268 ‘contest competition’; (2iii) ‘win possession’; (3i) ‘vocal charge display’; or (4) ‘play-  
269 related aggression’. We coded ‘play-related’ aggression as ‘Expected’ as during these  
270 contexts, the victim was the individual who escalated the play to a more aggressive,  
271 rougher play level with an infant or play partner, resulting in the production of distress  
272 signals by their play partner and the consequential maternal interventions. While it is  
273 possible that previous, unobserved, behaviours of the victim may have resulted in their  
274 opponent behaving aggressively towards them in the current encounter (i.e. renewed

275 aggression), we tried to avoid this possibility by restricting our coding of unexpected  
276 aggression to those cases in which no prior aggression had occurred between the  
277 opponents for 1 hour or more.

278 We used the Matman analysis programme (Noldus, version 1.1) to calculate  
279 dominance relationships, and investigated whether the dominance hierarchy was linear by  
280 calculating the adjusted linearity index  $h'$ , which takes into account the number of  
281 unknown relationships (Stevens, Vervaecke, de Vries, & van Elsacker, 2006; de Vries,  
282 Stevens, & Vervaecke, 2006). These calculations were made of the basis of matrices of  
283 agonistic interactions (see Genty et al., 2014) using fleeing from aggression as a marker  
284 for dominance (Stevens et al., 2006)

285

#### 286 **Vocal behaviour.**

287 Bonobos often vocalise during conflicts by producing acoustically complex and  
288 often noisy signals, typically a series of screams (see Fig.1). Screams usually consist not  
289 only of tonal but also non-tonal sections, caused by non-linear behaviour of the vocal  
290 folds during sound production.

291 Following Riede, Owren, & Arcadi (2004), we used the term ‘non-linear  
292 phenomena’ (NLP) to refer to the presence of *subharmonics*, *biphonation*, and  
293 *deterministic chaos* visible on the spectrogram. *Biphonation* refers to the presence of two  
294 simultaneous but independent fundamental frequencies visible in a spectrogram as two  
295 distinct and autonomous frequency contours that interact in a non-linear fashion (Riede et  
296 al., 2004, see also Brown, Alipour, Berry, & Montequin, 2003; Tokuda, Riede, Neubauer,  
297 Owren, & Herzel, 2002; Volodin & Volodin 2003). *Subharmonics* are spectral

298 components additional to the fundamental frequency **F0** that appear as sidebands of  
299 acoustic energy at evenly spaced intervals below the **F0** and its associated harmonics.  
300 *Deterministic chaos* refers to periods of non-random noise visible in the spectrogram  
301 caused by irregular oscillations in the vocal folds (see Figure 1).

302 We carried out quantitative acoustic analyses using PRAAT 5.2.21  
303 ([www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/](http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/); settings: pitch range: 1,500-4,500 Hz, optimised for voice  
304 analysis; spectrogram settings: analysis window length: 0.03s, dynamic range: 70dB,  
305 spectrogram view range: 0-10kHz). We performed pitch analysis using a script written by  
306 Michael Owren (pers. comm.). We conducted analyses on a total of 12 temporal and  
307 spectral parameters. To standardise the varying number of calls per calling episode, we  
308 calculated mean scores for the first analysable three calls within the episode. Calls were  
309 examined for the presence of non-linear phenomena through visual inspection of  
310 spectrograms.

311 To describe the overall structure of the screaming episode, we measured the (1)  
312 episode duration (s): **duration of total vocal episode (i.e. a vocal episode could contain**  
313 **one or more calls)** separated from other bouts by at least 30s of silence; (2) N calls within  
314 a call episode; (3) inter-call interval (s): duration between call end to the start of the next  
315 call; (4) duration of call (s): duration **of a single** call taken from onset to offset; (5)  
316 presence of inter-scream pause: pause of minimum 3sec between scream phases within  
317 same episode.

318 Due to the non-linear nature of bonobo screams, it was not possible to measure  
319 many of the spectral parameters that are typically employed for more tonal calls (Clay &  
320 Zuberbühler, 2009, 2011). Taking this into account, we used spectral analyses to identify

321 the presence of several forms of NLP within the call, that is: (6) the percentage of the call  
322 containing NLP, as well as the presence of three specific forms of NLP that were visually  
323 identifiable within the spectrogram: (7) mean duration (s) of sub-harmonic segments; (8)  
324 mean duration (s) of biphonation (s) segments; (9) mean duration (s) of chaotic segments  
325 (s). See Figure 1.

326 For calls containing at least one segment with a visible fundamental frequency  
327 band, we also measured: (10) mean fundamental frequency (F0): the mean value of the  
328 fundamental frequency across the first tonal section of the call (Hz); (11) peak frequency  
329 at the start of the call (Hz): location in the frequency domain where maximum acoustic  
330 energy occurred in the F0 at the onset of the call and (12) peak frequency at the end of the  
331 call (Hz): location in the frequency domain where maximum acoustic energy occurred in  
332 the F0 at the offset.

333

### 334 **Statistical Analyses**

335 We conducted statistical analyses using SPSS version 22.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago,  
336 IL, USA) and R version 3.1.0 (R Development Core Team 2008), using the software  
337 packages ‘MASS’, ‘lme4’ and ‘lmerTest’. Tests were 2-tailed and significance levels  
338 were set to  $\alpha = 0.05$ . For small sample sizes, we calculated exact p-values (Mundry &  
339 Fischer, 1998).

340 We screened the data for outliers by producing standardized z-scores (Tabachnik  
341 & Fidell, 2001). Next, we regressed all parameters to check for multi-collinearity and  
342 singularity among the acoustic variables, removing any parameters with a variance  
343 inflation factor  $>10$  (Belsley, Kuh, & Welsch, 1980). Subsequently, we conducted cross-

344 validated Discriminant Function Analyses (DFAs) using the leave-one-out procedure to  
345 investigate whether the acoustic variables, when combined together, could generate  
346 discriminant functions that correctly discriminated the following factors: Caller Identity;  
347 Fight Severity; Audience and **Social Expectancy**. To test whether the degree of  
348 classification was greater than chance, we used two-tailed binomial tests with a corrected  
349 level of chance that corresponded to the number of discriminated categories (Mundry &  
350 Sommer, 2007). We set the DFA prior probabilities to assume equal group size in order  
351 for the model to generate a randomly selected selection of cases to equally represent  
352 across individuals.

353         As the data were two-factorial and contained repeated contributions per  
354 individual, conventional DFA methods are considered inadequate to allow valid  
355 estimation of the significance of discriminability (Mundry & Sommer, 2007). Therefore,  
356 to estimate the significance of the number of correctly classified calls (cross-validated),  
357 while controlling for repeated contributions, we conducted a permuted DFA (pDFA; R.  
358 Mundry, pers. comm.), entering Caller Identity as a random factor. **Following diagnostic**  
359 **tests and tests for multi-collinearity between test factors (using Variance Inflation**  
360 **Factors), we then conducted Linear Mixed Models on each of the non-correlated acoustic**  
361 **parameters to investigate which varied statistically with the factors under scrutiny; Social**  
362 **Expectation, Conflict Severity and Audience presence (Caller Identity entered as a**  
363 **random factor).**

364         Analyses were conducted on victim screams produced by 9 individuals (2 adult  
365 males, 1 adult female, 1 adolescent male, 2 juvenile males and 3 juvenile females; Table  
366 1). Samples from other individuals were excluded owing to inadequate sample size of

367 recordings available that were of sufficiently high quality for acoustic analyses. As  
368 pDFAs are vulnerable to the erroneous effects of small sample size, we set an inclusion  
369 cut-off as a minimum of four call episodes per category per individual. Collecting clean,  
370 high-quality recordings is problematic for victim screams because multiple individuals  
371 typically vocalise during an agonistic encounter, rendering it difficult to isolate calls.

372

373

### Results

374 *Caller Identity:* Analyses based on a total of 156 calling episodes, produced by 9  
375 individuals (mean  $N = 16$  events per individual, range: 9-26) showed that screams could  
376 be reliably discriminated based on the identity of the caller (cross-validated DFA: Wilks  
377  $\lambda = .06$ ,  $\chi^2(80, N \text{ callers} = 9) = 410.69$ ,  $p < .001$ , see Figure 2 and Table 2). Calls  
378 could be reliably classified according to caller identity at a rate significantly greater than  
379 chance (correct classification 55.1% (86/156 calls), cross-validated: Binomial test (0.11  
380 chance level):  $p < .001$ )

381

382

---Figure 2 ----

383

384 *Fight Severity:* We compared  $N = 87$  screams produced in response to severe  
385 agonistic events and  $N = 69$  screams produced during mild agonistic events, with each  
386 individual ( $N = 9$ ) contributing a minimum of 4 calls per category. A pDFA, which  
387 controlled for caller identity, showed that only 58/156 calls were correctly classified  
388 according to conflict severity, which was not significantly greater than chance (cross-  
389 validated pDFA;  $p = .11$ ).

390

391 *Social Expectation:* We conducted a DFA analysis to compare screams in response to  $N =$   
392 59 socially expected and  $N = 97$  unexpected aggression interactions (minimum  $N = 4$   
393 calling events per individual per category;  $N$  events analysed per combination of factors  
394 ‘Social expectation’ and ‘Conflict severity’: Expected-Severe = 34, Unexpected-Severe =  
395 53, Expected-Mild = 25, Unexpected-Mild = 44). 67.9% of calls could be correctly  
396 classified based on whether the conflict was expected or not (Wilks’ lambda = 0.76,  $\chi^2$   
397 (10) = 40.28,  $p < .001$ ), which was significantly greater than chance (106/156 calls;  
398 binomial (0.5);  $p < .001$ ). A subsequent pDFA revealed that calls could be correctly  
399 classified on the basis of social expectation when caller identity was controlled (pDFA  
400 cross-validated: 53 calls;  $p = .02$ ).

401 *Audience:* the structure of victim screams did not differ significantly between  
402 events when a female of equal or higher rank than the aggressor was present within 5m  
403 ( $N = 59$ ) compared to when this was not the case ( $N = 97$ ; DFA: Wilks’ lambda = 0.91,  $\chi^2$   
404 (10) = 13.99,  $p = .24$ ; cross-validated classification: 51.3% of calls; Binomial test (0.5)  $p$   
405  $> 0.05$ ). We were unable to analyse the audience effects of alpha female presence alone,  
406 due to insufficient sample size.

407 We used Linear Mixed Models (LMMs) to identify which of the acoustic  
408 variables might be driving the original classification. In this analysis, we included all  
409 three variables of interest (social expectation, conflict severity, audience presence) as a  
410 fixed factors, as while only social expectation provided significant discrimination at the  
411 overall scream structure level, the other two factors have been previously demonstrated to  
412 be biologically relevant variables in explaining scream acoustic structure (Gouzoules et

413 al., 1984; Slocombe & Zuberbühler, 2005, 2007). Before commencing, we ran diagnostic  
414 tests and examined the Variance Inflation Factors, which revealed no collinearity  
415 between the three factors for any of the parameters (all VIFs < 2). LMMs (caller identity  
416 as a random factor) showed that both social expectation and fight severity but not  
417 audience presence explained a significant amount of the variance in a number of different  
418 acoustic parameters, as explained below (see Figure 3 and in Table 3). However,  
419 likelihood ratio tests revealed that there were no significant interactions between the two  
420 factors themselves (all  $p > 0.05$ ). As shown in Table 3 and Figure 3, screams produced in  
421 response to unexpected aggression were significantly longer in overall calling episode  
422 duration, contained significantly more calls per episode, were significantly longer in call  
423 duration, contained a significantly higher percentage of non-linear phenomena within a  
424 call, possessed a significantly higher peak frequency at the end of the call, contained  
425 significantly more biphonation within the call and the vocalising subject was significantly  
426 more likely to recommence screaming after a phase break. Compared to mild aggression,  
427 victim screams produced in response to severe attacks were also significantly longer in  
428 duration, the overall calling episodes were longer, they contained a greater number of  
429 calls, a greater percentage of non-linear phenomena and a higher peak frequency. For the  
430 variable of mean duration of biphonation segments, likelihood ratio tests revealed a  
431 significant interaction between conflict severity and audience presence. Examination of  
432 the interaction plot revealed that there was more biphonation in screams produced in  
433 association with severe, but not mild conflicts in the absence of a dominant female in  
434 5m. The remaining acoustic variables were non-significant for any of the factors.

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436 --Figure 3--

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### Discussion

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Bonobos, as with other social animals, live in sophisticated societies, characterised by a rich set of fluctuating social dynamics (Kano, 1992). In order to navigate their complex social landscapes, individuals need sufficient levels of social awareness and social skills to establish, maintain and restore their social relationships. An underlying component of these social skills appears to be a set of personal expectations that an individual uses to predict how they should be treated by others. Aside from some studies of social play (e.g., Bekoff, 2001 2004), most evidence for social expectations in primates is still indirect, coming from experimental studies of resource competition that have shown that animals are averse to inequitable distribution of resources and will protest in cases where their perceived expectations are violated (Brosnan & de Waal, 2003, 2014; Price & Brosnan, 2012; Proctor et al., 2013; Range et al., 2009, Wascher & Bugnyar, 2013). Results from the current study contribute novel data by showing that violations of social expectations can be distinguished vocally in an ape species in the biologically relevant context of aggressive conflicts. The results suggest that bonobos are both sensitive to perceived violations of self-oriented social expectation in the context of aggressive conflicts and moreover, will publically broadcast their protest through the use of individually distinctive victim screams. Being spontaneously aggressed, without any prior warning, appears to violate certain, self-oriented social expectations relating to how agonistic interactions manifest themselves. The apparent perception of these violations is

459 consequently expressed in the acoustic structure of their screams. This suggests that  
460 bonobos possess specific personal expectations about how they should be treated by  
461 others (de Waal, 1996; von Rohr et al., 2011); the fact that they vocally signalled this to  
462 others suggests that their conspecific audience may be sensitive to it as well.

463 Evidence that bonobos are sensitive to a form of self-oriented violation of social  
464 expectation reflects the rich literature on inequity aversion in primates, which has shown  
465 that individuals are typically only sensitive to inequitable resource distributions in cases  
466 where they are themselves disadvantaged. This self-orientated inequity aversion differs  
467 from more complex forms of other-oriented, ‘fairness’ behaviours, which extend to a  
468 more generalised set of social norms about how others should be treated (Brosnan & de  
469 Waal, 2012, 2014; von Rohr et al., 2011).

470 Nevertheless, it has been suggested that some species may be able to extend their  
471 social expectations towards the treatment of third parties in some cases. Evidence that  
472 animals take a normative approach to their social relationships has been suggested by a  
473 number of social behaviours that function to reduce social conflict among group  
474 members, such as impartial third-party policing interactions in agonistic conflicts,  
475 reconciliation, preventative conflict resolution and consolation (de Waal, 2014; Flack et  
476 al., 2006; von Rohr et al., 2011, 2012).

477 The possession of social expectations is thought to relate to a capacity to both  
478 perceive and act according to social rules, which individuals use to guide their social  
479 interactions with others (de Waal, 2014; Flack et al. 2004). This has been demonstrated  
480 during social play encounters, which appear to be guided by specific social rules and  
481 expectations, and provide an important opportunity to develop normative behaviours and

482 to build trust. For instance, studies of play signalling in apes and canids have  
483 demonstrated that individuals adjust their rates of play signalling according to the play  
484 partner and surrounding audience, in order to prevent the play from escalating into  
485 aggression or terminating due to a third-party intervention (Bekoff, 2001; Cordoni &  
486 Palagi, 2011; Flack et al., 2004; Pellis, Pellis, Reinhart & Thierry, 2011).

487           If screams function to communicate perceived violations of social  
488 expectation to others, they must therefore be individually distinct so that recipients can  
489 make inferences about the identity of the caller. As predicted, our acoustic analyses also  
490 revealed that bonobo victim screams could be reliably discriminated on the basis of caller  
491 identity, in contrast to what has been reported from rhesus monkeys (Rendall et al.,  
492 1998). Non-linear phenomena were common in our sample, probably proximately  
493 explained by the high arousal states triggered by being a target of an agonistic attack. The  
494 presence of non-linear phenomena may have increased the level of individual  
495 discrimination in these screams (Fitch et al., 2002). Functionally speaking, this is relevant  
496 because other acoustic properties of primate screams have been said to be ill suited for  
497 providing identity cues (Owren & Rendall, 2001).

498           In contrast to chimpanzees (Slocombe & Zuberbühler, 2007), we found no  
499 evidence that victims exaggerated their screams in the presence of females of equal or  
500 higher rank than the aggressor. It is possible that results would have been different with  
501 free-ranging bonobos, as the visibility in the forest is much lower than in the sanctuary  
502 environment of this study, where most social conflicts were broadly visible to other group  
503 members.

504 In terms of conflict severity, we replicated previous findings in chimpanzees  
505 (Slocombe & Zuberbühler, 2007), by showing that a number of acoustic variables varied  
506 significantly as a function of conflict severity if we controlled for caller identity. While  
507 conflict severity appeared to be a biologically relevant variable in explaining some  
508 aspects of scream structure, it was nevertheless unable to statistically discriminate scream  
509 structure overall, unlike the more psychological variable of social expectation. The  
510 relationship between scream structure and conflict severity was weaker than expected,  
511 suggesting that the manner in which conflict severity was categorised in this study may  
512 not have adequately reflected how it is perceived by bonobos. Alternatively, a weaker  
513 relationship between conflict severity and scream structure may have reflected the fact  
514 that bonobo aggressiveness is considered as generally reduced and less severe compared  
515 to that of chimpanzees (Hare, Wobber, & Wrangham, 2012), and so may be less likely to  
516 trigger extreme differences in vocal responses.

517 Our main finding was that our assessment of interactions involving violations of  
518 expectations (that appeared to also be perceived as such by the bonobos) had the  
519 strongest explanatory power regarding overall scream acoustic structure, suggesting that  
520 the underlying cause of a conflict, and its adherence to social rules, may have been  
521 psychologically important to bonobos beyond simply the physical experience alone.  
522 However, while there were no interactions between the two factors, there was  
523 nevertheless considerable overlap in the acoustic variables discriminating social  
524 expectation and conflict severity, suggesting that both factors play an important role in  
525 shaping call acoustic structure. Future research using playback experiments will need to

526 determine whether receivers attend more strongly to the perceived social rules governing  
527 the fight or its severity.

528 Overall, by showing that great apes can be sensitive to and communicate about  
529 the underlying cause of an aggressive interaction, beyond its physical nature alone, we  
530 have revealed something about the underlying social motivation in naturally occurring  
531 aggressive conflicts. Further research should investigate the phylogenetic distribution of  
532 such capacities, especially in species that have already demonstrated inequity aversion  
533 during feeding competition. Moreover, further research is needed to investigate the nature  
534 of the underlying social expectations demonstrated here, for instance whether individuals  
535 possess expectations about treatment by specific individuals in their group, such as close  
536 affiliative partners, as compared to treatment by those they do not share close social ties.

537 The fact that bonobos vocally broadcasted their assessments in the form of individually  
538 distinctive screams opens up new research avenues to determine whether receivers can  
539 distinguish such screams and, if so, what adaptive benefits victims might attain. In some  
540 primates, some individuals play a policing role of others' social interactions within their  
541 group, thus it is possible that screams signalling perceived unfairness may facilitate such  
542 interventions (Flack et al., 2006; von Rohr et al., 2012). Similarly, bonobos have been  
543 demonstrated to offer consolation to distressed parties in order to reduce their distress  
544 (Clay & de Waal, 2013; Palagi, Paoli, & Tarli, 2004) and so communicating this distress  
545 via victim screams may facilitate the offering of third-party affiliation.

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712    **Tables**

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Table 1

*Study Group composition at Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary in 2011-2012*

ID code	Age 2012	Group membership 2011-2012	ID Code	Age 2012	Group membership 2011-2012
Females					
OP <sup>(PO)</sup>	17	1-1	MY <sup>+(BS)</sup>	19	2-2
SW <sup>+(EK)</sup>	15	1-1	KL <sup>+(ML)</sup>	14	1-2
BD <sup>(WO)</sup>	15	1-1	KS <sup>+</sup>	13	1-2
SL <sup>(KM)</sup>	14	1-1	LI <sup>+</sup>	11	2-2
<b>*LS<sup>+</sup></b>	11	1-1	MU	8	x-2
<b>*KT</b>	8	1-1	<b>*SK</b>	7	2-2
EK	7	1-1	ML	5	1-2
<b>*WK</b>	6	1-1	MS	6	1-2
KM	3	1-1			
Males					
MN	18	1-1	KZ	20+	2-2
KW	14	1-1	MX	26	2-2
FZ	13	1-1	MD	10	2-2
<b>*LM</b>	13	2-1	BL	11	2-2
<b>*AP</b>	12	x-1	IB	10	2-2
MA	12	1-1	<b>*YL</b>	8	2-2
DL	11	1-1	BS	7	2-2
<b>*KG</b>	10	1-1	EL	7	2-2
MB	9	1-1			
<b>*PO</b>	7	1-1			
WO	4	1-1			

714 Bold asterisks indicate the individuals included in the acoustic analyses. “+” symbol

715 indicates the presence of a dependent infant and ID codes in superscript indicate the

716 identity of independent offspring. Group membership is represented as a two number  
717 code, the first being Group in 2011 (i.e. 1 = Group 1) and the second being group in  
718 2012. X indicates cases when the bonobo was not housed in either enclosure.

719

720 As exact birth dates for orphaned apes are generally unknown, we used age estimates  
721 made by sanctuary veterinarians upon arrival, based on measurements of weight and  
722 patterns of dental emergence according to known patterns of ape development (Wobber  
723 & Rosati, Pers. Comm). This was validated by the known exact ages of individuals born  
724 at the sanctuaries, which we also used.

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Table 2

*Percentage correct classification (cross-validated) per individual caller in the DFA analysis of bonobo victim screams*

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Caller Identity	% correct classification (cross validated)
1	64.3
2	87.0
3	47.8
4	55.6
5	75.0
6	18.8
7	61.5
8	36.8
9	42.9

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Table 3

*Results from LMMs of the significant effects of three factors on victim scream acoustic structure*

	Social expectation				Conflict severity				Dominant female Audience			
	Est.	SE	t	p	Est.	SE	t	p	Est.	SE	t	p
Episode duration	14.75	2.87	5.15	< .001	-6.49	2.86	-2.27	0.02	-0.52	2.82	-0.19	.85
N of calls	12.90	2.76	4.67	< .001	-5.83	2.76	-2.11	.04	2.78	2.72	1.02	.31
Call duration	.24	.07	3.26	.001	-.13	.07	-1.74	.08	.04	.07	.53	.60
% NLP	14.62	4.75	3.08	.003	-17.74	4.77	-3.71	<.001	6.36	4.64	1.37	.17
Phase break	.24	0.07	3.26	.001	-.13	.07	-1.74	.08	.03	.07	.53	.60
Biphonation	.12	0.04	3.37	< .001	<i>*.18</i>	.07	<i>2.48</i>	<i>.01</i>				
Peak frequency	209.99	58.43	3.59	< .001	-158.26	59.0	-2.68	.008	76.75	56.9	1.35	.18

753 Results in Italics with \* indicate the output for a significant interaction between Conflict  
 754 Severity and Audience for the parameter of 'Mean duration of biphonation'.

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757 **Figure Captions**

758

759 **Figure 1. Time-frequency Spectrograms of bonobo victim screams produced by the**  
 760 **same individual in response to (a) socially expected and (b + c) socially unexpected**  
 761 **aggression. Red lines and arrows indicate some of the acoustic measures analysed,**  
 762 **and the presence of some different forms of non-linear phenomena. (i) duration of**  
 763 **the call episode (s), (ii) is the duration of a call, (iii) points to two sections of biphonation**  
 764 **(as depicted by a frequency band that does not relate to the F0); and (iv) points to**  
 765 **subharmonics (side-bands relating to the F0).**

766

767 **Figure 2. Distribution of discriminant scores for victim screams produced by n = 9**  
 768 **bonobos following aggressive encounters. The discriminant scores lie along two**  
 769 **canonical discriminant functions established to discriminate caller identity. The caller**

770 identities overlay the discriminant function scores and black squares indicate the group  
771 centroids per individual caller.

772

773 **Figure 3. Mean and *SE* for five acoustic parameters for victim screams produced in**  
774 **response agonistic conflicts that varied significantly according to social expectation**  
775 **(left side) and/or physical severity (right side). Asterisks indicate p values in LMMs**  
776 **(\*\*\* =  $p < .001$ , \*\* =  $p < .01$ , \* =  $p < .05$ )**

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