

Adolescent Decision Making and the Design of Interventions

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General Approaches to Intervention Focus

- Positive Youth Development approaches
- Problem behavior approaches
- Contextual approaches

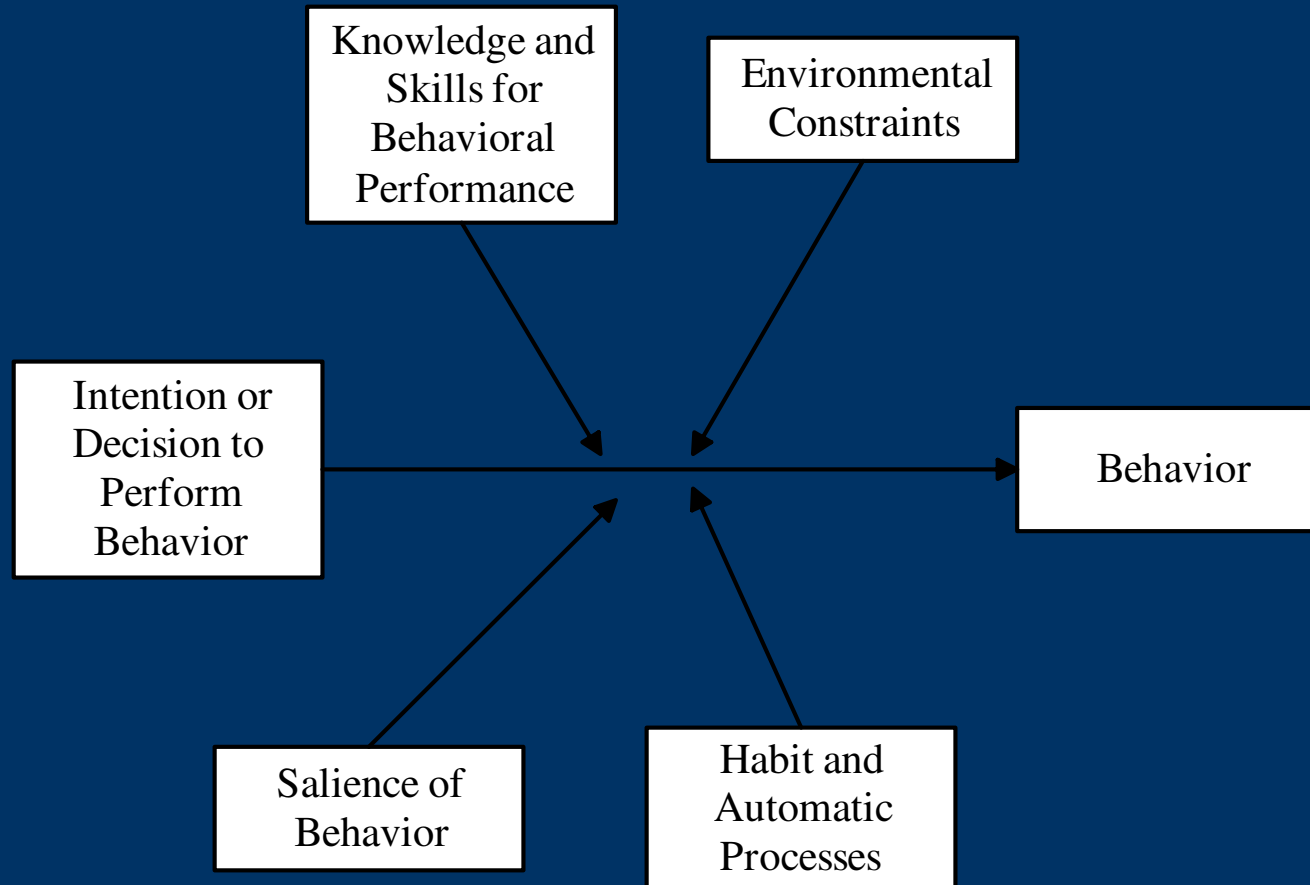
The Ideal Intervention

- Brief, practical and economical
- Reaches large segments of the population “at risk”
- Is effective
- Is sustainable over time

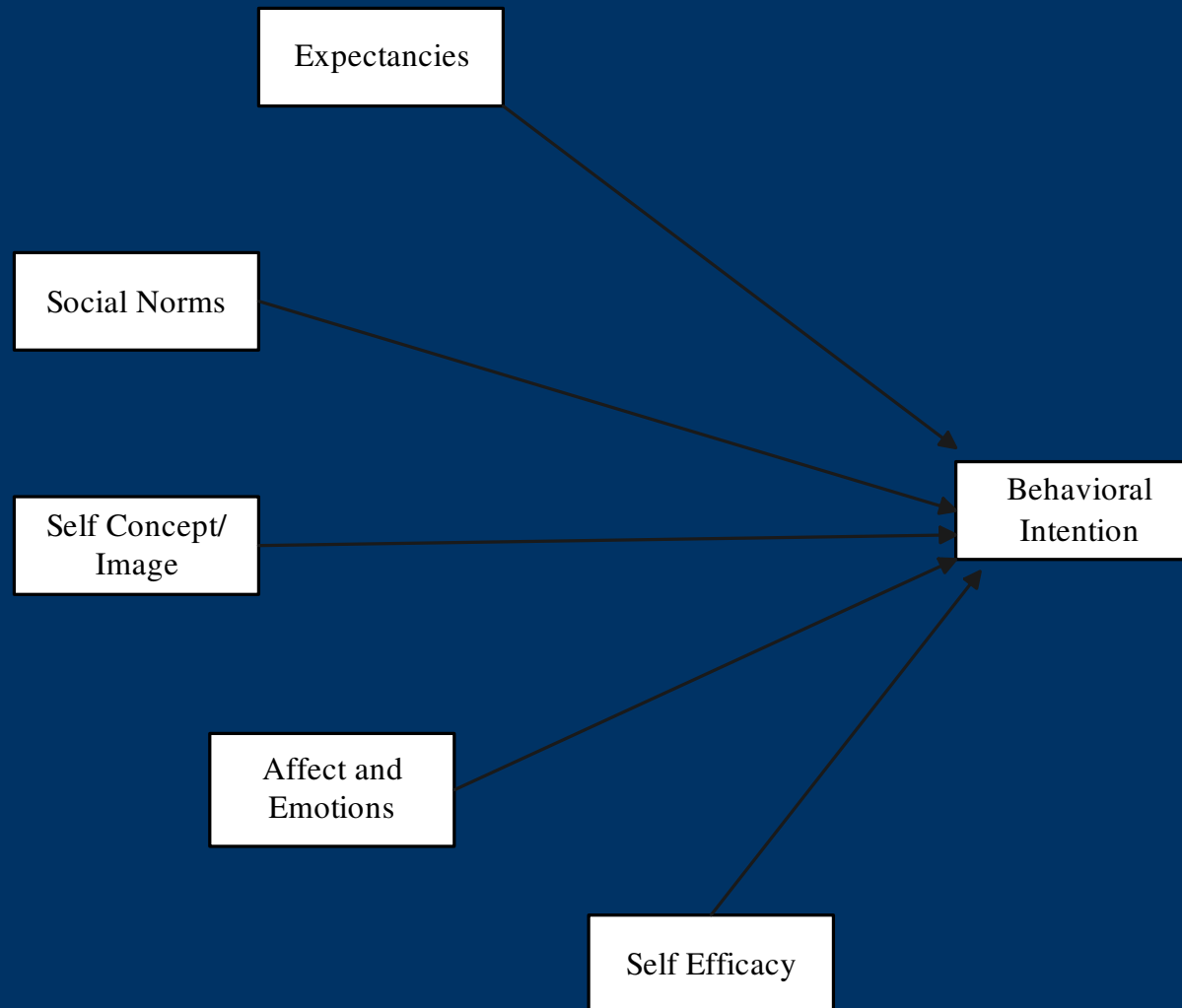
Research on Decision Making

- Expert versus lay decision makers
- Most is focused on adults and college students
- Two general frameworks

Social Psychological Framework: Sequence I



Social Psychological Framework: Sequence II



Implications for Intervention Design

- Interventions aimed at problem behaviors
- Interventions aimed at positive youth development
- Interventions aimed at adolescent contexts

Traditional Decision Making Framework

- Problem recognition and framing
- Goal identification
- Option generation
- Information search
- Information integration and choice
- Behavioral translation
- Post-decision evaluation

Traditional Decision Making Framework

- Definition of a “good” decision
- Quick decisions
- Multiple trajectories in the emergence of decision making

Implications for Intervention Design

- Interventions aimed at positive youth development
- Interventions aimed at problem behaviors
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