HOW ANGER CAN CORRUPT OUR OPINION AND OTHER EMOTIONAL BIASES

Dr Carolyn Semmler, PhD
School of Psychology
University of Adelaide
EMOTION VS. REASON
ANGER — THE ACTIVATING EMOTION

Physiological Symptoms

Cognitive Appraisals
HOW ARE EMOTION & COGNITION RELATED?

Figure 2
Toward a general model of affective influences on decision making: the emotion-imbu ed choice model.
ANGER AND DECISION MAKING

- Risk perception and causal attribution
- Depth of information processing
- Interpersonal interactions & empathy
Anger shapes risk perception & causal attribution

Angry people take more risks (Lerner & Keltner, 2000; 2001)

Anger produces appraisal of individual control (Keltner, 1993)
ANGER IMPACTS DEPTH OF PROCESSING

Anger produces a greater reliance on stereotypes & use of heuristic cues (Bodenhausen et al., 1993)

Anger induces confidence or certainty in choice
ANGER INFLUENCES INTERPERSONAL ATTRIBUTIONS

Anger (when communicated by those low in power) can make a high power individual angry (Lelieveld, 2012)

When anger is experienced by one party during an interaction (but not the other) – can produce a HOT-COLD empathy gap (Lowenstein, 2015)

Empathy is patiently and sincerely seeing the world through the other person's eyes. It is not learned in school; it is cultivated over a lifetime.

— Albert Einstein —
‘Anyone can become angry - that is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way - that is not easy’