

## **A Personal View of Past and Future Conflict Management Research**

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During the last three decades there has been an explosion of research on animal conflict management, producing a shift in perspectives on aggression from a disruptive force to an integrated component of group life and a tool for social negotiation. Most of this research has focused on post-conflict behaviour, especially on primates. Among the possible post-conflict management mechanisms, the most studied has been “reconciliation”, i.e. a friendly reunion between former opponents. Most studies have mainly demonstrated the occurrence of reconciliation and documented its patterns of distribution among group members in several primate and some non-primate species. Future research should cover a wider range of post-conflict mechanisms (including affiliation with third parties and redirected aggression) combining the study of influencing factors and possible functions using a multivariate approach. Conflict management can also occur to reduce aggressive escalation of conflicts of interest. Less research has explicitly focused on this aspect. Thus, a promising avenue for future research is the integration of pre- and post-conflict mechanisms in a variety of taxa using a decision making perspective. This research would certainly benefit from a modelling approach in addition to solid theoretical bases and a rigorous empirical component with both observational and experimental contributions.