saw behaviour occurring due to in group and out group reference points. In this study they believed that participants behaviour couldn’t be explained as being due purely to allotted roles.

**Issue, Debates and Approaches**

nature/nurture debate - some explanations see aggression as a product of innate personality traits that are imported into prisons and are therefore due to nature other explanations see the environment of the prison setting as contributing to aggression, this highlights the role of nurture.

Gender bias - studies into institutional aggression can be seen as having gender bias as almost all of them are focused on male prisoners who have completely different profiles to female prisoners e.g. female prisoners are often seen as establishing strong bonds with other members of their social group rather than identify with prison subcultures. Therefore the explanations for female aggression occurring in prisons might be different offered to those for male prisoners.

Deterministic - both models ignore the role of free will and the ability that people have of conscious thought in managing their own behaviours. Both models assume that aggression is due to personality factors or environmental factors. However, both models ignore role of genes and hormones which may expose individuals to violent behaviour.

It would be ethically impossible to conduct scientific research within an institution focusing on prison aggression, most of the findings are correlational meaning that cause and effect cannot be established and its there for difficult to conduct scientific conclusions. Light et al. found the 97% of prison assaults had no apparent reason behind them and this high number could suggest that neither model is there for relevant.