SEMINAR: **Social Psychology (advanced)**

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Current research in social psychology

SUMMER Semester 30 hrs (2x45 min weekly)
Feb 21,March 6 & 20 (Wednesdays)14:00-15:30, then starting March 26 Tuesdays, 10.00 - 11.30
in site or online depending on the number of participants
(online version at: meet.google.com; link to all meetings
https://meet.google.com/ugo-usyw-njj)
classroom access code:

THE COURSE CORRESPONDS TO TOPICS: social psychology

ASSESSMENT
- The course is available to all students (General course open to all students)
- The course to be conducted in English (or not)
- Credit requirements: Each student is required to actively engage in course discussions. Following each discussion, students must either prepare a comprehensive summary note, which will be shared with all course participants, or propose and prepare a new topic. The proposed topic should be a well-justified replacement for an existing one, subject to group consensus that it offers greater relevance or interest.

COURSE AIMS AND CONTENT:
The aim of the course is to deepen the knowledge of the most important issues of social psychology. In particular, we will pay attention to the latest trends in research development. Participants will take part in discussions and demonstrations, they will also have the opportunity to prepare research summaries themselves.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:
Knowledge: - Participants are expected to acquire the knowledge of current research in the field of social psychology.
Skills: discussing research results, applying soc psych theories to interpret results, critical comments to methods etc.
Social Competence: presentation of research, interpretation , arguments, discussing with peers

THE TOPICS AND READINGS:

1. Launching the seminar and Political Polarization

Objective: To explore the psychological underpinnings of political polarization, its manifestations in society, and its specific impact in contexts like Poland and Eastern Europe.

Question: How does the psychology of inequality contribute to political division, and what are the broader implications for societies, particularly in contexts like Poland and Eastern Europe? Think beyond conventional political narratives and consider underlying psychological factors such as fear, inequality, identity, and moral values.

watch:
The psychology of inequality and political division | Keith Payne.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsbV1_tA1oU
read:

Kane, P. (2023, April 10). Analysis | New report outlines the deep political polarization's slow and steady march. *Washington Post*. https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/04/08/house-polarization-partisanship/

Van Baar, J. M., & FeldmanHall, O. (2022). The polarized mind in context: Interdisciplinary approaches to the psychology of political polarization. *American Psychologist, 77*(3), 394–408. https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000814

read more:

Korzeniowski, K. (n.d.). *Changes in Ways of Understanding Democracy in the Days of Crisis of Democracy: Evidence from Poland*.

Reykowski, J. (2023). Populizm jako choroba demokracji. *Kwartalnik NAUKA, 3*, Article 3. https://nauka-pan.pl/index.php/nauka/article/view/1037

2.   Violence and Aggression in Society

Objective: To dissect the psychological and social dynamics that contribute to violence and aggression in society, with a special focus on political violence.

Question: What are the everyday psychological factors that can escalate into political violence, and how can understanding these factors help prevent such occurrences?
Consider how ordinary behaviors and attitudes, influenced by social, political, and psychological factors, can potentially lead to large-scale aggression and violence.

watch:
TED (Director). (2020, September 18). *How do daily habits lead to political violence? | Christiane-Marie Abu Sarah*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1fkNcmDrlM
read:

Startling Poll Says More Americans Open to Political Violence. (2023, October 25). TIME.
https://time.com/6328179/political-violence-jan-6-extremism/

Paulus, P. B., & Kenworthy, J. B. (2022). The crowd dynamics and collective stupidity of the January 6 riot: Theoretical analyses and prescriptions for a collectively wiser future. *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice, 26*(3), 199–219.
https://doi.org/10.1037/gdn0000184

Read more:

Ntontis, E., Jurstakova, K., Neville, F., Haslam, S. A., & Reicher, S. (n.d.). A warrant for violence? An analysis of Donald Trump's speech before the US Capitol attack. *British Journal of Social Psychology, n/a*(n/a). https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12679

3. Economic Inequality and Social Perception

Objective: To analyze how economic disparities shape perceptions, interactions, and attitudes within society, and to understand the psychological mechanisms underpinning these effects.

Question: In what ways does economic inequality influence our social perceptions and interactions, and how do these influences manifest in different societal contexts?
Think critically about the subtle and overt ways in which economic status can shape individual psychology, social dynamics, and broader societal attitudes.

watch:
TED (Director). (2011, October 24). *How economic inequality harms societies | Richard Wilkinson*.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ7LzE3u7Bw
read:
Tett, G. (2019, February 27). *How income inequality affects our mental health*.
https://www.ft.com/content/bf700f1a-3a22-11e9-b72b-2c7f526ca5d0

Willis, G. B., García-Sánchez, E., Sánchez-Rodríguez, Á., García-Castro, J. D., & Rodríguez-Bailón, R. (2022). The psychosocial effects of economic inequality depend on its perception. *Nature Reviews Psychology, 1*(5), Article 5.
https://doi.org/10.1038/s44159-022-00044-0

4. Global Pandemic Response and Behavior
Objective: To examine psychological responses to the COVID-19 crisis, exploring both the antecedents and consequences of such responses on individual and societal levels.

Question: How have the various facets of the COVID-19 pandemic, from health risks to societal changes, affected global mental health, and what does this reveal about human behavior in crisis situations?
Think about the diverse psychological impacts of the pandemic and consider both the resilience and vulnerabilities exposed by this global crisis.

watch:
    TEDx (Director). (2022, February 3). *Mental Health in the New Normal: Shaping Our COVID Stories | Dr. Rachel Wernicke | TEDxGeorgeMasonU*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gO_yzpVn_Ko

read:
    Brain scans reveal how COVID pandemic affected teenagers. (2023, November 11). Newsweek. https://www.newsweek.com/brain-scans-reveal-covid-pandemic-teenagers-1842655

Świdrak, J., Pochwatko, G., & Matejuk, P. (2021). Copresence and Well-being in the Time of Covid-19: Is a Video Call Enough to be and Work Together? In C. Biele, J. Kacprzyk, J. W. Owsiński, A. Romanowski, & M. Sikorski (Eds.), *Digital Interaction and Machine Intelligence* (pp. 169–178). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-74728-2_16

read more:
    Penninx, B. W. J. H., Benros, M. E., Klein, R. S., & Vinkers, C. H. (2022). How COVID-19 shaped mental health: From infection to pandemic effects. *Nature Medicine, 28*(10), Article 10. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-02028-2

5.   Social Media and Mental Health
Objective: Explore the association between social media use and mental health, particularly focusing on eating concerns among adolescents.

Question: In what ways can social media usage contribute to eating disorders and other mental health concerns, especially among adolescents? Critically analyze the influence of social media trends on body image and mental health, and to consider the ethical responsibilities of social media platforms.

    watch:
    TEDx Talks (Director). (2017, June 22). *Is Social Media Hurting Your Mental Health? | Bailey Parnell | TEDxRyersonU*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Czg_9C7gw0o
    read:
    Youmshajekian, L. (n.d.). *How a Weight-Loss Trend on TikTok Might Encourage Eating Disorders*. Scientific American. Retrieved January 8, 2024, from https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-a-weight-loss-trend-on-tiktok-might-encourage-eating-disorders/
    Dane, A., & Bhatia, K. (2023). The social media diet: A scoping review to investigate the association between social media, body image and eating disorders amongst young people. *PLOS Global Public Health, 3*(3), e0001091. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0001091

6.   Climate Change and Social Action

   Objective: To explore the psychological impact of climate change on
      individuals and communities, and to understand the determinants of
      societal participation in climate action.

   Question: How does climate change affect mental health, and what
      motivates individuals to engage in collective climate action?
   Consider the emotional and psychological dimensions of climate change and
      the factors that drive social action to address it.

   watch:
   TEDx (Director). (2019, September 20). *How climate change affects your
      mental health | Britt Wray*.
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IlDkCEvsYw
   read:
   Harrington, S. (2020, February 4). *How climate change affects mental
      health» Yale Climate Connections*. Yale Climate Connections.
      http://yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/02/how-climate-change-affects-m
      ental-health/
   Rees, J. H., & Bamberg, S. (2014). Climate protection needs societal
      change: Determinants of intention to participate in collective climate
      action. *European Journal of Social Psychology, 44*(5), 466–473.
      https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2032

7.   Artificial Intelligence and Human Interaction

Objective: To explore the complexities of human interaction with Artificial
Intelligence (AI) and the ethical challenges of AI's expanding role in
decision-making.

Question: What are the moral and ethical implications of AI's increasing role
in decision-making, and how should we navigate this evolving landscape?
Think about AI not just as a technological tool but as an entity that
presents complex ethical dilemmas in human interaction.

   watch:
   TED (Director). (2023, November 6). *AI Is Dangerous, but Not for the
      Reasons You Think | Sasha Luccioni | TED*.
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXdVDhOGqoE
   read:

Parsons, L. (2020, October 26). *Ethical concerns mount as AI takes bigger decision-making role*. Harvard Gazette. https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/10/ethical-concerns-mount-as-ai-takes-bigger-decision-making-role/

Bonnefon, J.-F., Rahwan, I., & Shariff, A. (2024). The Moral Psychology of Artificial Intelligence. *Annual Review of Psychology, 75*(1), null. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-psych-030123-113559

read more:

Cañas, J. J. (2022). AI and Ethics When Human Beings Collaborate With AI Agents. *Frontiers in Psychology, 13*. https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.836650

8.   Migration and Cultural Integration

Objective: To delve into the complexities of migration and its impact on cultural integration, highlighting the experiences of immigrants and the psychological aspects of adapting to new cultures.

Question: How do migration experiences, especially under stressful circumstances like conflict or economic hardship, affect the process of cultural integration and the psychological well-being of migrants? Consider the varied dimensions of migration, including the challenges faced by migrants and the societal impact of their integration, with a focus on recent events like the Ukrainian crisis.

watch:

TED (Director). (2019, March 28). *Through The Lens: Immigration and Cultural Diversity | Kourosh Shahbazi | TEDxYouth@LafargeLake*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu5VNbrzHQE

TED (Director). (2023, May 3). *The Power of One: My Unexpected Path to Rescue 20,000 Ukrainians | Natalie Moores | TEDxStGeorge*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWEB2M2Wcr4

read:

JAVANBAKHT, A. (2022). *Ukrainians Face Lasting Psychological Wounds from Russian Invasion*. Scientific American. https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/ukrainians-face-lasting-psychological-wounds-from-russian-invasion1/

Kim, J., Sîrbu, A., Giannotti, F., Rossetti, G., & Rapoport, H. (2022). Origin and destination attachment: Study of cultural integration on Twitter. *EPJ Data Science, 11*(1), Article 1. https://doi.org/10.1140/epjds/s13688-022-00363-5

9.   Gender and Sexuality in Modern Society

Objective: This class aims to delve into contemporary theories and narratives surrounding gender and sexuality, examining their complexities through academic, cultural, and scientific lenses.

Question: How do contemporary theories and research challenge traditional views of gender and sexuality, and what implications do these evolving perspectives have on societal norms and individual identity?
Engage with varying perspectives on gender and sexuality, considering both theoretical frameworks and empirical research.

watch:
Big Think (Director). (2023, czerwiec 8). *Berkeley professor explains gender theory | Judith Butler*.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UD9IOllUR4k
read:
'The Ezra Klein Show' (2023, październik 10). Opinion | We Need Better Narratives About Gender. *The New York Times*.
https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/10/opinion/ezra-klein-podcast-masha-gessen-oct-2023.html
Michael Price. (2017). *Toddler play may give clues to sexual orientation*. Science.Org. Pobrano 9 styczeń 2024, z
https://www.science.org/content/article/toddler-play-may-give-clues-sexual-orientation
Li, G., Kung, K. T. F., & Hines, M. (2017). Childhood gender-typed behavior and adolescent sexual orientation: A longitudinal population-based study. *Developmental Psychology, 53*(4), 764–777.
https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0000281

10.   Racial and Ethnic Inequalities

Objective: This class is designed to understand and analyze the various forms of racial and ethnic bias, focusing on implicit biases and their impact on individuals and society.

Question: How do implicit biases contribute to racial and ethnic inequalities, and what can be done to address these biases in ourselves and society?
Critically assess your own biases and explore strategies for mitigating the impact of these biases on racial and ethnic inequalities.

watch:
TEDx Talks (Director). (2017, wrzesień 18). *We all have implicit biases. So what can we do about it? | Dushaw Hockett | TEDxMidAtlanticSalon*.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKHSJHkPeLY
read:
Booth, R., & Mohdin, A. (2018, grudzień 2). Revealed: The stark evidence of everyday racial bias in Britain. *The Guardian*.
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/02/revealed-the-stark-evidence-of-everyday-racial-bias-in-britain

Devlin, H., & correspondent, H. D. S. (2018, grudzień 2). Unconscious bias: What is it and can it be eliminated? *The Guardian*. https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/02/unconscious-bias-what-is-it-and-can-it-be-eliminated

Alexandra Goedderz, Zahra Rahmani Azad, & Adam Hahn. (2023). *Awareness of Implicit Attitudes Revisited: A Meta-Analysis on Replications Across Samples and Settings*. psyarxiv.com. https://psyarxiv.com/frwcy/download?format=pdf

read more:

Booth, R., Mohdin, A., & Levett, C. (2018, grudzień 7). *Bias in Britain: Explore the poll results*. The Guardian. http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/ng-interactive/2018/dec/02/bias-in-britain-explore-the-poll-results

11. Workplace Dynamics in the Remote Era

Objective: To explore the multifaceted aspects of remote work, including its benefits, challenges, and impact on collaboration and environmental sustainability.

Question: How does remote work reshape traditional workplace dynamics, and what are its broader implications for individuals, organizations, and the environment?

Think critically about the changing landscape of work and the balancing act between remote and in-office work.

watch:

TED (Director). (2023, lipiec 19). *Is Remote Work Better Than Being in the Office? It's Complicated | Mark Mortensen | TED*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cF442d-EdQ

read:

Nuwer, R. (2016, wrzesień 1). *Why You Should Work from Home*. Scientific American. https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-you-should-work-from-home/

Yang, L., Holtz, D., Jaffe, S., Suri, S., Sinha, S., Weston, J., Joyce, C., Shah, N., Sherman, K., Hecht, B., & Teevan, J. (2022). The effects of remote work on collaboration among information workers. *Nature Human Behaviour, 6*(1), Article 1. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01196-4

read more:

Thompson, J. (b.d.). *Working Remotely Can More Than Halve an Office Employee's Carbon Footprint*. Scientific American. Pobrano 9 styczeń 2024, z https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/working-remotely-can-more-than-halve-an-office-employees-carbon-footprint/

12.   Healthcare Disparities and Public Trust

Objective: To examine the challenges and solutions related to healthcare disparities and the role of public trust in healthcare systems.

Question: How can healthcare systems address disparities and rebuild public trust, particularly in the context of varying healthcare needs and the COVID-19 pandemic?
Critically assess healthcare systems, considering both disparities in care and the importance of trust in healthcare.

watch:
TEDx Talks (Director). (2021, maj 10). *Five Minutes to Fix Our Broken Healthcare System | Eva Lana Minkoff | TEDxSingSing*.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFDYf0dFgs0
read:
Gorman, C. (2010, październik 1). *How Primary Care Heals Health Disparities*. Scientific American.
https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/closing-the-health-gap/
Igbineweka, N. E., Tshuma, N., & Roy, N. B. A. (2021). Medical science must address health disparities amongst different ethnic groups. *Nature Human Behaviour, 5*(12), Article 12.
https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01240-3
read more:
Polskie tempo szczepień. W jakim województwie najwięcej wyszczepionych? (2021, luty 1). wyborcza.pl.
https://biqdata.wyborcza.pl/biqdata/7,159116,26744309,polskie-tempo-szczepien.html

13.   Education and Learning in the Digital Age

Objective: To explore the evolving landscape of education in the digital era, focusing on the opportunity gap, the impact of socioeconomic status, and the psychological aspects of online learning.

Question: How are digital technologies shaping the educational experience, and what are the key challenges and opportunities in ensuring equitable and effective learning?
Think about the diverse impacts of digital learning tools and the importance of addressing inequality in educational access.

watch:

TED (Director). (2020, styczeń 23). *The „opportunity gap" in US public education—And how to close it | Anindya Kundu.* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRG5_-9eE4w

TEDx Talks (Director). (2023, marzec 1). *Socioeconomic Status and Academic Dreams | Demo Kaltabanis | TEDxWesternU.* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HewXL8HrYlA

read:

Iwai, Y. (b.d.). *Online Learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic.* Scientific American Blog Network. Pobrano 9 styczeń 2024, z https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/online-learning-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/

Wang, X., Zhang, R., Wang, Z., & Li, T. (2021). How Does Digital Competence Preserve University Students' Psychological Well-Being During the Pandemic? An Investigation From Self-Determined Theory. *Frontiers in Psychology, 12.* https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.652594

14.   Social Influence and Persuasion in Advertising

Objective: To understand how advertising leverages social influence and persuasion, particularly in the context of populism and strategic communication.

Question: How do advertising strategies utilize principles of social influence and persuasion, and what are the ethical implications in the context of populism and strategic communication?
Evaluate the methods and impacts of persuasive communication in advertising, considering both its effectiveness and ethical boundaries.

watch:

TEDx (Director). (2018, wrzesień 5). *A little populism never killed nobody | Benedikt Kau | TEDxTUBerlin.* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlFUH2EZoaU

TEDx (Director). (2020, styczeń 9). *It's Not Manipulation, It's Strategic Communication | Keisha Brewer | TEDxGeorgetown.* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGeHS4jO0X0

read:

Fortunato, P. (b.d.). *Our Shifting Understanding of Democracy Is Fueling Populism and Culture Wars.* Scientific American. Pobrano 9 styczeń 2024, z https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/our-shifting-understanding-of-democracy-is-fueling-populism-and-culture-wars/

Matthes, J., & Schmuck, D. (2017). The Effects of Anti-Immigrant Right-Wing Populist Ads on Implicit and Explicit Attitudes: A Moderated Mediation Model. *Communication Research, 44*(4), 556–581. https://doi.org/10.1177/0093650215577859

read more:

Hameleers, M., & Schmuck, D. (2017). It's us against them: A comparative experiment on the effects of populist messages communicated via social media. *Information, Communication & Society, 20*(9), 1425–1444. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2017.1328523

15.   Crisis Management and Group Dynamics

Objective: To explore how groups function and manage crises, emphasizing team formation among strangers and group-level responses to health mandates.

Question: How can effective team dynamics be fostered among strangers in crisis situations, and what challenges do groups face in responding to health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic?
Consider the psychological and organizational aspects of forming effective teams in high-pressure situations.

watch:
TED (Director). (2018, czerwiec 14). *How to turn a group of strangers into a team | Amy Edmondson*.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3boKz0Exros
read:
Editors. (2021, wrzesień 1). *Fix Disaster Response Now*. Scientific American.
https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fix-disaster-response-now1/
Forsyth, D. R. (2020). Group-level resistance to health mandates during the COVID-19 pandemic: A groupthink approach. *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice, 24*(3), 139–152.
https://doi.org/10.1037/gdn0000132