



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI TRENTO

Dipartimento di Psicologia
e Scienze Cognitive

Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science

SEMINAR

Understanding Dehumanization: The Role of Agency and Communion

Magdalena Formanowicz University of Bern, Switzerland

Scientific Coordinator: Maria Paola Paladino

January, 18th 2017 - 14.00 - 15.00 - Conference Room – Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science
Palazzo Fedrigotti - corso Bettini, 31 - Rovereto

ABSTRACT

Dehumanization is the denial of full human potential to an individual or a social group. In search for general factors that guide the dehumanized perception of others, we examined the role of agency and communion. The Big Two dimensions are pivotal in perceiving other people, therefore may be also crucial to viewing them as fully human, and by consequence, also as less than human. We tested this assumption in a series of seven experiments. Agency and communion were manipulated by employing either videos that encompassed the concepts of low versus high agency or communion through the movement of meaningless targets or pictures manipulating facial features. Participants rated the degree of humanness of presented targets. Across studies and in meta-analyses ($N = 758$ for agency and $N = 626$ for communion) agency contributed to and communion had no effect on humanness ratings. Granting agency might therefore limit dehumanization.

Contacts

Staff di Dipartimento - Psicologia e Scienze Cognitive
tel. 0464 808608 – 8610 - DipartimentoPSC@unitn.it