Social identity complexity and inclusiveness as predictors of feelings toward in-group and out-group

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Research context

• People can belong to and identify with multiple social groups and therefore endorse multiple social identities (Roccas & Brewer, 2002; Tajfel, 1978)

• These identities are presumed to be context dependent, meaning that in different settings different identities are salient (Turner, Oakes, Haslam & McGarty, 1994).

• Post-conflict societies?
Research methodology
Research problem

• To explore the relationship between the complexity and inclusiveness of social identity and
  o feelings towards ethnic/religious in-group
  o feelings towards ethnic/religious out-group members
Key constructs and measures

Social Identity Complexity (SIC)
- the degree to which different identities are both differentiated and integrated in a person’s mental representation of her or his group membership

• Low complexity - multiple identities subjectively embedded in a single highly exclusive in-group representation;
• High complexity - differentiation between in-group categories.

Social Identity Complexity

Operationalization:

Perceived overlap between national/ethnic/religious in-groups
e.g. *When you think of people who are Serbs, how many of them are Orthodox?*

*When you think of people who are citizens of Serbia, how many of them are Serbs?*
Key constructs and measures

Social Identity Inclusiveness (SII)
- how inclusively or exclusively one defines the in-group from the combination of multiple cross-cutting categories
- the relative number of people a person identifies with based on group membership
- SII varies on a continuum from a very restricted to a highly inclusive social self

Social Identity Inclusiveness

• Triple categorization task: categorization into “US” or “THEM”
• Stimuli varied by: ethnicity, nationality and religious affiliation
# Card prototypes

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

- 24 combinations
  - Triple in-groupers
  - Double in-groupers
  - Single in-groupers
  - Triple out-groupers
Citizen of Serbia
Bosniak ethnicity
Muslim

Aida Spahić

Stimuli from the triple categorization task
Citizen of Serbia  
Serbian ethnicity  
Christian Orthodox

Slobodanka Filipović

Stimuli from the triple categorization task
Focus on the youth (20 – 30 y.o.) and how they construct their multiple social identities
Sampling

• Research was conducted in two cities in Serbia: Belgrade and Novi Pazar ($N=180$: average age 24.5), allowing for comparisons between young Serbs and Bosniaks, groups with recent history of conflict.

• Quota sample by gender, education and ethnicity.
Results

The effect held when controlled for quality and quantity of contact with the out-groups.

\[ \beta = 0.368** - 0.563** \]

Feelings toward ethnic out-group

Feelings toward religious out-group

\[ \beta = 0.395** - 0.553** \]

Feelings toward ethnic in-group

Feelings toward religious in-group

SII

Majority/Majority

Minority/Minority

Majority/Minority

Minority/Majority

SIC

\[ r = 0.100 \]
Discussion

• Differential relationship of the identity parameters and feelings towards relevant groups
  – SII related to feelings toward out-groups
  – SIC does not predict feelings towards in-groups nor towards the out-groups

• SII add to prediction of feelings towards out-groups over and above quality and quantity of contact

• SIC as a cognitive, and SII as an affective measure?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

For further information, please visit:

http://sibyouth.org/en/


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