## Social Psychology notes

**Dehumanization:**

Overview of what I might catch:

* Humans are not looking at humans as humans, and people may think that those days are over, but we see dehumanization in a person lacking a human. We usually humanize pets with respect and when people see an actual person to be less human. Why do people do it? Stripping people out of humanity gets them out of their concern, and have the idea that if they are not human then morally they can do whatever. There are Primary emotions and Secondary emotions.

**Distinguishing different types of dehumanization:**

* Dehumanization is NOT prejudice or negative intergroup attitudes more generally.
* Deny someone their humanity(through civil rights restrictions)

Dehumanization is where people are portrayed as not human at all and another category where it is slightly less human than others.

“NOT HUMAN”

* Animalistic dehumanization:
  + Associating with a specific animal
  + Traits and behaviors
* Mechanistic:
  + Portraying them as robots
* Objectification:
  + Treating the other as a tool; is interchangeable and disposable.

“LESS THAN HUMAN”

* Less evolved, less civil, etc.(“Ascent of human” scale)
* Unable to feel uniquely human, secondary emotions(guilt, nostalgia, etc.) - “Infrahumanization”
* Unable to engage in more complex cognitive activities such as planning and thinking.

**DIFFERENT CONTEXTS AND MANIFESTATIONS OF BLATANT DEHUMANIZATION**

* Genocide (and racism)
  + Animalistic dehumanization
* War/armed conflict (and racism)
  + Animalistic dehumanization
* Depictions of refuges/xenophobia (and racism)
  + Animalistic dehumanization
* Political adversaries
  + Less than human
  + non-human
* Sexism
  + Animalistic humanization
  + Objectification
* Capitalism
  + Objectification dehumanization
  + Mechanistic dehumanization

**Additionally, dehumanization can be:**

* Implicit, subtle:
  + Measured with IAT’s (implicit associated task; subtle)
  + How long do you respond when you see two things paired together like a group and an animal name or image?
* Explicit, blatant:
  + Measured with the “Ascent of Humankind” scale(blatant and explicit
  + Animal words/traits(blatant and explicit)

**Why and when do people dehumanize others?**

Perception of the other

* contempt, disgust, hatred
* Threat (imagined or real)

Perception of the self

* Protective process that allows you to preserve a positive self-imagine of yourself and your group when committing violence
* During: lowers inhibitions
* After: increases justification

**Why does dehumanization facilitate violence?**

* We don’t extend the same rights to animals as we do to humans, and we tend to have fewer moral qualms about killing animals.
* Therefore, we feel less bad about committing violence against those who are not seen as fully human.
* This is one of the several strategies of moral disengagement (Bandura 1990)

**When does dehumanization operate?**

Before violence is committed: mobilize support

During violence: enables carrying out.

After violence: Increases justification.

**Examples of effects of dehumanization on direct violence**

* Goff et al. (2014): Implicit animalistic dehumanization of African Americans predicted use of police force against African American youth (documented in police records)
* Rudman & Mescher (2012): Implicit dehumanization of women (animalistic and objectification) predicted men’s self-reported rape proclivity
* Kteily & Bruneau (2017): explicit blatant dehumanization (Ascent of humankind scale) predicted support for detention and deportation of undocumented Mexican immigrants; anti-muslim policies
  + (other studies: torture, drone strikes, etc.)

**Examples of effects of dehumanization on structural violence/inequality**

* Kteily & Bruneau (2017): Blatant dehumanization (Ascent of humankind scale) predicted a preference for using funds for surveillance of Muslim communities instead of improved education resources in these communities and restricted visas for Arabs
* Zebel et al (2008): Blatant animalistic dehumanization (ascribing animal traits) predicted less support for reparations for war crimes in Bosnia

**Effects of dehumanization on psychological well-being**

* Objectification made women feel more “sinful” (Chen, Teng, & Zhang, 2013) and interact less (Saguy et al., 2010)
* Dehumanization increased aversive self-awareness, feelings of shame and guilt, sadness and anger. (Bastian & Haslam, 2011)
* Remember the definition of violence as “avoidable insults to basic human needs, (...) lowering the real level of needs satisfaction below what is potentially possible”

**Is dehumanization more likely?**

* Lots of factors we discussed in previous weeks!

Dehumanization is more likely…

* When you perceive the other group as an outgroup (week 2!)
* For groups that are lower in status in a given society (week 3!)
  + This is especially true for blatant dehumanization and not necessarily for subtle dehumanization.ion
* When people are high in social dominance orientation (week 3!)

**Cycles of violence: Through meta-dehumanization**

* Awareness/perception that the other group is dehumanizing your group
* Vicious cycle: Meta-dehumanization → ← dehumanization
  + Examined between U.S> Americans and Arabs as well as Muslims: Hungarians and Roma; Jewish Israelis and Palestinians.

## Dehumanization

**Blog entry**

Because of the culture, Marianismo, and Machismo, women in these relationships are often dehumanized; When people are seen as other things that aren’t human like animals, robotic, or objectified. The harmful behavior of others toward women is often justified with dehumanization.

The male dominance of a woman in a Machismo-cultured relationship highlights the ideology that men are superior and take control of what women in the relationship do. This can be perceived in various ways that touch the different types of dehumanization. 

Through the influence of Marianismo, women can be dehumanized based on their gender roles that idealize their primary values of caregiving, physical attributes, and reproduction. Much like animals they are valued for their loyalty and submissiveness, often their bodies are objectified and reduced to women as “breeders”.

A woman’s self-sacrifice, from the culture of Marianismo, is often praised that they endure hardships and challenges without complaints and that also suppresses their basic needs; this turns into an expectation that women are “machines” with no personal goal and their only purpose is in caretaking, additionally their role leads to a sense of objectification and seen as tools to fulfill others’ purposes.

These different ways of dehumanizing women can be either very subtle or very obvious; usually when someone’s mindset is in the belief that they are less evolved or they attribute women to other things that make them less human.

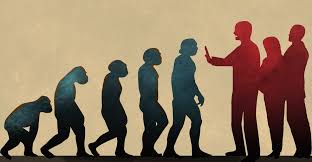
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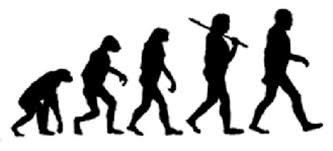
## Key concepts

*Dehumanization:*

* Identifying a group of individuals as non-human or denying that they are, sometimes even portraying them as less human; “Less than human” still places people closer to being human, but suggests that they are inferior or less valued, and “non-human” strips entirely of their humanity. There are different types of dehumanization.
  + **Animalistic Dehumanization:** which associates people with animals, that they have similar traits, appearance, or anything related to them that is comparable. A group often shown to be closer to an animal than a human, is likely to have traits of aggression, instinct, or lack of civilization. In a category, animalistic dehumanization considers groups to be inferior and places them closer to humans than non-humans, yet still lesser in value. Groups are portrayed as animal-like, such as racial stereotypes that compare people to savages or apes.
  + **Mechanistic Dehumanization:** associating people with machines or robots because they lack emotions, individuality, or humanity, or are too similar in behavior to a robot. Workers are one example of mechanical dehumanization because they are being treated like machines, neglecting their emotions, and in extreme cases, they’re being exploited in some work settings like factories where employees are merely machines.
  + **Objectification:** seeing people as objects they can use, neglecting their humanity and only viewing them solely got their utility. They can also see themselves to be interchangeable with others, which applies the idea that they aren’t unique individuals, which lessens their value of purpose rather than recognizing their individuality. Women are often objectified for sexual objectification, particularly in social media or advertisements, which only focus on their physical attributions rather than independent individuals.



Ascent of human:

* The evolution and development of human beings from primitive ancestors to modern society, advancements in culture, technology, and knowledge of the universe

Infrahumanization:

* Perceiving certain groups of people as less than completely human, primarily because they are seen as having few or less complex emotions, and emotions are considered to be an important trait for humanity
  + Ex: one group of people can look at the other as lacking emotional complexity that is associated with being human like moral reasoning, and empathy, which brings the idea that they lack emotion or morality, resulting in them being seen as less human and being discriminated against.

Implicit, subtle dehumanization:

* It is not a direct and intentional way in which people are seen as less than human or not receiving full human rights. Subtle dehumanization happens through everyday attitudes, stereotypes, or behaviors that kill someone’s humanity without having to intend it or hurt them. This is where people subconsciously dehumanize others through minor assumptions.
  + Ex: Someone could say that a certain group is all the same, meaning that they have no unique qualities or complexity, which overlooks their personal experiences and humanity.

Explicit, blatant dehumanization:

* Clear statements or behavior that directly show that a group is less human. This is very intentional and aims to deny people’s human rights.
  + Ex: Hate speeches compare a group to animals, or diseases, like referring to a group as “parasites” or “rats” which highlights that they are denied human rights and justifies the mistreatment they receive.

Moral disengagement:

* People often disconnect from their moral values, which can lead to wrong behavior or unethical behavior. They often justify hurtful actions, making it easy for them to act in ways that contradict their ethical beliefs.
  + Ex: people follow orders that go against their moral beliefs, by telling themselves that they’re just obeying orders from higher authority, which avoids personal responsibility for their actions.

Outgroup:

* Social group that an individual does not identify with or belong to. This implication helps us understand meta-dehumanization, where others dehumanize an outgroup. Attitudes and behavior, that are influenced by the differences between ingroups and outgroups, lead to biases and stereotypes.
  + Ex: In a community where the majority of the people may share a similar cultural background, new people from different cultures may be viewed as an outgroup. If the majority treats the outgroup as “less than human”, it reinforces meta-dehumanization and discrimination.