

Antisemitic Stereotypes: Theory, Measurement, and Behavior

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Abstract

Data-driven antisemitism scales originated decades ago, but the field lacks current, theory-driven, validated measures of prejudices against Jewish people. The Scale of Antisemitic Stereotypes (SASS) updates methods and fits the Stereotype Content Model (SCM; Fiske, Cuddy, Glick, & Xu, 2002), which explains contemporary antisemitism in the United States as envious prejudice toward stereotypically high-competence, low-warmth Jews. American participants spontaneously generated excessive-competence and negative-warmth (e.g., “untrustworthy”) stereotypes. Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses demonstrated a two-factor structure of warmth and competence. SASS scores correlated with right-wing authoritarianism, social dominance orientation, political conservatism, anti-Black racism, and anti-Asian-American stereotypes. SASS scores predicted implicitly associating Jews and low warmth, blatantly dehumanizing Jews, and systematically overestimating numbers of Jewish professionals. SASS predicts specific, relevant behavior: Participants who stereotyped Jews as low in warmth shared less with them in trust games. SASS not only advances basic science but also could guide interventions against antisemitism.

Keywords: Antisemitism, stereotype content model (SCM), dehumanization, implicit attitudes, trust game

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Table 1
Scale of Antisemitic Stereotypes Descriptive Statistics

Questions	Score		
	Mean	Median	SD
Jewish people are often very rude	4.37	4.00	1.08
Jewish people tend to complain a lot	4.15	4.00	1.14
All things considered, Jewish people are untrustworthy	4.72	5.00	1.08
Jewish people can be sneaky	4.26	4.00	1.17
When they feel slighted, Jewish people will be vengeful	4.07	4.00	1.15
Jewish people tend to influence the media	3.93	4.00	1.16
Jewish people tend to be good with money	2.81	3.00	1.07
When it comes to education, Jewish people tend to be overachievers	3.20	3.00	1.10
On the whole, Jewish people are loyal to Israel	2.89	3.00	1.07

Note. Item scores are scored 1-6 ('strongly disagree' - strongly agree')

Methods

We report how we determined our sample size, all data exclusions (if any), all manipulations, and all measures in the study. See methodological appendix for information about the survey and data collection. Note that SASS stands for "Scale of antisemitic stereotypes"

Participants

Material

Procedure

Data analysis

Results

The mean response to the item "Jewish people are often very rude" was 4.37 out of a possible 6.

Discussion

References

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