Social Psychology: Theory and Method

Autumn 2025

Week	Lecturer	Broad topic	Focus	Readings	Activities		
week	Lecturer	broau topic			Activities		
Introduction and Overview							
36	Thomas Morton	What is social psychology?	History, scope, and position within broader field of psychology.  Controversies and crises of (social) psychology	Sutton, R. & Douglas, K. (2019). Social Psychology. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 1.  Doise, W., & Valentim, J. P. (2015). Levels of Analysis in Social Psychology. In J.D. Wright (ED.), International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2nd Edition (pp. 899-903). Elsevier.  Gergen, K. J. (1973). Social psychology as history. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 26(2), 309-320.  Open Science Collaboration. (2015). Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science. Science, 349(6251), aac4716.			
			Classic Ideas ar	nd Core Concepts			
37	Thomas Morton	Other people & individual psychology: Destructive or constructive influences?	Crowd psychology, Depersonalization, Bystander apathy  Social connections, health and well-being	Sutton & Douglas: Chapter 10.  Baumeister, R. F., & Leary, M. R. (1995). The need to belong: desire for interpersonal attachments as a fundamental human motivation. <i>Psychological Bulletin</i> , 117(3), 497 - 529.  Hopkins, N., Reicher, S., Stevenson, C., Pandey, K., Shankar, S., & Tewari, S. (2019). Social relations in crowds: Recognition, validation and solidarity. <i>European Journal of Social Psychology</i> , 49(6), 1283-1297.	Activity 1 assigned.		
38	Thomas Morton	Processes within groups: Conformity and resistance	Revisiting classic studies by Asch, Milgram, and Zimbardo	Sutton & Douglas: Chapter 9.  Haney, C., Banks, C., & Zimbardo, P. (1973). Interpersonal dynamics in a simulated prison. <i>International Journal of Criminology &amp; Penology, 1</i> , 69-97.  Milgram, S. (1963). Behavioral Study of Obedience. <i>Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology</i> , 67, 371-378.  Haslam, S.A. & Reicher, S.D. (2012). Contesting the 'Nature' of Conformity: What Milgram and Zimbardo's Studies Really Show. <i>PLoS Biology, 10</i> (11).	Presentations of Activity 1 during the seminar classes.		
39	Thomas Morton	The Self	The self-concept: Dynamic and flexible, and yet also enduring.	Sutton & Douglas: Chapter 2.  Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. In W. G. Austin, & S. Worchel (Eds.), <i>The social psychology of intergroup relations</i> (pp. 33-47). Monterey, CA: Brooks/Cole.			

Prioritized readings for seminar classes are highlighted in yellow.

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Social 1	sychology. 1	ncory and wichiou		Autumii 2025	1
			Maintaining a positive self- concept (and the importance of that relative to other things)	Turner, J. C., Oakes, P. J., Haslam, S. A., & McGarty, C. (1994). Self and collective: Cognition and social context. <i>Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin</i> , 20(5), 454–463.	
			Self-versus-other: Consequences of social categorization	Stroebe, K., Spears, R., & Lodewijkx, H. (2007). Contrasting and integrating social identity and interdependence approaches to intergroup discrimination in the minimal group paradigm. In H. Shenk et al (Eds.), <i>The Scope of Social Psychology</i> (pp. 185-202). Psychology Press.	
40	Thomas Morton	Understanding and explaining the social world	Attributions: Why do we think people do what they do?	Sutton & Douglas: Chapter 3.  Heider, F. (1958). The naive analysis of action. In F. Heider, <i>The psychology of interpersonal relations</i> (pp. 79–124). John Wiley & Sons.	
			The socially structured nature of understanding and	Weiner, B. (2018). The legacy of an attribution approach to motivation and emotion: A no-crisis zone. <i>Motivation Science</i> , 4(1), 4-14.	
			explanation.	Hegarty, P., & Pratto, F. (2010). Interpreting and communicating the results of gender-related research. In J.C. Chrisler & D.R. McCreary (Eds.), <i>Handbook of gender research in psychology</i> (pp. 191-211). Springer, New York, NY.	
41	Milan Obaidi	Thinking about the other: Prejudice, Stereotypes and social cognition	How do we feel about different groups in society?  How do we process information about groups?  Can we use knowledge of social cognition to disrupt, change or challenge stereotypes?	Sutton & Douglas: Chapters 11 & 12.  Devine, P. G. (1989). Stereotypes and prejudice: Their automatic and controlled components. <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i> , 56(1), 5–18. https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.56.1.5  Pearson, A. R., Dovidio, J. F., & Gaertner, S. L. (2009). The nature of contemporary prejudice: Insights from aversive racism. <i>Social and Personality Psychology Compass</i> , 3, 314-338.  Pehrson, S., & Leach, C. W. (2012). Advancing the social psychology of racism and anti-racism: moving beyond 'old'and 'new'prejudice. In J. Dixon & M. Levine (Eds.), <i>Beyond prejudice: Extending the social psychology of conflict, inequality, and social change</i> , 116-134. Cambridge University Press.	
42				Break	
43	Milan Obaidi	Social inequality, social change	How does it feel to live in unequal societies?	Sutton & Douglas: Chapter 12.	Activity 2 assigned.

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Social I	Psychology: T	heory and Method	,	Autumn 2025	
		and collective action	How do people respond to inequality and injustice?	Obaidi, M., Kunst, J. R., Kteily, N., Thomsen, L., and Sidanius, J. (2018) Living under threat: Mutual threat perception drives anti-Muslim and anti-Western hostility in the age of terrorism. <i>European Journal of Social Psychology</i> , 48: 567–584. doi: 10.1002/ejsp.2362.  Kunst, J. R., & Obaidi, M. (2020). Understanding violent extremism in the 21st century: the (re)emerging role of relative deprivation. <i>Current opinion in psychology</i> , 35, 55–59. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2020.03.010	
			Cultural and Societ	tal Social Psychology	
44	Brady Wagoner	The psychology of social change: Crowds, Minority Influence and Social Representations	Through which processes do societies change?  What are the different forms of social influence?  What are the functions of social representations?	Markova, I. (2019). 'La dissidence d'un seul': Relations between Social Representations and Minorities' Innovation. In N. Kalampalikis, et al. (Eds.) Serge Moscovici: Un regard sur les mondes communs (p.117-132). FMSH Edition. Open Access Online: https://books.openedition.org/editionsmsh/26475?lang=en  McLeod, S. A. (2007). Moscovici and minority influence. Retrieved from https://www.simplypsychology.org/minority-influence.html  Moscovici, S. (1981). On social representations. In: J.P. Forgas (ed.) Social Cognition: Perspectives in Everyday Understanding. London: Academic Press.  Wagoner, B. & Oldmeadow, J. (2008). Review of Psychoanalysis: Its image and its public by Serge Moscovici. Social Psychological Review, 10(1), 55-57  Wagoner, B. & Awad, S.H. (in press). Cultivating a crowd: Cultural tools of protest action. In S. Tutenges & P. Smith (eds.), Collective Effervescence in the 21st century. Temple University Press.	Activity 2 submission.
45	Xuan Li	Explorations in Cultural Psychology: Past, Present, Future	How do minds and cultures make each other up?  Theoretical and methodological pluralism in cultural psychology	Markus, H. R., & Kitayama, S. (1991). Culture and the self: Implications for cognition, emotion, and motivation. <i>Psychological Review</i> , <i>98</i> (2), 224–253  Henrich, J., Heine, S. J., & Norenzayan, A. (2010). The weirdest people in the world?. <i>Behavioral and Brain Sciences</i> , <i>33</i> (2-3), 61-83.  Shweder, R. A., & Sullivan, M. A. (1993). Cultural psychology: Who needs it?. <i>Annual Review of Psychology</i> , <i>44</i> (1), 497-523.	
46	Séamus Power	Moral Psychology and	Customs Control: What are the scopes and limits of diverse cultural practices in	Ahmadu, F. S. (2017). Equality, not special protection: multiculturalism, feminism, and female circumcision in Western liberal democracies. In J. L. Cassaniti & U. Menon (Eds.), <i>Universalism without uniformity: explorations in mind and culture</i> (pp. 214-236). University of Chicago Press.	Activity 3 assigned.

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		Cultural Collisions	western liberal democracies?  If someone asserts it, deny it; if someone denies it, assert it: FGM and the challenge to liberal sensibilities.	Shweder, R.A. (2003). The Moral Challenge in Cultural Migration. In <i>American Arrivals: Anthropology Engages the New Immigration</i> . School of American Research Press, Santa Fe: New Mexico.	
Social Decision Making and Behavioural Science					
47	Lau Lilleholt Harpviken	Attitudes, norms, and behaviour change	What are attitudes and how to we form attitudes?  What are social norms?  How can we change behaviour?	Sutton & Douglas, Chapter 4  Bicchieri, C., & Mercier, H. (2014). Norms and beliefs: How change occurs. In M. Xenitidou & B. Edwards, <i>The complexity of social norms</i> (pp. 37-54). Springer.  Goldstein, N. J., Cialdini, R. B., & Griskevicius, V. (2008). A room with a viewpoint: Using social norms to motivate environmental conservation in hotels. <i>Journal of Consumer Research</i> , 35(3), 472-482.  Thaler, R. H., & Sunstein, C. R. (2003). Libertarian paternalism. <i>American Economic Review</i> , 93(2), 175-179.	Activity 3 submission.
48	Lau Lilleholt Harpviken	Prosocial and antisocial behaviour	What is prosocial/antisocial behaviour and how can it be measured?  What motivates prosocial/antisocial behaviour?  How can we encourage prosocial behaviour?	Sutton & Douglas, Chapter 14  Pfattheicher, S., Nielsen, Y. A., & Thielmann, I. (2022). Prosocial behavior and altruism: A review of concepts and definitions. <i>Current Opinion in Psychology, 44</i> , 124–129.  Van Lange, P. A. M., De Cremer, D., Van Dijk, E., & Van Vugt, M. (2007). Self-interest and beyond. In A. W. Kruglanski & Higgings, E. T. (Eds.), <i>Social Psychology: Handbook of Basic Principles</i> (pp. 540-561). New York: Guilford.  Zettler, I., Lilleholt, L., Bader, M., Hilbig, B. E., & Moshagen, M. (2025). Aversive societal conditions explain differences in "dark" personality across countries and US states. <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 122</i> (20), e2500830122.	
			Critical (Soci	ial) Psychology	

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49	Torben Bechmann Jensen	Critical psychology and the production of knowledge		Texts in Danish: Bechmann Jensen, T. (2011). Ensomhed – er det prisen for velstand? i Psykologisk Set nr. 81 (pp. 29-38) Frydenlund.  Holzkamp, K. (2005) Mennesket som subjekt for videnskabelig metodik. I Nordiske Udkast 33, vol. 2 (pp. 5-34)  Jartoft, V. (1996) Kritisk Psykologi. I Højholt, C. & G. Witt, Skolelivets Socialpsykologi – Nyere socialpsykologiske teorier og perspektiver (pp. 181 -208)  Qvortrup, L: (1998). "Det hyperkomplekse samfund, 14 fortællinger om informationssamfundet", kap. 11: "De irriterende massemedier, det offentlige blik" (pp. 232-249). Gyldendal.  Texts in English: Gibbons et al. (1994). Massification of Research and Education. In Gibbons et al.: The New Production of Knowledge (pp. 70-88). Sage.  Tolman, C. W. (1991). An Overview (Chapter 1). In C.W. Tolman, & W. Maiers (Eds.), Critical Psychology: Contributions to an Historical Science of the Subject	
				(pp. 1-22). Cambridge University Press.  Maiers. W. (1991). Historical Background and Task (Chapter 2). In C.W. Tolman, & W. Maiers (Eds.), Critical Psychology: Contributions to an Historical Science of the Subject (pp. 23-49). Cambridge University Press	
			Conc	lusions	
50	Thomas Morton	Revision & exam preparation	Revisiting conflicts and controversies	Ellemers, N. (2013). Connecting the dots: Mobilizing theory to reveal the big picture in social psychology (and why we should do this). <i>European Journal of Social Psychology</i> , 43(1), 1-8.	
			The message(s) of social psychology	Greenfield, P. M. (2017). Cultural change over time: Why replicability should not be the gold standard in psychological science. <i>Perspectives on Psychological Science</i> , 12(5), 762-771.	
			What to expect from the exam.	Sullivan, D. (2020). Social psychological theory as history: Outlining the critical-historical approach to theory. <i>Personality and Social Psychology Review</i> , <i>24</i> (1), 78-99.	