

Debriefing form

Thank you for completing this study, conducted by PhD Student Carl Michael Galang (galangc@mcmaster.ca) under the supervision of Dr. Sukhvinder Obhi (obhi@mcmaster.ca).

The aim of this experiment was to investigate individual differences in social perception; in particular, the scale we used in this study (that you used to categorize different racial and religious groups) measures blatant levels of dehumanization. **Please note that while some people may perceive certain groups as less evolved, it is a fact that, regardless of ethnicity or religion, all groups of people mentioned in this study are no less human than any other.** Do not fret if your decisions during this task were not congruent with this latter point – your decisions in this study do not indicate that you are a good or bad person; ultimately, all of us have biases in our perceptions due to our cultural upbringing, and a person's character is not determined by virtue of having such biases, but by how the person deals with their biases once they are known. And indeed, your data will further our scientific understanding of the nature of these biases in Canada, which may ultimately help us figure out how to best combat them. In addition to the blatant dehumanization scale, we also randomly assigned you to one of two conditions: Suffix vs. No Suffix. If you were in the “No Suffix” condition, then you were given racial and religious categories on their own (e.g., Blacks); however, if you were in the “Suffix” condition, these categories were added “-Canadians” to them (e.g., Black-Canadians). As such, we wanted to test whether simply adding “-Canadians” to each racial/religious group would “humanize” them relative to having no such suffix. This prediction is based on the theory that making salient superordinate categories (e.g., we are all Canadian) can help combat in-group biases. Lastly, you completed both the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI) and the Social Dominance Orientation Scale (SDO), which are measures of empathy and societal hierarchy preferences, respectively. We plan to correlate these scales with your dehumanization scores to see if they are related.

Independent Variables: Condition (Suffix vs. No Suffix), Group (Whites, Blacks, Chinese, etc.)

Dependent Variables: Blatant Dehumanization Score

You are fully entitled to receive feedback about the outcomes of this research. If you provided contact details on the Google Forms, you will be contacted with a concise report when the project is completed. If you decide later that you would like to receive this information, feel free to email the researcher. You may also contact the researcher if you have any further questions about the research (galangc@mcmaster.ca). This project was reviewed and cleared by the McMaster Research Ethics Board. If you have any concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is being conducted you can contact:

The McMaster Research Ethics Board Secretariat
Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142
c/o Research Office for Administration, Development and Support (ROADS)
E-mail: ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca

Thank you for your help with this research. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Dr. Carl Michael Galang (Co-Investigator)
Dr. Sukhvinder Obhi (Principal Investigator)