Human Nature: From the Perspective of Social Psychology

While psychology focuses on human mind and behaviour, social psychology studies how the real or imagined presence of others influence human mind and behaviour. Many past experiments in social psychology examined the power of social influence and group identity, as well as the role of socialization in formation of our thoughts and actions. This lecture series will describe and explain human nature under the influence of situational and social forces.

Week 1 Social Conformity I

Asch’s Conformity Experience.

- Influence of others’ presence on our decisions and behaviours.
- Factors behind social conformity: ambiguity and desire for social acceptance

Week 2 Social Conformity II

Milgram’s Obedience Experiment.

- The power of social influence
- Ethical issues in experiments in social psychology.

Week 3 Social Groups

Stanford Prison Experiment.

- Group membership and identity formation
- Decision giving process in group settings

Week 4 Social Cognition

The Police Officer’s Dilemma: Implicit Association Test.

- Social cognition
- Formation and functioning of schemas

Week 5 Prejudice

Sherif’s Robbers Cave experiment

- Group conflict: In-group vs. Out-group
- Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination

Week 6 Prosocial Behaviour

Focus: Bystander Experiments.

- Roots of prosocial behaviour
- Personal determinants of prosocial behaviour
Readings and Resources

Week 1

Suggested Reading


http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b2465182


Week 2

Suggested Reading:


http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b2465182


Week 3

Suggested Reading


http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b2465182


Week 4

Suggested Reading


http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b2465182

Optional Resources: http://blindspot.fas.harvard.edu/
Week 5

Suggested Reading


[http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b2465182](http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b2465182)

Optional Resources: [https://www.simplypsychology.org/robbers-cave.html](https://www.simplypsychology.org/robbers-cave.html)

Week 6

Suggested Reading:


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