

Colloquia Treverensia

Fachbereich I - Psychologie

Prof. Felicia Pratto

University of Connecticut (USA)



Felicia Pratto, PhD., 1988, New York University, is internationally-known for her research on Social Dominance Theory, intergroup relations, and the cultural, social interaction, and cognitive processes that sustain group-based inequality. Her experiments have demonstrated automatic attention bias to negative information, ethnocentric decision-making under risk, and asymmetric designation of social category features that are not normative (e.g., pointing out someone's being a woman but not being a man). In addition to a variety of laboratory experimental techniques, she uses international surveys to compare the political-psychological processes in different socio-political contexts. She is a

Professor of Psychological Sciences at the University of Connecticut where she teaches social psychology and research methods to undergraduates and teaches research methods, theories of intergroup relations, social cognition, and social power to PhD students.

Power and Injustice: Perceptions of injustice signal a threat to survival

Power Basis Theory posits that to be empowered is to live in an ecology where there are affordances to obtain survival necessities ("assets"). I posit that when people's ability to meet their survival needs are threatened, they perceive the social ecology to be unfair. In three international surveys, we test whether people's perception that their own domestic political system is fair is driven by (a) the extent to which their own and family's needs are met, (b) perceived assets in the ecology, and (c) perceived affordances to obtain assets in the ecology, using multi-level modelling. Results, using different indicators of perceptions of assets and affordances, showed support for the hypotheses. In some cases, national-level indicators moderated predicted relationships at the individual level. Implications for studying power and perceived political injustice are discussed.

21.09.2022 | 18 Uhr s.t. | D 435

Kontakt und Anmeldung

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