Brown Bag Lunchtime Seminar (Via Zoom)
(Theme: Social and Health Psychology)

Humility Reduces Objectification: Mechanisms of Psychological Entitlement and Empathy

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | September 17, 2021 (Friday)

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Abstract

Objectification refers to perceiving and treating others as akin to objects. It has been found that objectification often leads to undesirable consequences. While prior research primarily focused on the triggers of objectification, in the current research, I aimed to investigate a possible intervention. I hypothesized that humility, either as a chronic trait or an induced state, could reduce objectification of others due to its effect on decreasing people’s focus on themselves and promoting other orientations. Across nine studies (total N = 1910), my hypothesis was confirmed. Studies 1a-1c showed that dispositional humility negatively predicted objectification. Studies 2a-2c further examined the causal relationship. Specifically, temporarily manipulating their state of humility, participants showed a lower level of objectification of others. Across Studies 3a-3c, I also found that humility weakens aggression induced by objectification. In addition, I also examined two mechanisms (i.e., decreased psychological entitlement and increased empathy) that mediated the effect of humility on objectification in Studies 1c, 2b, 2c, and 3a. Taken together, the above findings provided both correlational and causal evidence that humility reduces objectification and its downstream effect (i.e., aggression). I also discussed the theoretical and practical implications.

About the speaker

Jiaxin is a final year Ph.D. student, working with Prof. Zhansheng Chen. He is interested in objectification and dehumanization in different domains. Specifically, he attempts to understand what factors may lead to objectification and dehumanization. Besides, he also studies how these phenomena can be reduced.

Zoom
https://hku.zoom.us/j/3951550048?pwd=SncvL3RYakEycUtpL29vdDIEdlEwdz09
Meeting ID: 395 155 0048 | Password: psyc

~All are Welcome~

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