7 Challenges for the dehumanisation hypothesis

Anna Henschel, SoBots Journal Club, 20.01.2019

Today's paper

White Rose Research Online
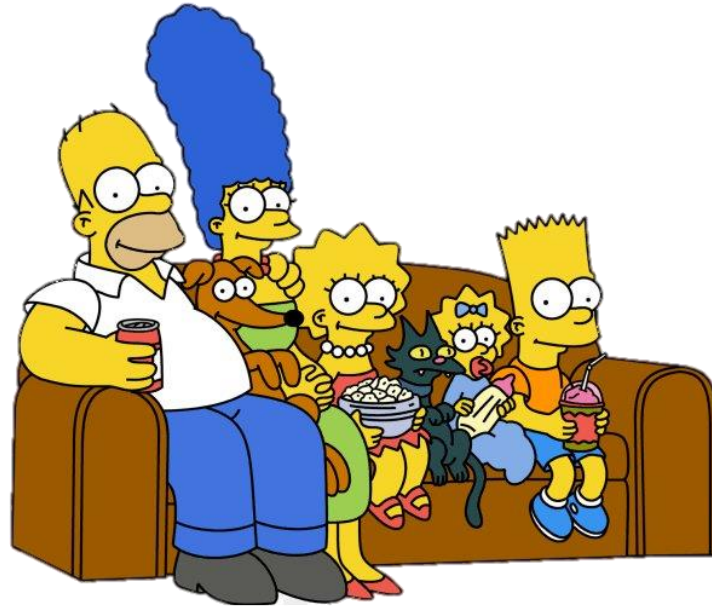
Seven challenges for the dehumanisation hypothesis

*"… publishes an eclectic mix of **provocative reports** and articles, including broad integrative reviews, overviews of research programs, meta-analyses, theoretical statements, book reviews, [..], and **even occasional humorous essays** and sketches."*

Video from "Machete" (2010)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHpu2wj_ogg

7 Challenges for the dehumanisation hypothesis

Identity + Community = Human

Herbert Kelman, 1973

7 Challenges for the dehumanisation hypothesis

The **dehumanisation** hypothesis

Outgroup members are perceived as "less than human" and this renders them vulnerable to harm.

Challenges to the hypothesis

1. *Comparisons to non-human entities are not reserved for outgroups*

   = lack of positive control groups, ie no evidence against attributing non-human qualities to ingroup members

Challenges to the hypothesis

1. *Comparisons to non-human entities are not reserved for outgroups*
2. *Outgroup members are often described in ways that only apply to humans*

How are outgroup members described on Twitter?

*Words that most frequently co-occur with **#immigrants** in 3200 English-language tweets.*

7 Challenges for the dehumanisation hypothesis

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7. **Being seen as less than human is not necessarily a risk factor for harm**

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6. Groups are often persecuted because of their perceived humanity
7. Being seen as less than human is not necessarily a risk factor for harm

+ bonus challenge: pre-replication crisis literature

Discussion

(Kteily, Bruneau, Waytz, & Cotterill, 2015; see also Kteily & Bruneau, 2017). In related work, Goff, Eberhardt, Williams and Jackson (2008) found that White participants implicitly associate African Americans with apes and that participants who have been primed with ape-related words are more likely to condone police violence against a suspect but only when that suspect is African American. Other research on the attribution of human qualities has sh

Discussion

Excess success for three related papers on racial bias

Discussion

Goff et al. (2008) "Not Yet Human: Implicit Knowledge, Historical Dehumanization, and Contemporary Consequences"

This article reported six studies that purported to show an implicit association between Black Americans and apes. Table 2

success probabilities, which is 0.048. This value is an estimate of the probability that a set of replication experiments with the same sample sizes would be as successful as the studies in Goff et al. (2008). The value is low enough that scientists should be skeptical about the validity of the experimental results or the theoretical ideas presented in Goff et al. (2008).

Since these articles do not provide good scientific support for the theoretical ideas, it seems premature to apply these ideas to policy decisions or to interventions that might reduce the presence or impact of racial bias. Such applications cannot be justified on scientific grounds.

TABLE 2 | Statistical properties, hypotheses, and estimated probability of success for the tests in the six studies from Goff et al. (2008).

	Statistics	Supporting hypotheses	Probability of success
Study 1	$n_1 = 41, n_2 = 40, n_3 = 40$ $\overline{X}_1 = 20.16, \overline{X}_2 = 22.75,$ $\overline{X}_3 = 26.23$ $s = 5.05$	$\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$ $\mu_3 \neq \mu_2$ Joint	0.630 0.861 **0.507**
Study 2	$n_{1A} = 14, n_{2A} = 15, n_{1B} = 14,$ $n_{2B} = 15$ $\overline{X}_{1A} = 1080, \overline{X}_{1B} = 2503$ $\overline{X}_{2A} = 3412, \overline{X}_{2B} = 1010$ $s = 2391$	Interaction $\mu_{1B} \neq \mu_{2B}$ $\mu_{1A} \neq \mu_{2A}$ $\mu_{1A} \neq \mu_{1B}$ $\mu_{2A} \neq \mu_{2B}$ Joint	≈1.00 0.993 0.916 0.975 0.968 **0.879**
Study 3	$n_{1A} = 12, n_{2A} = 12, n_{1B} = 12,$ $n_{2B} = 13$ $\overline{X}_{1A} = 625, \overline{X}_{1B} = 874$ $\overline{X}_{2A} = 814, \overline{X}_{2B} = 801$ $s = 2999$	Interaction $\mu_{1B} = \mu_{2B}$ $\mu_{1A} \neq \mu_{2A}$ $\mu_{1A} \neq \mu_{1B}$ $\mu_{2A} = \mu_{2B}$ Joint	0.684 0.948 0.905 0.762 0.882 **0.500**
Study 4	$n_1 = 32, n_2 = 33$ $F = 30.46$	$\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$	**≈1.00**
Study 5	$n_{1A} = 29, n_{2A} = 29, n_{1B} = 29,$ $n_{2B} = 28$ $\overline{X}_{1A} = 3.88, \overline{X}_{1B} = 2.86$ $\overline{X}_{2A} = 2.90, \overline{X}_{2B} = 3.13$ $s = 1.49$	Interaction $\mu_{1B} = \mu_{2B}$ $\mu_{1A} \neq \mu_{2A}$ $\mu_{2A} = \mu_{2B}$ $\mu_{1A} \neq \mu_{1B}$ Joint	0.608 0.896 0.701 0.910 0.736 **0.381**
Study 6	$n_1 = 15, n_2 = 138$ $\overline{X}_1 = 2.2, s_1 = 2.34$ $\overline{X}_2 = 8.53, s_2 = 12.35$	$\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$	**0.565**
P_{TES}			0.048

Excess success for three related papers on racial bias

Discussion

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Frontiers Psychology @FrontPsychol · May 1, 2015
Excess success for three related papers on racial bias: Gregory Francis bit.ly/1EADPEH #psychology

Geoff Bird @DrGeoffBird · Jun 28, 2015
Interesting analysis - **Excess success for three related papers on racial bias** journal.frontiersin.org/article/10.338...

マーキュリー２世 @uranus_2 · Apr 11, 2015
人種バイアスの研究分野で成功しすぎな心理学論文が3つある。**Excess success for three related papers on racial bias** journal.frontiersin.org /article/10.338...
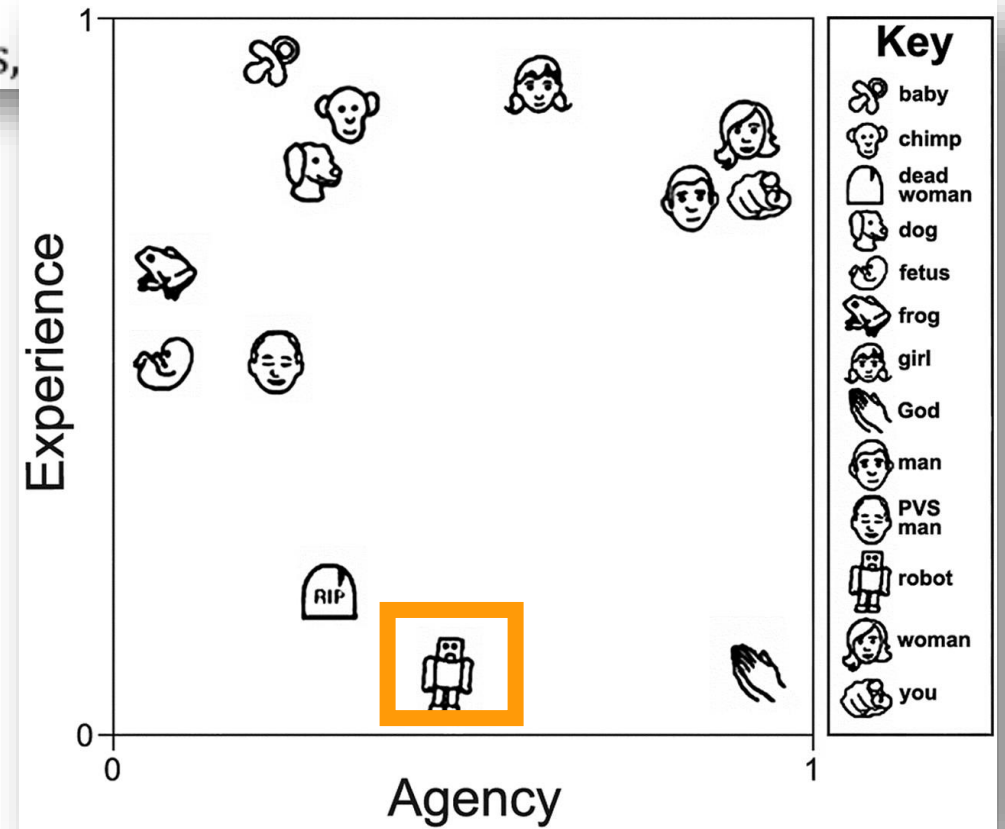2   1   2

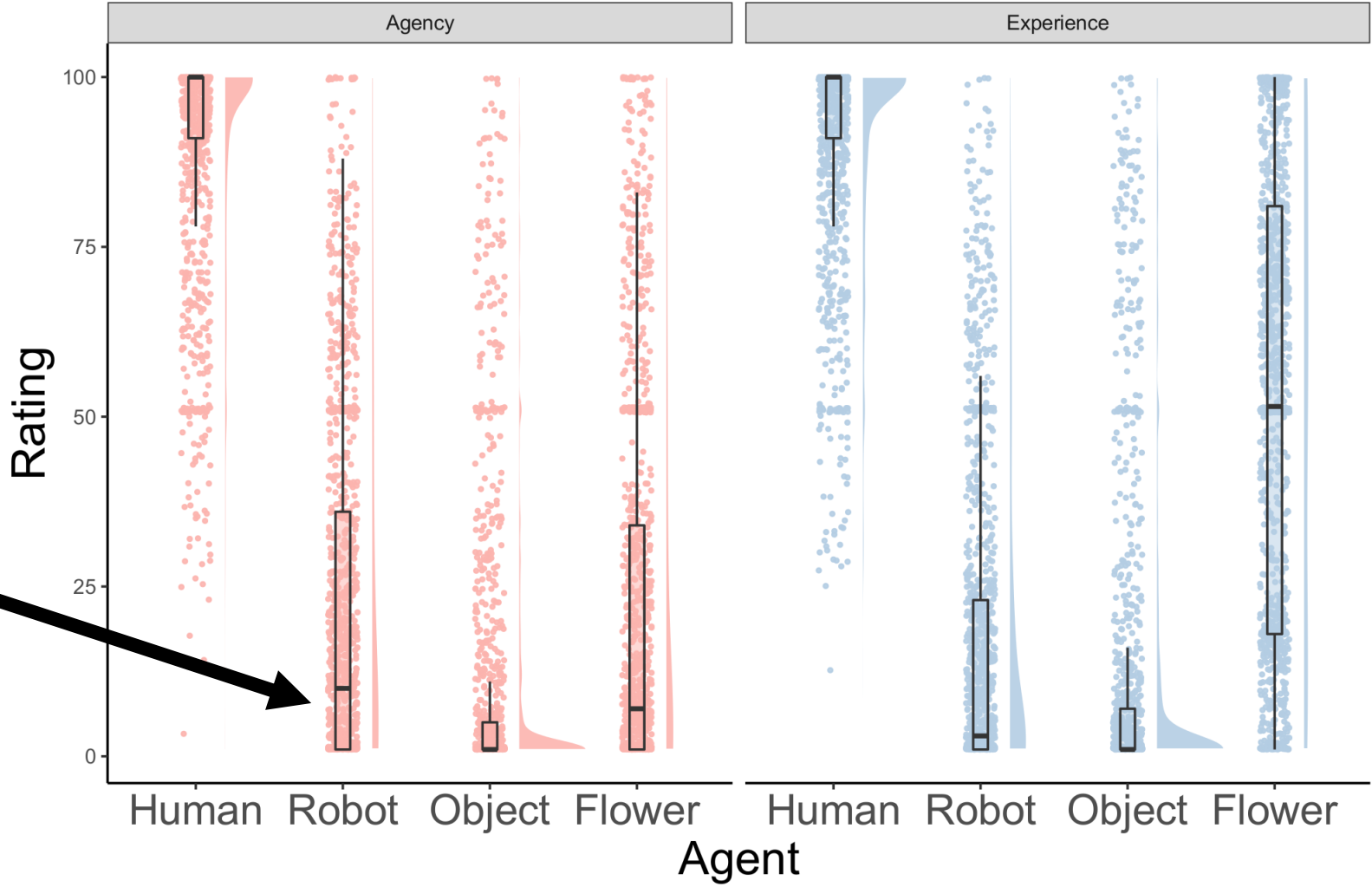Excess success for three related papers on racial bias

Discussion

context. Somewhat different attributes again would be salient to participants if the comparison point was zombies, robots, rats or dolphins. It is no coincidence that Haslam et al. asked their participants two questions,

Dimensions of Mind Perception

Discussion

Agency & Experience Ratings of Stimuli

Dimensions of Mind Perception

Discussion

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Discussion

It's a lot easier to pull the trigger when you're aiming at the bogeyman

BOOKS NOVEMBER 27, 2017 ISSUE

THE ROOT OF ALL CRUELTY?

Perpetrators of violence, we're told, dehumanize their victims. The truth is worse.

By Paul Bloom
November 20, 2017

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Major Section on Sexual Objectification of Women

Sexual Objectification of Women: Advances to Theory and Research Ψ

The Counseling Psychologist
39(1) 6–38
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DOI: 10.1177/0011000010378402
http://tcp.sagepub.com
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Dawn M. Szymanski,[1] Lauren B. Moffitt,[1] and Erika R. Carr[1]

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Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Moscow

📄 Sofia Seinfeld, Jorge Arroyo-Palacios, Guillermo Iruretagoyena, **Ruud Hortensius**, LE Zapata, David Borland, Beatrice de Gelder, Mel Slater, Marie V Sanchez-Vives (2018). Offenders become the victim in virtual reality: impact of changing perspective in domestic violence. *Scientific Reports*.

PDF   Video

Further things to discuss?