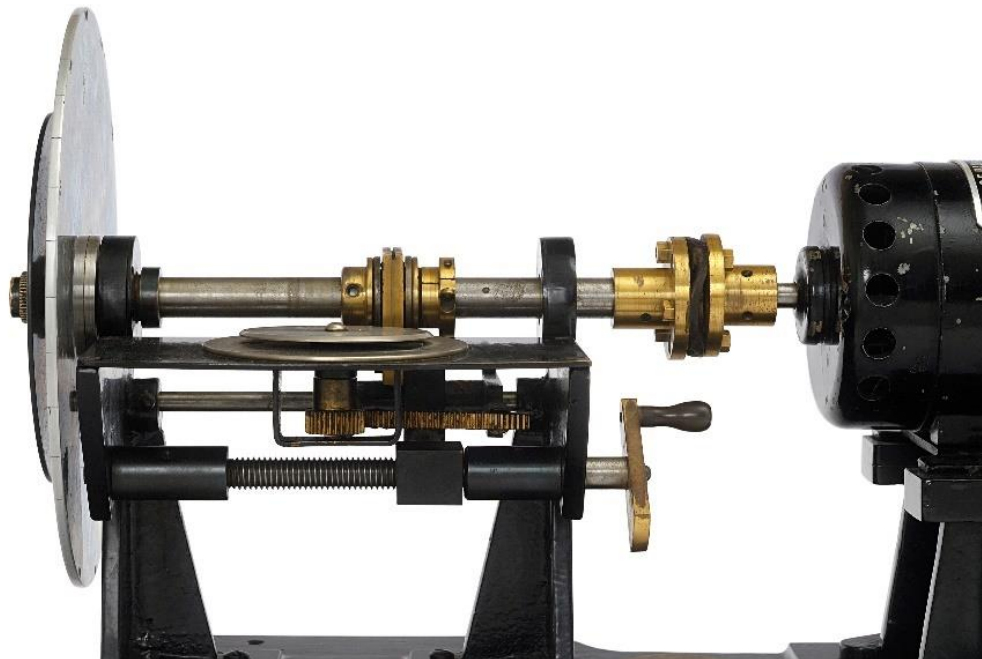


PROCEEDINGS OF THE
XXVI SCIENTIFIC
CONFERENCE

EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

OCTOBER 15TH – 18TH, 2020

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE



INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY
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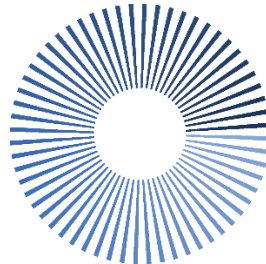
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Institute of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade



Laboratory for Experimental Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

Belgrade, 2020

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Mechanism for varying the relation between the sectors of Maxwell's discs in the course of their rotation.

Maxwell's discs Maxwell's discs with fixed relations of the sectors can be installed onto the inner disc of the apparatus while discs with sectors of different size are installed onto the outer of the two discs of the apparatus. The size of a sectors that can be read on a circular 3600-scale may be regulated in the course of the operation by means of a lever till colors in both discs are equalized. Rotation speed can be regulated with a rheostat.

From the collection of the old scientific instruments curated by Laboratory for experimental psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

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My Ethnicity is Older than Yours! Delegitimizing other's Ethnic Identity as a Correlate of Inter-ethnic Attitudes

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to operationalize general tendency to deny the existence of some ethnic groups based on the length of their history (Ethnic identity delegitimization, EIDL), and to examine its relation with Ethnic identification, Essentialism, Political orientation, Social dominance orientation (SDO), and attitude towards the outgroup. Thus, we constructed a 14-items EIDL scale. A total of 140 individuals (76% women) participated in the study. Principal component analysis revealed that EIDL is a unidimensional construct, distinct from other measured variables, indicating its construct- and discriminant validity. As expected, EIDL was positively related to ingroup ethnic identification, right-wing political orientation, and social dominance (but negatively to egalitarianism); it was also related to higher essentialist beliefs. Finally, EIDL marginally contributed to prediction of a more negative attitude towards Bosniaks. The results indicate that ethnic identity delegitimization is a distinct construct that is related to outgroup attitudes and that it should be examined more detailed in the context of intergroup relations.

Keywords: Ethnic identity delegitimization, Ethnic identity, Interethnic relations, Outgroup attitudes

Introduction

“Serbs and Bosniaks are the same ethnic group” – headlines like this can often be found in Serbian conservative media. One of the usual arguments for such claims is based on the length of a group's existence, i.e. its *historicity*: *WE exist longer than THEM, therefore THEY are not a real ethnic group*. Such claims that “younger” ethnic groups are less legitimate than the “older” ones, encompass beliefs that their identity is therefore less stable, less real and more fragile. It was exploited in Yugoslav Wars to assimilate Bosniaks with Serbs or Croats (Hayden, 2002), and is still present in ethno-nationalist discourse (Vajzović, 2008). Here we focused on the general tendency to (de)legitimize an ethnic identity. We defined ethnic identity legitimizing as acknowledging that an ethnic group is real, distinct from the other ethnic groups, and that those who identify with the group should be recognized as its members. On the contrary, ethnic identity delegitimizing (EIDL) includes claims that a particular ethnic group does not exist and perceiving those who identify with it as members of some other ethnic group. In conceptualizing it, we draw from the research of other groups whose identity is being denied, such as bisexuals (e.g. Page, 2004).

We identified two constructs that are similar to EIDL for their historicity aspects: Collective self-continuity (CSC) and Autochthony. In the ethnonational context, CSC represents a feeling that one is a part of their nation's shared

history (Smeeke & Verkuyten, 2013). Its main distinction from EIDL is the relational aspect: while CSC is only related to one's ingroup, EIDL always implies questioning of the outgroup ethnic identity. Autochthony represents a belief that territory belongs to a group that inhabited it historically earlier (Martinovic & Verkuyten, 2013). It is distinct from EIDL for focusing on primo-occupancy of a territory as a determinant of group's rights, while EIDL is focused on the length of existence of the two groups.

Typically, CSC and Autochthony are positively related to ingroup (IG) identification, and negatively to outgroup (OG) attitudes. Autochthony endorsement is positively related to political conservatism and Social dominance orientation [SDO] (Verkuyten et al., 2016). Relying on its similarity to CSC and Autochthony, in the present study we examined if EIDL is similarly related to their mentioned correlates. We expected EIDL to be positively related to the IG identification, conservatism, and SDO, and negatively to the OG attitude. We also examined its relation to Psychological essentialism, as it is another strategy of ethnic OG assimilation (Hayden, 2002), thus expecting positive association with EIDL. Finally, we hypothesized that EIDL would predict outgroup attitude over and above the other five variables. To test our hypotheses, we constructed a scale that measures EIDL and tested for its psychometric properties.

Method

Participants and procedure

We recruited 139 participants (75% women), aged 18-62 ($M = 28.1$, $SD = 8.4$), who identified themselves as ethnic Serbs. The survey was administered via SoSci survey platform (Leiner, 2019).

Measures

Unless indicated otherwise, the items were measured on a 7-point Likert scale (1 = fully disagree; 7 = fully agree).

Ethnic identity delegitimization (EIDL) scale consists of 14 items that capture a general tendency to delegitimize other ethnic identities. Half of the items are reversely coded. The scale showed high reliability ($\alpha = .92$). The original scale is available in the Repository of the psychological instruments in Serbian (Lazić et al., 2020), while translated items are listed in Appendix (Table A1).

We registered Essentialism using Belief in social determinism scale (Rangel & Keller, 2011), with the items modified to capture the tendency to essentialize ethnic identity ($\alpha = .89$). Participants' Ingroup ethnic identification

was measured using three items from Phinney's (1992) Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure ($\alpha = .87$). Political orientation was registered using a bipolar 11-point item (-5 = far left; 5 = far right). We measured SDO using a 14-items version of Social Dominance Orientation scale (Pratto et al., 1994) that captures two dimensions: dominance ($\alpha = .77$) and egalitarianism ($\alpha = .90$).

Attitude towards Bosniaks was measured on the Feeling thermometer (Converse & Presser, 1986). Using a 100-point slider, participants indicated their feelings towards Bosniaks (outgroup) and Serbs (ingroup). We calculated the attitude score by subtracting IG feelings from OG feelings, so that higher scores indicated more positive OG attitude.

Results

To examine dimensionality of EIDL scale, we ran principal component analysis (PCA; Although confirmatory factor

analysis (CFA) would have been more appropriate, the sample was not large enough to obtain reliable CFA results). Parallel analysis indicated a clear unidimensional solution ($\lambda = 7.22$). The loadings are detailed in Appendix A. We performed further analyses on the mean score.

As expected, EIDL was positively related to Essentialism, IG ethnic identification, Right-wing political orientation, Social Dominance, and Outgroup attitude (Table 1). The relation with SDO subscale Egalitarianism was negative.

To test for discriminant validity of the EIDL scale, we ran the PCA with Promax rotation on the items representing EIDL, Essentialism, Ingroup identification, and SDO. Out of four extracted factors, the first had significant loadings only on 14 items of EIDL scale, indicating that EIDL is distinct from the other measured constructs (see Table A2 in Appendix for details).

Table 1: Means, Standard deviations, and correlations of the measured constructs

	M	SD	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. EIDL	3.2	1.3	.51**	.44**	.50**	.37**	-.40**	-.40**
2. Essentialism	3.1	1.1		.38**	.50**	.39**	-.40**	-.35**
3. IG Identification	4.6	1.7			.49**	.07	-.25*	-.44**
4. Political Orientation	-1.5	2.8				.47**	-.45**	-.43**
5. SDO-Dominance	3.2	1.2					-.58**	-.15
6. SDO-Egalitarianism	5.8	1.2						.27*
7. OG attitude	-20.7	34.1						—

** $p < .001$; * $p < .01$

We tested predictive power of EIDL using hierarchical linear regression with attitude towards Bosniaks as an outcome variable. In the first step, we entered Essentialism, IG identification, Political orientation, and SDO subscales as predictors. In the second step, we added EIDL as a predictor. In the first model, IG Ethnic identification and political orientation significantly predicted OG attitude ($R^2_{adj} = .24$, $F(5,133) = 9.89$, $p < .001$; see Table 2). Adding EIDL to the model marginally improved prediction ($R^2_{change} = .02$, $F_{change}(1,132) = 2.98$, $p = .087$), implying its limited contribution to explaining the variance of OG attitudes after controlling for the other relevant variables.

Table 2: Prediction of attitude towards Bosniaks

	Model 1		Model 2	
	β	p	β	p
Essentialism	-0.13	.145	-0.09	.330
Ethnic IG Identification	-0.26	.005	-0.22	.019
Political Orientation	-0.23	.024	-0.21	.04
SDO Dominance	0.09	.905	0.11	.266
SDO Egalitarianism	0.10	.301	0.09	.375
EIDL	—	—	-0.16	.087
R^2 (R^2_{adj})	.27 (.24)		.29 (.26)	
R^2_{change}	—		.02	

Discussion and conclusion

Our results suggest that Ethnic identity delegitimization tendency can be reliably measured and that it is distinct from other socially related individual differences constructs. It showed the pattern of correlations to the ideological variables, IG identification, and SDO that we expected relying on previous studies of Collective self-continuity and Autochthony. The relation between EIDL and OG attitude is in line with our hypothesis, while its unique predictive

power over and above those related constructs is unstable. Stability of the obtained results should be further confirmed in larger and more diverse samples of participants.

Future studies should explore the relation between EIDL and other relevant constructs in a single design, primarily Collective self-continuity and Autochthony due to their shared aspect of historicity. Furthermore, its relation to OG attitude should be more explored, since Bosniak identity is questioned in everyday discourse more frequently than other ethnic identities. Thus, it is essential to examine how EIDL is related to attitude towards ethnic OGs whose identity is not normally delegitimized; also, the EIDL-attitude relation should be examined outside post-conflict context as well. Finally, experimental manipulations of OG historicity perception would disentangle its causal relation with attitude and potential mediating role of EIDL.

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Appendix A

Table A1: PCA details for EIDL scale

Item	Loading
1. To be considered an ethnicity, a group should have long history and tradition.	.848
2. It is normal for groups that share some characteristics to consider themselves a nation or ethnicity.*	-.743
3. Ethnic groups that are historically older have a right to deny the existence of younger ethnicities.	.744
4. An ethnic group whose culture is not long enough cannot be considered an ethnicity.	.854
5. The length of the existence of particular ethnic group determines its social status.	.604
6. Regardless of the length of its history, no one has right to deny the existence of any ethnic group.*	-.747
7. A group cannot consider itself an ethnicity if it is not at least a few hundred years old.	.830
8. We do not have a right to deny existence of any ethnic group, even if it is much younger than ours.*	-.753
9. It is normal that sometimes some ethnic groups disappear and some new appear.*	-.502
10. Common culture determines an ethnic group much more than the length of its existence.*	-.672
11. If people feel as members of an ethnic group, no one has rights to deny that.*	-.711
12. To find out a person's ethnicity, it is enough to ask them how they identify.*	-.550
13. Ethnic identity is determined by birth and is immutable.	.524
14. If a group does not have a long history, it cannot consider itself an ethnic group.	.847

Note. The items labelled with “*” are reversely coded.

Note. KMO = .913; Bartlett's χ^2 (91) = 1158.4, $p < .001$; 51.7% of the variance explained.

Table A2: Discriminant validity of EIDL

	Component			
	1	2	3	4
EIDL 1	0.869	0.020	-0.019	0.026
EIDL 2	-0.720	0.032	-0.032	-0.106
EIDL 3	0.683	-0.141	-0.019	-0.012
EIDL 4	0.901	0.085	-0.031	-0.069
EIDL 5	0.558	0.006	0.056	-0.107
EIDL 6	-0.873	-0.142	0.071	-0.136
EIDL 7	0.865	0.129	0.043	-0.040
EIDL 8	-0.712	0.119	0.033	-0.008
EIDL 9	-0.578	-0.057	0.126	0.082
EIDL 10	-0.671	0.007	0.048	0.121
EIDL 11	-0.605	0.321	0.104	0.051
EIDL 12	-0.519	0.066	-0.008	-0.043
EIDL 13	0.423	0.128	0.261	-0.165
EIDL 14	0.871	0.110	0.014	-0.096
Essentialism 1	-0.098	-0.007	0.803	0.046
Essentialism 2	0.020	-0.188	0.636	0.032
Essentialism 3	0.266	0.243	0.638	-0.223
Essentialism 4	0.128	0.144	0.739	0.115
Essentialism 5	0.074	0.052	-0.639	0.216
Essentialism 6	-0.115	-0.062	0.792	0.052
Essentialism 7	-0.032	0.092	0.692	0.119
Essentialism 8	-0.097	-0.017	0.805	-0.123
Essentialism 9	0.000	0.156	0.380	-0.052
Essentialism 10	-0.135	0.005	-0.562	0.025
Essentialism 11	-0.028	-0.028	0.797	0.018
Essentialism 12	-0.008	-0.104	0.569	-0.185
IG identification 1	0.165	-0.195	0.076	-0.661
IG identification 2	0.132	-0.349	0.132	-0.707
IG identification 3	0.157	-0.112	0.113	-0.708
SDO 1	-0.099	-0.504	0.239	0.317
SDO 2	0.148	-0.485	-0.296	0.191
SDO 3	0.193	-0.297	0.055	0.224
SDO 4	0.205	-0.255	0.129	0.555
SDO 5	0.025	0.008	0.436	0.294
SDO 6	0.211	-0.164	0.176	0.581
SDO 7	-0.025	0.795	-0.061	0.082
SDO 8	0.099	0.882	0.012	0.071
SDO 9	0.193	0.779	-0.050	0.229
SDO 10	-0.024	0.863	0.072	0.062
SDO 11	0.063	0.830	-0.006	0.035
SDO 12	0.037	0.872	0.094	0.049
SDO 13	-0.064	-0.587	0.310	0.009
SDO 14	0.026	0.766	0.057	0.120

Note. Significant loadings (> .30) are bolded.

Note. Promax rotation was used.

Note. KMO = .864, Bartlett's χ^2 (903) = 3885.21, $p < .001$. The factors explain 52.92% of the variance.

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