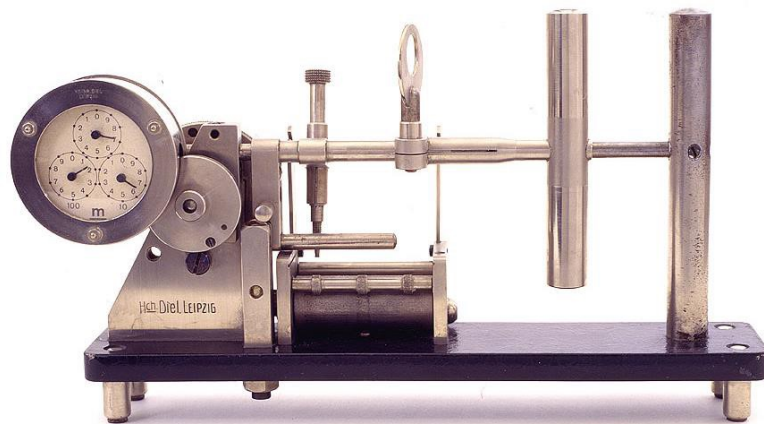


XXV NAUČNI SKUP

EMPIRIJSKA ISTRAŽIVANJA U PSIHOLOGIJI

29 – 31. MART 2019.

FILOZOFSKI FAKULTET, UNIVERZITET U BEOGRADU



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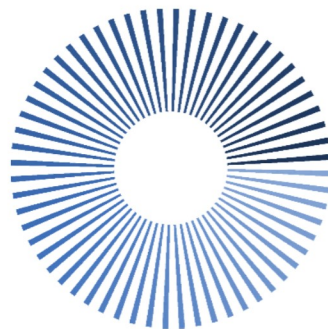
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wingers, right-wingers and members of the center. In the research, we used a nationalism scale with 8 items from which we identified two factors; national attachment and mundialism. The scale of social democracy consists of 6 claims, and the higher the score rates on scale, the higher the acceptance of social democracy. The scale of liberalism and conservatism consists of 7 items where increased scores on the scale suggest expressed conservatism, while the lower scores point towards liberalism. All three scales are five-degree Likert scales. It is important to emphasize that the respondents were classifying themselves by their free will as either the left-wingers, right-wingers or members of the center. The survey was conducted in the second half of May, 2018 on a sample of 600 adult citizens of BiH through face-to-face interviews. The obtained results showed a significant difference between left-wingers, right-wingers and members of the center on scales of national attachment, mondialism, social democracy and social conservatism. The national attachment is mostly present among the right-handers, somewhat less present among the representatives of the center, and is the least present at the left-wingers ($F = 44.537$, $df = 2$; 597 , $p = .000$). Mondialism is most present among left-wingers, followed by representatives of the center and right-wingers ($F = 29.645$, $df = 2$; 597 , $p = .000$). Social democracy is mostly accepted by left-wingers, then the right-wingers and members of the center ($F = 5.005$, $df = 2$; 597 , $p = .007$). Conservatism is most present among right-wingers and representatives of the center, followed by left-wingers ($F = 3,566$, $df = 2$; 597 , $p = .029$). Generally speaking, the obtained results show that political affiliation is accompanied by adequate ideological attitudes. This shows that in addition to ethnic principles, BH citizens find values that political parties support equally important.

Keywords: left-wingers, right-wingers, center, nationalism, social democracy, liberalism, conservatism, BiH.

BELIEF IN CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND PARANOIA – AN ATTEMPT AT EMPIRICALLY SEPARATING THE CONSTRUCTS

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Attributing sinister motives to others can be manifested on either a personal level – as paranoia, or a societal level – as belief in conspiracy theories (CTs). Whilst more interpersonal forms of paranoia were proposed to be triggered by a threat coming from other individuals (ingroup threat), belief in CTs should be triggered by a threat from the other groups (outgroup threat). In a previous study of the effects of outgroup threat on belief in CTs, there was significant overlap in content of the threat and CTs it was supposed to evoke, which makes it difficult to discern priming effects from genuine effects of the threat on belief in CTs. For this reason, we conducted two studies (total $N = 207$) that varied in the extent of overlap between the threat manipulation and CTs and paranoia scales. In both studies, psychology students first read either a bogus scientific article about fierce competition and climate of distrust between psychology students and psychologists (ingroup threat) or between psychologists and economists (outgroup

threat), while the control group read no such article. After this, all participants filled out two paranoia and two belief in CTs scales. Finally, we asked them to assess the extent of negative emotions elicited by the articles. In Study 1, there was no overlap in content between the threat manipulation and scales of belief in CTs/paranoia. In contrast, Study 2 was conducted to test if certain overlap in content could influence the results – we modified one of the scales for both belief in CTs and paranoia so that the items reflected CTs, or personal actions against psychologists, respectively. Results from both studies reveal that, while the threats were rated as believable and they were effective in eliciting negative emotions (Study 1: $F(2, 88) = 13.62$, $p < .001$; Study 2: $F(2, 112) = 4.75$, $p = .01$), they did not influence belief in CTs/paranoia – i.e. even with an overlap between the manipulations and the scales, there was no effect. Additionally, moderate positive correlations (r range across both studies: $.27 - .42$; $p < .01$) between paranoia and belief in CTs indicate they may be hard to separate experimentally. Taken together, our results illustrate challenges that arise in experimentally testing theoretical distinctions between the content participants perceive as similar, and in employing brief state manipulations to influence aspects of participant's global world-view.

Keywords: belief in conspiracy theories, conspiracy mentality, paranoia, ingroup threat, outgroup threat

BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY OF RELIGIOUSNESS: THE PATHWAYS FROM RELIGIOUSNESS TO FITNESS

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In recent years there have been attempts to explain religiousness from an evolutionary viewpoint – religiousness may elevate reproductive fitness. However, empirical data on this topic are still lacking. In the present study we used the behavioral ecological theoretical framework to explore the relations between religiousness, harsh environment, fitness (reproductive success and parental investment) and fitness-related outcomes assumed to be mediators of the religiousness-fitness link: age at first birth, desired number of children and the romantic relationship duration. The data was collected from 461 individuals from the community sample who were near the end of their reproductive stage (54% females, $M_{\text{age}} = 51.75$; $SD = 6.56$). Religiousness was measured by the abbreviated version of the *Religiosity* scale which is a part of Arizona Life History Battery. We operationalized the harsh environment using two scales: Family dysfunction was measured using the *Weak Socialization* scale from the AMORAL inventory; we also explored childhood *Poverty* via a four-item self-report scale. We expected positive links between religiousness, harsh environment, fitness and fitness related outcomes, all except the age at first birth for which we hypothesized a negative association. Furthermore, we conducted path analysis where the harsh environment and religiousness were set as exogenous variables; age at first birth, the desired number of children and romantic relationship duration were set as mediators, while reproductive success and parental investment were analyzed as endogenous variables. Religiousness was positively related to environmental harshness but this relation was characteristic for older participants ($r = .13$; $p = 0.05$). Religious individuals had higher reproductive success ($r = .13$; $p < 0.01$) but they did not show elevated parental investment ($r = .05$; $p > 0.05$). Religiousness positively associated with the desired number of children ($r = .16$; $p < 0.01$) and negatively to the age at first birth ($r = -.17$; $p < 0.01$). Finally, path analysis ($\chi^2(2) = 5.35$, $p = .069$; NFI = .990; CFI = .994; RMSEA = .060) confirmed these relations and additionally showed that relationship