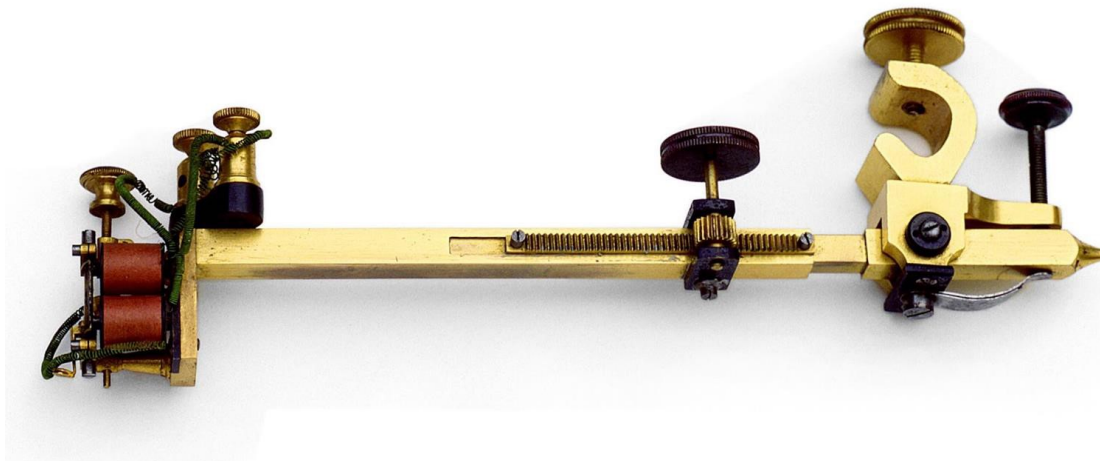


XXIX SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

MARCH 31 – APRIL 2, 2023

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE



INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY
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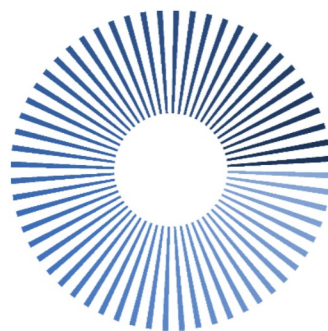
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Cover photo:

Deprez time-marker (G. Boullitte, Paris)

Device for setting a fine time base for kymographic recording. It provides oscillations for intervals down to 0.005 sec. A pen is attached to the plunger of an electromagnet. The movements of the plunger may be varied with a conical regulator. The device now lacks the pen. The author of this device is French electrical engineer Marcel Deprez who conducted the first experiments to transmit electrical power (DC) over long distances. Dimensions: 18.5 x 4 x 4.5 cm; Net weight; 145 g; Voltage: V DC = 2 – 4 V

From the collection of old scientific instruments of the Laboratory of experimental psychology, Faculty of philosophy, University of Belgrade

A WORLDVIEW OF CONTRADICTIONS: HOW DOUBLETHINK RELATES TO
SOCIAL CONSERVATISM, BLIND PATRIOTISM, INGROUP GLORIFICATION AND
SOCIAL DISTANCE

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People tend to endorse mutually inconsistent beliefs at the same time - i.e. they argue for making voting obligatory for everyone, while simultaneously claiming that some people should not be allowed to vote. If they tend to do so, we say they are prone to doublethink. Particularly negative attitudes about outgroups are often riddled with such inconsistencies, insofar that any negative claims, even when they are inconsistent, are endorsed (e.g. refugees are lazy and only come for government handouts but are also taking all of our jobs; Jews are over-assimilative but also strategically refusing to assimilate). These negative attitudes towards outgroups are typically embedded in a socially conservative worldview - one that implies intolerance of other groups and glorification of our own. In this study we thus explored how doublethink is (1) related to blind patriotism, ingroup glorification and social conservatism and (2) social distance towards different outgroups. We also tested whether the relation between doublethink and social distance towards different groups is mediated by this proposed worldview, characterized by blind patriotism, ingroup glorification and social conservatism. Participants ($N = 411$) filled out the Proneness to doublethink scale, the Blind patriotism scale, the Ingroup glorification subscale from the National Identification Scale, as well as measures of social distance towards Roma, gay people, refugees, Croats and Kosovo Albanians. Results show that, expectedly, doublethink was positively related to all worldview variables (r ranging from .346 to .395, $ps < .001$), and that those prone to doublethink show a greater social distance to different outgroups (r ranging from .119 to .237, $ps < .05$). Doublethink predicted social distance towards gay people both directly ($estimate = 0.124$, $p = .020$) and indirectly through social conservatism ($estimate = 0.077$, $p = .001$). In turn, the relation between doublethink and social distance was fully mediated, by ingroup glorification ($estimate = 0.057$, $p = .031$) and blind patriotism ($estimate = 0.072$, $p = .016$) in the case of Croats, and blind patriotism ($estimate = 0.078$, $p = .008$) and social conservatism ($estimate = 0.052$, $p = .021$) in the case of Kosovo Albanians. We found only a direct effect in the case of social distance towards Roma and refugees. We discuss how doublethink might be a key component to upholding a certain type of belief system, making it a candidate for targeting in interventions.

Keywords: doublethink, irrational beliefs, social distance, ideology, conservatism