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Modern antisemitism: from prejudice to extremism

Objective of the course:

The course aims to analyze the functions of antisemitic prejudice in different historical times and social contexts as well as the social psychological mechanisms underlying antisemitic political mobilization and political violence.

Description of the course:

The course not only offers an insight into the continuity of antisemitic prejudice through ages, societies and cultures, but discloses the social psychological background of extreme hate and violence against Jews. Main theories of prejudice and stereotyping – realistic group conflict theory, scape goating, social dominance theory, authoritarianism theory, the stereotype content model, group conflict theories – will be discussed in relation to antisemitism as well as the psychology of acceptance of conspiracy theories and genocidal political ideologies. At the end of course methods of prejudice reduction and intergroup reconciliation will be introduced.

Course type: lecture (4 credits)

Course level: introductory (cross-listed)

Number of weeks of instruction: 6 (2 X 2X45min class)

Evaluation:

- journal (on readings and class) (25 %)
- written exam (30 %)
- essay: “The perception of antisemitism in Europe” (analysis of five interviews with students from different countries) (30 %)
- attendance (15 %)

Topics and required readings:

1. Introduction

Zehavit Gross; Suzanne D. Rutland (2014) Combatting antisemitism in the school playground: an Australian case study, *Patterns of Prejudice*, 48:3, 309-330

2. Antisemitic prejudices in contemporary society: what is antisemitism?

Bergmann, W. (2008). Anti-Semitic Attitudes in Europe: A Comparative Perspective. *Journal of Social Issues*, 64(2), 343-362.

Kovács, A. (2002). Public Identity in Defining the Boundaries of Public and Private: The Example of Latent Anti-Semitism. *Social Research: An International Quarterly*, 69(1), 179-194.

3. Antisemitism: stereotypes, prejudice and measurement

Rudman, L. A., Greenwald, A. G., Mellott, D. S., & Schwartz, J. L. (1999). Measuring the automatic components of prejudice: Flexibility and generality of the Implicit Association Test. *Social Cognition*, 17(4), 437-465.

Krumpal, I. (2012). Estimating the prevalence of xenophobia and anti-semitism in Germany: a comparison of randomized response and direct questioning. *Social science research*, 41(6), 1387-1403.

Winiewski, M., Bilewicz, M (2013). Are surveys and opinion polls always a valid tool to assess antisemitism? Methodological considerations. In: *Jewish Studies at CEU Vol.7. 2008-2009*. 83-97.

4. Social psychological roots of antisemitic prejudice (authoritarianism, social dominance orientations, stereotype content model, group conflict theories)

Frindte, W., Wettig, S., & Wammetsberger, D. (2005). Old and New Anti-Semitic Attitudes in the Context of Authoritarianism and Social Dominance Orientation - Two Studies in Germany. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 11(3), 239.

Bilewicz, M., Winiewski, M., Kofta, M., & Wójcik, A. (2013). Harmful Ideas, The Structure and Consequences of Anti-Semitic Beliefs in Poland. *Political Psychology*, 34(6), 821-839.

Cichocka, A.; de Zavala, A. G.; Marchlewsky, M.; & Olechowski, M. (2015). Collective narcissism, secure in-group identification, and belief in conspiracies. In M. Bilewicz, A. Cichocka, W. Soral (eds.) *The Psychology of Conspiracy*. Routledge, 42-61.

Winiewski, M.; Soral, W., & Bilewicz, M. (2015). Conspiracy theories on the map of stereotype content. In M. Bilewicz, A. Cichocka, W. Soral (eds.) *The Psychology of Conspiracy*. Routledge, 23-41.

5. Historical and cultural roots of antisemitic prejudice (anti-Judaism, political antisemitism, genocidal antisemitism)

Volkov, S. (1978). Antisemitism as a cultural code. *Leo Baeck Institute yearbook*, 23. 23-46.

Bilewicz, M., & Vollhardt, J. R. (2012). Evil Transformations: Social-Psychological Processes Underlying Genocide and Mass Killing. *Social Psychology of Social Problems: The Intergroup Context*, 280-307.

Herf, J. (2005). The "Jewish War": Goebbels and the Antisemitic Campaigns of the Nazi Propaganda Ministry. *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, 19(1), 51-80.

6. Post-Holocaust antisemitism and Holocaust denial (secondary antisemitism, new antisemitism, anti-zionism, old antisemitism)

Kovács, A. (2014). Antisemitic elements in Communist discourse: A continuity factor in post-war Hungarian antisemitism. In Guesnet, Francois, Gwen Jones (Eds.), *Antisemitism in an Era of Transition. Continuities and Impact in Post-Communist Poland and Hungary*, Peter Lang Edition, Frankfurt a. M., 115-134.

Imhoff, R., & Banse, R. (2009). Ongoing victim suffering increases prejudice: The case of secondary anti-Semitism. *Psychological Science*, 20(12), 1443-1447.

Volkov, S. (2006). Readjusting cultural codes: Reflections on anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. *The Journal of Israeli History*, 25(1), 51-62.

7. Scapegoating and genocidal antisemitism

Baumeister, R.F. (2002). The Holocaust and the Four Roots of Evil. In: L. S. Newman, R. Erber (eds.): *Understanding Genocide. The Social Psychology of the Holocaust*. Oxford University Press, 2002. 241-259.

Glick, P (2002). Sacrificed Lambs Dressed in Wolves' Clothing: Envious Prejudice, Ideology, and the Scapegoating of Jews. L. S. Newman, R. Erber (eds.): *Understanding Genocide. The Social Psychology of the Holocaust*. Oxford University Press, 2002. 113-143.

8. Political extremization

Gelfand, M. J., LaFree, G., Fahey, S., & Feinberg, E. (2013). Culture and extremism. *Journal of Social Issues*, 69(3), 495-517.

Doosje, B., Loseman, A., & Bos, K. (2013). Determinants of radicalization of Islamic youth in the Netherlands: Personal uncertainty, perceived injustice, and

perceived group threat. *Journal of Social Issues*, 69(3), 586-604.

9. Conspiracy mindset

Bilewicz, M. & Sedek, G. (2015). Conspiracy stereotypes. Their sociopsychological antecedents and consequences. In M. Bilewicz, A. Cichočka, W. Soral (eds.) *The Psychology of Conspiracy*. Routledge, 3-22.

Imhoff, R. (2015). Beyond (right-wing) authoritarianism. Conspiracy mentality as an incremental predictor of prejudice. In M. Bilewicz, A. Cichočka, W. Soral (eds.) *The Psychology of Conspiracy*. Routledge, 122-141.

10. Antisemitism today

Cotler, I. (2015). Global antisemitism: assault on human rights. In Small, Ch.A. (ed.) *The Yale papers. Antisemitism in comparative perspective*. ISGAP, New York, 347-362.

Jikeli, G. (2015). Antisemitic attitudes among Muslims in Europe: a survey review. ISGAP Policy Papers Series No.1. ISGAP, New York

Kovács, A. (2012). Antisemitic Prejudice and Political Antisemitism in Present-Day Hungary. *Journal for the Study of Antisemitism*, 4(2), 443-467.

11. Prejudice reduction and de-extremization

Kruglanski, A. W., Gelfand, M. J., Bélanger, J. J., Sheveland, A., Hetiarachchi, M., & Gunaratna, R. (2014). The psychology of radicalization and deradicalization: How significance quest impacts violent extremism. *Political Psychology*, 35(S1), 69-93.

Douglas, K.M.; Sutton, R.M.; Jolley, D., & Wood, M.J. (2015). The social, political, environmental, and health related consequences of conspiracy theories. Problems and potential solutions. In M. Bilewicz, A. Cichočka, W. Soral (eds.) *The Psychology of Conspiracy*. Routledge, 183-200.

12. The perception of antisemitism – how do we construct and understand antisemitism?

Lubin, H. (2015). Trauma in disguise: the effects of antisemitism. In Small, Ch.A. (ed.) *The Yale papers. Antisemitism in comparative perspective*. ISGAP, New York, 329-336.

Other resources:

Video: European antisemitism from its origins to the Holocaust (USHM)

<http://www.ushmm.org/confront-antisemitism/european-antisemitism-from-its-origins-to-the-holocaust>

Video: Crossing the line 2. (Jerusalem U)

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