

## Self in Modern World

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### Course description and objectives

People are generally interested in many different things, but for Social Scientists, probably, most fascinating one still remains the ways that we approach ourselves.

In this course, we discuss the genesis, structure and functions of self to understand how individuals perceive and introduce themselves in different social settings. Course utilizes multidisciplinary approaches through the introduction of different modern research trends to deliver fundamental knowledge of social self. More specifically, the course provides BA students with the understanding of the core theoretical models of selfhood highlighting problems of self, and assesses its cognitive, emotional, behavioural, and social dimensions. Within the course, the students will be given opportunities to discuss concepts, theories and methods of self-related issues, helping them to elaborate a structural knowledge of the above subjects.

With the completion of this course, the students are expected to have a solid understanding of the concepts of self and an ability to analyse self-related issues in different contexts.

### Course Content

#### **Week 1: What is a self: Historical overview; Visualisation of self: self-reflection via portraits**

- James, William. *Principles of Psychology*. New York: Holt, 1902.
- Baumeister, R. F. (1999). The nature and structure of the self: An overview. In R. F.
- Leary, M.R. (2004). What is the self? A plea for clarity. *Handbook of Self and Identity*, Guilford Press, NY
- Jordan Ch, Zanna, M. "How to read journal articles in social psychology" in Baumeister, R. F. (ED.) (1999). *The self in social psychology*. Philadelphia, PA: Psychology Press.

#### **Week 2-3-4: Self-knowledge: where it comes from. How we generate knowledge about ourselves**

(1) Social comparison theory: Leon Festinger (1954)

- Festinger, Leon. 1954. A theory of social comparison processes. *Hum. Relations* 7:117-40

(2) Social identity Theory: Henry Tajfel and John Turner (1970-88)

- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1986). The social identity theory of intergroup behaviour. In S. Worchel & W. G. Austin (Eds.), *Psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 7–24). Chicago, IL: Nelson-Hall.
- Turner, J. C. & Reynolds, K. J. (2010). The story of social identity. In T. Postmes & N. Branscombe (Eds). *Rediscovering Social Identity: Core Sources*. Psychology Press.
- Brown, Rupert (1 November 2000). "Social Identity Theory: past achievements, current problems and future challenges". *European Journal of Social Psychology* **30** (6): 745–778
- Leary, Mark L. and June Price Tangney, eds. *Handbook of Self and Identity*. New York: Guilford Press, 2011

(3) Self-categorization theory: Turner, Hogg, Oakes, Reicher & Wetherall (1987)

- Turner, J. C., Hogg, M. A., Oakes, P. J., Reicher, S. D. & Wetherell, M. S. (1987). Rediscovering the social group: A self-categorization theory. Oxford: Blackwell

(4) Self-discrepancy theory: Higgins (1987)

- Higgins, E. T. (1987). Self-discrepancy; A theory relating self and affect, *Psychological Review*, 94, 319-340.
- Hogg, M. & Vaughan, G. (2009) *Essentials of Social Psychology*. Pearson Prentice Hall
- Baumeister, R. F., & Bushman, B. J. (2008). *Social psychology and human nature* (1st ed.) Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth

**Week 5: Self-schemas: Self-Schemas and Their Malleability**

- Markus, H. (1977). Self-schemata and processing information about the self. *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology*, 35, 63-78.
- Markus, H. & Kunda, Z. (1986). Stability and malleability of the self-concept. *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology*, 51, 858-866.
- DeLamater, J. (Ed.). (2006). *Handbook of Social Psychology*. New York: Springer

**Week 6: Self concept and Self esteem**

- Campbell J.D. (1990) Self-esteem and clarity of the self-concept. *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology*, Sep; 59(3):538-49.
- Hogg, M. & Vaughan, G. (2009) *Essentials of Social Psychology*. Pearson Prentice Hall
- Baumeister, R. F., & Bushman, B. J. (2008). *Social psychology and human nature* (1st ed.) Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth

Terror management theory (Rosenblatt, Greenberg, Solomon, Pyszczynski & Lyon, 1989)

- Greenberg, J., Solomon, S., Pyszczynski, T., Rosenblatt A., et al. (1992). Assessing the terror management Analysis of self-esteem: Converging evidence of an anxiety-buffering function. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 63, 913-922.
- Burke, B. L., Martens, A., & Faucher, E. H. (2010). Two decades of terror management theory: A meta-analysis of mortality salience research. *Personality & Social Psychology Review*, 14, 155-195.

**Week 7: Self-knowledge vs. self-awareness: “I think, therefore I am” vs “I dont think, therefore I am” ( Jean Cocteau)**

- Joan A. Bargh, ( 2004) „ Is concesness is nessesary for human freedom?“ *Handbook of Experimental Existential Psychology*, Edited by Jeff Greenberg, Sander L. Koole, and Tom Pyszczynski.
- Gergen K, *The Saturated Self: Dilemmas of identity in Contemporary life*, Basic books, 199
- Leary, Mark L. and June Price Tangney, eds. *Handbook of Self and Identity*. New York: Guilford Press, 2011

**Week 8: Self-awareness: Symbolic interactionism**

- Goffman, Erving. *Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Doubleday, 1990 [1959].

- Cooley, C. H. *Human Nature and the Social Order*. Charleston: Nabus Press, 2010
- Mead, George Herbert. *Mind, Self, and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967

### **Week 9: Self-presentation**

- Leary, Mark L. and June Price Tangney, eds. *Handbook of Self and Identity*. New York: Guilford Press, 2011
- Goffman, Erving. *Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Doubleday, 1990 [1959].
- DeLamater, J. (Ed.). (2006). *Handbook of Social Psychology*. New York: Springer

### **Week 10: Self-Control: Escaping the self**

- Baumeister R. (1991) *Escaping the Self: Alcoholism, Spirituality, Masochism, and Other Flights from the Burden of Selfhood*.
- Muraven, M. & Slessareva, E. (2003). Mechanism of self-control failure: Motivation and limited resources. *Personality & Social Psychology Bulletin*, 29, 894-906.
- Fishbach, A., Friedman, R. S., Kruglanski, A. W. (2003). Leading us not into temptation: Momentary allurements elicit overriding goal activation. *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology*, 84, 296-309.

### **Week 10. Self and identity: distinctions and interrelation**

- Erikson, Erik H. *Identity, Youth, and Crisis*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1968.
- Swann, W.B., Jr. & Bosson, J. (2010). Self and Identity. Chapter prepared for S.T. Fiske, D.T. Gilbert, & G. Lindzey (Eds.), *Handbook of social psychology* (5th ed; 589-628), New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Gleason, Philip. "Identifying Identity: A Semantic History" *The Journal of American History* 1983 69(4): 910-931

### **Week 11: Many selves and multiple identities.**

- Kashima, Yoshihisa, Margaret Foddy and Michael Platow, eds. *Self and Identity: Personal, Social, and Symbolic*.
- Markus, H., & Nurius, P. (1986). Possible selves. *American Psychologist*, 41, 954-969.
- Markus, H. R., Kitayama, S., & Heiman, R. (1997). Culture and "basic" psychological principles. In E. T. Higgins & A. W. Kruglanski (Eds.), *Social psychology: Handbook of basic principles* (pp. 857-913). New York: Guilford.

### **Week 12: stigma, self and identity**

- Erving Goffman (1963). *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*. Prentice-Hall.
- Marilynn B. Brewer "The Social Self: On Being the Same and Different at the Same Time" *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, October 1991

### **Week 13: Neuroscience: Mental representation of the Self**

- Stanley B. Klein, Keith Rozendal, Leda Cosmides "A Social-Cognitive Neuroscience Analysis Of

The Self” Social Cognition April, Vol. 20, No. 2: 105–135.B.

- Gillihan, Seth J.; Farah, Martha J. “Is Self Special? A Critical Review of Evidence From Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience” Psychological Bulletin, Vol 131(1), Jan 2005, 76-97

**Week 14: Media, Self and Society: How media is influencing on how we see, percive and belive things in social world.**

- Seth J. Schwartz , Koen Luyckx, Vivian L. Vignoles (Editors) (2011)“|Handbook of Identity Theory and Research”
- Kashima, Yoshihisa, Margaret Foddy and Michael Platow, eds. *Self and Identity: Personal, Social, and Symbolic.*

**Week 15: Identity in narratives**

- McAdams, D. P., Josselson, R., & Lieblich, A. (2006). Identity and story: Creating self in narrative. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.