

Topic 1: Measuring predictors of radicalization in adolescents (project “Youth Radicalization in Austria”)

Brief study description: Most research on both socio-political and religious radicalization has been conducted retrospectively on adults; yet mounting evidence suggests that adolescence is the developmental key period during which radicalization occurs. The FWF-funded 4 year project “Youth Radicalization in Austria”, starting in May 2023, aims for a longitudinal study among adolescents between the ages of 14 and 16 in Vienna, Lower Austria, and Upper Austria, tracking the development of radicalization outcomes and various commonly theorized predictors and protective factors. The end result will be comparative test of various radicalization theories.

Expected time frame: The first wave of data collection is scheduled for spring 2024. Before that, scales will need to be constructed and others will need to be translated and validated to be suitable for measuring radicalization predictors in adolescents. These data collections in the piloting phase of the project will also result in data that could be used for these.

For an idea of the process, see:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/368396354_Radicalism_extremism_other_Developing_and_validating_the_Adolescent_Radicalization_Outcomes_Questionnaire_AROQ

Tasks and expectations: Students in the project are required to help with data collection, specifically by going to schools to administer the questionnaire there. The contents of the questionnaire are pre-determined by the aims of the project, but students are free to develop their own research questions using some of these measures within their thesis.

Topic 2: WEIRD bias in academic publishing

Brief study description: Most research in psychology is conducted using Western (or W.E.I.R.D. – Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Democratic) participants, which has long been recognized as a problem affecting, among other things, the quality and generalizability of its findings (see Henrich et al., 2010, about the general issue). While differently distributed resources across countries certainly contribute to this, another cause may lie within the publishing system; specifically, editors and reviewers may be biased against data stemming from non-WEIRD countries and authors with non-WEIRD institutional affiliations, resulting in fewer accepted publications. This study investigates the possibility of such bias within the academic publishing field of Applied Linguistics/Foreign Language Learning.

Henrich, J., Heine, S. & Norenzayan, A. Most people are not WEIRD. *Nature* **466**, 29 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1038/466029a>

Expected time frame: Data collection in November 2023, subsequent analysis

Tasks and expectations: Assist with cleaning and coding of automatically extracted publication data

Topic 3: Parental burn-out and emotional labour: Influence of gender roles across countries

Brief study description: In organizational psychology, the link between taking on emotional labour in the workplace and burnout is well established; yet the same connection has not been investigated in relation to parental burnout. There are multiple modes of cognitive and emotional labour involved in parenting and maintaining a family. This study investigates to what extent couples' estimates of their own and the other's degree of involvement in parenting and the amount of emotional labour they take on predict parental burnout, as well as how hierarchical vs. egalitarian explicit attitudes towards gender roles explain gender differences in cognitive and emotional labour between heterosexual partners with children.

Expected time frame: Data collection to begin over the course of the winter semester

Tasks and expectations: Assist with data collection

Topic 4: Effects of indirect exposure to discrimination in childhood

Brief study description: This project aims to investigate whether and how parents' experiences with discrimination (e.g., based on ethnicity, nationality, religion) influence children's development of justice beliefs (both secular and religious justice) indirectly, that is, independently of the children having a conceptual understanding of discrimination and having been told about it by adults. While the eventual aim of the project is to collect longitudinal data, a number of pilot studies is required first to establish other relevant variables, feasible minority groups to compare, appropriate age groups, and modes of measurement for these age groups. These pilot studies provide opportunity for master theses.

Expected time frame: No hard deadlines yet, data collections towards the end of the winter semester / beginning of the summer semester

Tasks and expectations: Assist with data collections (in lab) and participant recruitment