Modern and Classical Racism toward Refugees among North Queenslander

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Overview

- Introduction
  - Politics & media Vs. Refugees?
  - Social desirability and racism
  - Classic and modern racial prejudice
  - Our hypotheses...
- Method
  - Different scales used
  - Sample demographic information
- Results
- Discussion
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- Conclusion
- References
Politics and media - negative attitudes towards refugees have become the norm in our political discourse.

- Does this suggest high prevalence of prejudice in the Australian community?
- Is prejudice towards refugees becoming more socially acceptable (more socially desirable)?
- Clear link between prejudice and social desirability.
- Our study - What is the relationship between different types of racism and social desirability in Tropical NQ?
Introduction

Some definitions:

- Classical racism: blunt and direct form of prejudice.
- Modern racism: more subtle, and perhaps more socially acceptable/desirable.
- Social desirability: the extent that participants will respond in a way that they see as socially acceptable, or safe.
Introduction

- Social Desirability scale often used alongside measurements of ‘taboo’ traits.
- High social desirability = less likely to report socially unacceptable personal beliefs.
- Therefore, negative correlation between SD and prejudice would indicate prejudice is undesirable, and participants are hesitant to report prejudicial attitudes.
- Previous Australian research has observed such results (Schweitzer et al., 2005).
Introduction

Our study aimed to investigate three hypotheses:

- **Hypothesis 1:** North Queenslanders higher in social desirability will be lower in classical racism
- **Hypothesis 2:** North Queenslanders higher in social desirability will be lower in modern racism
- **Hypothesis 3:** North Queenslanders will express higher levels of modern racism than classical racism
Method

- Scales Used:
  - Classical and Modern Racial Prejudice Scale (Akrami, Ekehammar and Araya, 2000)
    - Determines overall racial prejudice
  - Marlowe Crowne Social Desirability Scale (Reynolds, 1982)
    - Determines the degree to which participants respond in a socially desirable manner
  - Realistic and Symbolic Threat Scale (Schweizter et al. 2005)
    - Determine reasons for prejudice and perceived threat
  - Prejudicial Attitudes Survey (Stephan et al., 1998)
    - Examines participants attitudes toward refugees
The study consisted of 314 participants (male: 107, female: 207) from the tropics with an average age of 33 (min: 18, max: 70).
Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Employment</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality/Retail</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Defence Force</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Services</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Servant</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services/Community Organisation</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tradesperson</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>35.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>314</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 3

Percentage of Participants Scoring Low, Medium or High on Classic and Modern Prejudice Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>% scores in ‘Low’ range</th>
<th>% scores in ‘Medium’ range</th>
<th>% scores in ‘High’ range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classical Racism*</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Racism**</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Scores from 8-18=Low, 19-29=Medium, 30-40=High.
** Scores from 9-21=Low, 21-33=Medium, 33-45=High

Mean (SD) for Classical Racism- 20.2 (4.9)
Mean (SD) for Modern Racism- 24 (5.4)
Mean (SD) for Social Desirability- 16.3 (2.5)
Table 4

Correlations Between Social Desirability, Prejudice, and Racism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Classical Racism</th>
<th>Modern Racism</th>
<th>Social Desirability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classical Racism</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.729**</td>
<td>-.053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Racism</td>
<td>.729**</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-.091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Desirability</td>
<td>-.053</td>
<td>-.091</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** p < 0.1
Discussion

- **Hypothesis 1**: North Queenslanders higher in social desirability will be lower in classical racism
  - Not supported
- **Hypothesis 2**: North Queenslanders higher in social desirability will be lower in modern racism
  - Not supported
- **Hypothesis 3**: North Queenslanders will express higher levels of modern racism than classical racism
  - Supported
Discussion

- It appears that individuals may perceive negative attitudes towards refugees as acceptable

- Politicians and the Media
  - Refugees are described as hostile, criminal, economic opportunists, disease vectors (Haslam & Holland, 2012; Watson & Riffe, 2012)
  - Legislation is also put in place under the guise of deterring terrorists and to take advantage of public fear (Jupp, 2006; Haslam & Holland, 2012; Pederson, Fozdar, & Kenny, 2012)
  - The example set by the media creates a standard which accepts negative attitudes toward refugees (Bastian, 2012)
Discussion

- Participants expressed modern racism but not classical racism despite no evidence of social desirability
  - It is not socially acceptable to be overtly racist
  - As a result, we would expect modern racism to be more prevalent than classical racism (Pedersen & Walker, 1998). This is what we found.
Discussion

- Lack of education
  - False beliefs (Pedersen, Watt, & Hansen, 2006)
  - Media and politicians perpetuate false beliefs (Pedersen, Fozdar, & Kenny, 2012)
  - Diversity education has been somewhat effective in reducing prejudicial attitudes (Hogan & Mallott, 2005)
  - Should also consider emotional features of attitudes (anxiety, distrust, frustration) (Islam & Jahjah, 2001)

- Implicit attitudes
  - Some research has suggested a possible implicit nativist attitude (Knoll, 2013)
Conclusion

- Modern racism was reported more at higher levels than classical racism
- Prejudice is changing, not disappearing
- Likely due in part to:
  - Media and politician representation
  - Lack of education (false beliefs)
  - Implicit attitudes
- In future, it would be beneficial to investigate how prejudice is expressed in Australia and how to reduce it
References


