# Article information:

Essentialism Promotes Racial Prejudice by Increasing Endorsement of Social Hierarchies - Tara M. Mandalaywala, David M. Amodio, Marjorie Rhodes, 2018  
<https://journals-sagepub-com.ezp.lib.cwu.edu/doi/full/10.1177/1948550617707020>

# Article summary:

1. Essentialist beliefs increase prejudice towards Black people by promoting the idea that social hierarchies reflect a naturally occurring structure.

2. Increasing essentialist beliefs leads to stronger endorsement of social hierarchies, which in turn mediates the effect of essentialism on negative attitudes towards Black people.

3. Essentialism contributes to prejudice by influencing people's views of societal structure, leading them to believe that social categories reflect objective structure in nature and that observed social hierarchies reflect objective differences in status or value.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Essentialism Promotes Racial Prejudice by Increasing Endorsement of Social Hierarchies" by Tara M. Mandalaywala, David M. Amodio, and Marjorie Rhodes explores the relationship between essentialist beliefs and prejudice towards Black people. The authors propose that essentialist beliefs increase prejudice towards Black people because they imply that existing social hierarchies reflect a naturally occurring structure. The article presents three studies to support this hypothesis.

The article provides a clear and concise introduction to the topic, explaining the concept of psychological essentialism and its potential implications in the social domain. The authors also provide a thorough review of prior research on the relationship between essentialism and prejudice towards Black people, highlighting both positive and negative findings.

However, there are some potential biases in the article that should be noted. Firstly, all three studies were conducted using participants recruited via Amazon's Mechanical Turk, which may not be representative of the general population. Additionally, all three studies focused solely on attitudes towards Black people, without exploring how essentialism may impact attitudes towards other marginalized groups.

Furthermore, while the authors acknowledge that essentialism does not assign positive or negative qualities to particular groupings, they do not fully explore how other factors such as historical context or power differentials may contribute to prejudice towards low-status groups. This could potentially lead to an oversimplification of the complex nature of prejudice.

The article also presents some unsupported claims, such as stating that increasing essentialist beliefs induced stronger endorsement of social hierarchies in both Black and White participants without providing evidence for this claim. Additionally, while the authors acknowledge that cognitive forms of prejudice are dissociable from race-biased affective judgments and implicit associations, they do not explore how these different forms of prejudice may interact with each other.

Overall, while the article provides valuable insights into how essentialist beliefs may contribute to prejudice towards Black people through endorsement of social hierarchies, it is important to consider potential biases and limitations in the research. Further exploration of how essentialism may impact attitudes towards other marginalized groups and how different forms of prejudice may interact with each other would be valuable areas for future research.

# Topics for further research:

* Impact of essentialism on attitudes towards other marginalized groups
* Historical context and power differentials in prejudice towards low-status groups
* Representation of Mechanical Turk participants in research studies
* Cognitive forms of prejudice and their interaction with race-biased affective judgments and implicit associations
* Critiques of essentialism as an oversimplification of the complex nature of prejudice
* Alternative explanations for the relationship between essentialism and prejudice towards Black people

# Report location:

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