



CH. 12 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

STORYTIME!

- On a winter day in 1569, Dirk Willems faced a life changing decision. He just escaped from his prison cell in Asperen Holland, facing death and torture, for simply being a religious minority. As he fled across the ice-covered pond his stronger and heavier jailer fell through the ice as he was chasing Dirk. Unable to get out he cried for help, and Willems turned around and assisted him. The jailer then took him back to the jail and Dirk was then burned at the stake.

SOCIAL PSYCH

- Social Psychologists use scientific methods to study how we **think about, influence, and relate** to one another.
- We will discuss several social situations that occurred throughout society.

THE FUNDAMENTAL ATTRIBUTION ERROR

- The tendency, when analyzing others' behavior, to overestimate the influence of personal traits and underestimate the effects of the situation.
- Is this evident in society?

FUNDAMENTAL ATTRIBUTION ERROR VIDEO



**MAYBE ERIC'S HAVING
A BAD DAY?**



FOOT-IN-THE-DOOR PHENOMENON

- The tendency for people who have first agreed to a small request to comply later with a larger request
 - It is a continuous pressure to align oneself to another's view or getting them to their side.
- Ex., During the Korean war several U.S. prisoners were held in Chinese communist camps. Without using brutality, the Chinese captors gained prisoners' cooperation in various activities.

CONT.

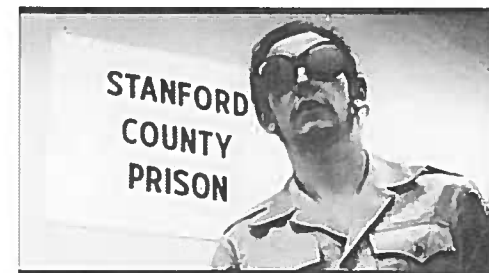
- They would begin with harmless requests, such as copying a trivial statement.
- They would eventually make bigger demands. The next statement was to copy a list of flaws within capitalism. Then, to gain privileges, the prisoners took part in group discussions, wrote self-criticisms, or made public confessions. Eventually, the American prisoners changed their beliefs to be more in line with their public acts. A simple act makes the next one easier and eventually the next temptation is harder to resist.

QUESTION

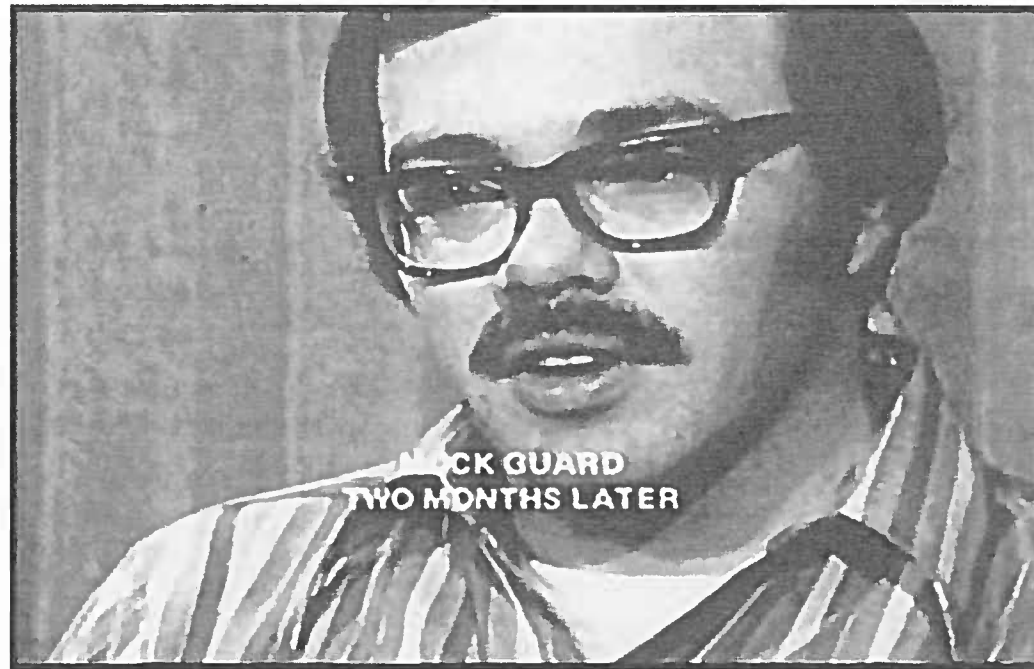
- How do you encounter the foot in the door phenomenon in society? What are some examples? Do people do this to you in your life?

THE POWER OF THE SITUATION

In his 1972, Stanford Prison study, Philip Zimbardo created a toxic situation. Those assigned to the guard role soon began to abuse those playing the role of prisoners. This occurred during 2004 during the Iraqi war. Guards in Abu Ghraib repeated behavior that the guards in Zimbardo's study did.



STANFORD PRISON VIDEO – POST INTERVIEW



DISCUSSION – ABU GHRAIB

- Let's discuss this occurrence.
- **IN** that situation would you go along with that? Granted you do not nor have ever been in the military (if any of you have maybe you understand) but why did the prison guards abuse them?

THE POWER OF THE ROLE

- A set of expectations about a social position, defining how those in the position ought to behave.
- This is the reason there were issues with Zimbardo's prison study. Those assigned the role began to believe that this was their role and then proceeded to own it.
- In regards to the prison study why would they own that role? Do you think it goes back to personal feelings experiences etc., on how they view themselves? Are they just angry individuals who wish to hurt people? What would the implications be after the study was done? Would they continue these destructive behaviors even though they aren't "prison guards"?

CONFORMITY

- Adjusting our behavior or thinking to coincide with a group standard.
 - Are there any examples of conformity throughout history?
 - Ex., Nazi Germany? Anti-Semitic ideology also helped produced eager killers as well.
- Storytime! – summer of 1942, 500 middle aged German reserve police officers were dispatched to German-occupied Jozefow, Poland. On July 13, the group was visibly upset commander informed his recruits, mostly family men, of their orders. They were to round up the Jew's, and send able bodied men to camps. The rest were shot. Only a dozen immediately refused, within 17 hours, the remaining 485 officers killed 1500 helpless individuals. After seeing the results another 20 percent disobeyed.

CONFORMITY EXPERIMENT



CONT.

- Like in real life, Milgram's experiments, show that those who immediately resisted did so early, and they were the minority.
- Close at hand authorities effect the actions of a group or individual dramatically. In order to fit in, many would go along, until they realize what they are doing is illegal or morally wrong. Conformity is quick and the results could be horrid.

MILGRAM EXPERIMENT



GROUP INFLUENCE

- Social facilitation is a part of group influence
 - Performance is improved on simple or well-learned tasks in the presence of others
 - Sometimes it helps, sometimes it hurts performance.
- Social loafing – the tendency for people in a group to exert less effort when pooling their efforts toward attaining a common goal than when individually accountable.

VIDEO!

Simple tasks
Difficult tasks
Help
Hinder
Social Loafing
SOCIAL FACILITATION
Group Cohesion
Response
Khan Academy
Social Facilitation

DEINDIVIDUATION

- The loss of self-awareness and self-restraint occurring in group situations that foster arousal and anonymity.
- Does this occur during riots? Protests etc. Demonstrations. Typically people who participate behave differently when they aren't wearing a mask etc. Do we feed off of other people's emotions?

GROUPTHINK

- The mode of thinking that occurs when the desire for harmony in a decision-making group overrides a realistic appraisal of alternatives
 - Ex., the Iraq War where the assumption was there were WMD (weapon of mass destruction) present and thus there was a reason for invasion.
 - What other examples come to mind when you think of groupthink.

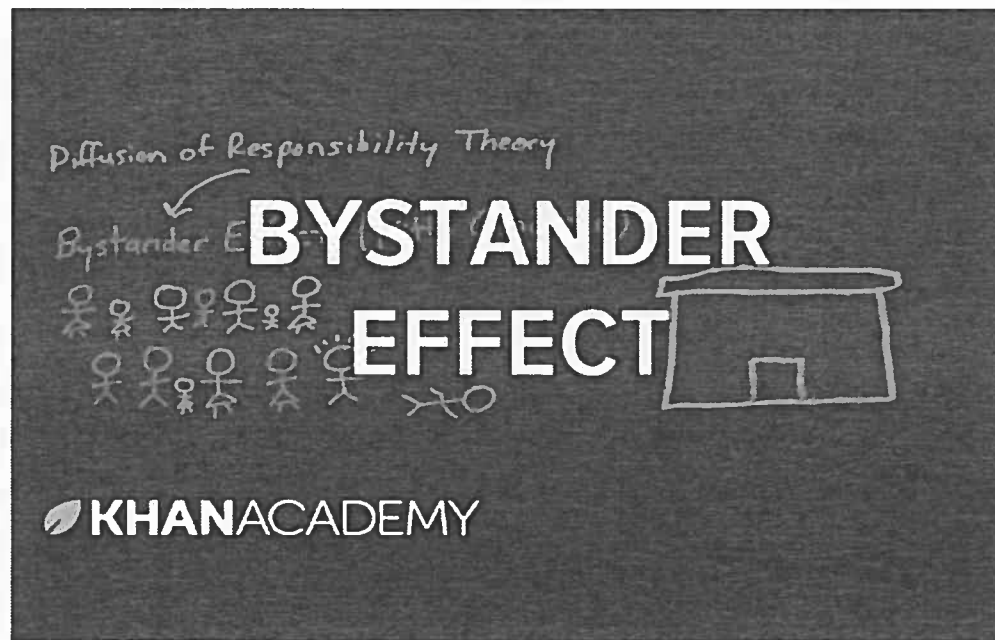
ALTRUISM

- Unselfish concern for the welfare of others
 - Ex., Wesley Autery – from the book he was able to save a nearby man who collapsed while waiting for a train. This man stumbled into the tracks and with the train approaching he had to decide to make a split decision and jumped in and saved him.
- What is the decision making process for bystander intervention? When in large groups of people a person is unlikely to receive help. There are three criterion to receive help

CONT. THE BYSTANDER EFFECT

- First the person must notice the incident
 - Interpret the event as an emergency.
 - Assume responsibility for helping.
- If that does not happen then the person won't receive help. Individuals are more apt to assume that someone else will help the person requiring assistance and will do nothing. This is known as the bystander effect

THE BYSTANDER EFFECT VIDEO



CONFLICT AND PEACEMAKING


- Our final point is conflict and peacemaking
 - People in conflict form evil images of one another. These distorted images are so similar that we call them mirror-image perceptions.
- Any examples of this in society?
- Would it help to put any two conflicting parties in the same room? Why or why not?



CONT.

Ex., with interracial contact, South African Whites' and Blacks' attitudes moved into closer alignment. They were less likely to fight or get into an argument.

Perhaps it would make sense to put to parties into close contact and there would be less of a likelihood for issues to continue – ex., less involvement in the Middle East?



THE END

- Turn in discussion questions asap, before *Monday* at 9pm
- How are things?
 - Everything making sense?
 - Any issues?

Discussion questions for Ch. 12

What is the fundamental attribution error? Define it. How does society do this? Are we as humans capable of succumbing to this? Describe a time when both you and or an event in society/culture used this fundamental attribution error successfully (sarcasm implied) (Don't make it extremely personal please just give me an idea or an event if you choose to give an example from your life) 2-3 pages. MLA. Use extra sources if possible when looking at society instead of yourself.

Describe what foot-in-the-door phenomenon is, have you experienced this? When during history has this occurred? 2-3 pages. MLA. Use textbook as a source or cite other articles

What is conformity? Should you as the individual conform to a group's desires etc., to simply "fit in?" what is group think? Is this a by-product of conformity? Explain. 2-4 pages. MLA. Use your textbook and one extra source to explain this question.