Article Interrogation

Student's Name

Course Name and Number

Date

Article Interrogation

**Article 1 Interrogation: The Psychology of Morality**

The Psychology of Morality: A Review and Analysis of Empirical Studies Published From 1940 Through 2019. By Ellemers, N., van der Toorn, J., Paunov, Y., and van Leeuwen, T. (2019). The article aims to present a review of empirical research on social psychology and morality to note which issues are documented in existing data and which require further empirical research (Ellemers et al., 2019). The paper is analyzed based on the four validities to determine how good or bad the article is on each front.

**Construct Validity**

The independent variables in the article are Moral Principles and Fairness. To operationalize these variables, the author has made use of past publications. The past publications were selected using a Web on Science engine, a database comprising empirical research articles on social psychology and morality (Ellemers et al., 2019). Apart from electronic research through the Web on Science database, the article also employs manual research to identify and collect publications meeting the research criteria. The keywords used in researching and identifying specific articles that met the research criteria included words such as 'moral' and 'social psychology.' A useful article for empirical review was determined based on it having one or more of the keywords in its abstract or title. The study then categorized the articles us

**Statistical Validity**

The study made use of a sample size of 1278 empirical publications on social psychology. The study results determined that there was an increase in publications relating to social psychology and morality. The study screened publications based on the originality of their data and their relation to morality. By screening the publications related to morality and eliminating unrelated publications, the study found an increased number of recent publications on social psychology and morality as compared to 1981.

**Internal Validity**

The results indicate an increase in publications of social psychology to 4,000 in 2014 compared to just 1,500 in 1981. Publications on morality have also increased in the same period from only ten in 1981 to over 100 in 2014. While morality remains a mere fraction of the total publications on social psychology, it, too, has experienced an increase in publications. The increase points to a growing interest in morality and social psychology as fields of study. However, the regression coefficient for morality publications at 0.27 as compared to 0.04 for other social psychology publications indicates a growing impact of morality studies, with morality publications facing increased scrutiny even among other social psychology publications (Ellemers et al., 2019).

**External Validity**

The study's results apply to a broader section of social psychologists as professionals. The study sample size draws from a wide and varied collection of publications. One can argued that if there has been an increase in overall publications in social psychology and morality as fields of study, then there is also an increase in the number of psychologists specializing in the field of social psychology and morality.

**Article 2 Interrogation: Effects of weapons on Aggressive Thoughts**

Effects of weapons on aggressive thoughts, angry feelings, hostile appraisals, and aggressive behavior: A meta-analytic review of the weapons effect literature. By Benjamin, A., Kepes, S. and Bushman, B. (2017). The article is a meta-analysis that integrates the results of the studies on weapon effect, carried out between the years 1967and 2017. The study aims to prove that weapons influence people to become aggressive, hostile, or engage in hostile behaviors. The ultimate goal of the analysis was to assess the effects of weapon presence on aggressive thoughts, aggressive behavior, and hostile appraisals (Benjamin et al., 2017).

**Construct Validity**

The independent variable in the study is the presence of weapons. In contrast, the dependent variables are the effect of the presence of weapons on individuals' aggressive or violent tendencies and thoughts. The study employed interrater reliabilities in the form of the rate of reaction to aggressive or non-aggressive words. The study also used filling in letters in incomplete expressions. The impact of weapons is measured based on the response a person gives. Such emotions as irritability, anger, physical actions such as clenching fists, and level of provocation of participants determine the impact of weapons on their aggression.

**Statistical Validity**

The study's results indicated that weapons influenced increasing aggressive thoughts and appraisals. The results are in line with the premise that weapons increase aggressive thoughts, behavior, and hostility. The influence of weapons was indicated on the mood scale employed in the study, with those in the presence of weapons displaying heightened aggressive thoughts, appraisals, hostility, and an increased reaction rate to provocation. However, the impact of weapons on aggressive behavior was not conclusive.

**Internal Validity**

The internal validity is perhaps the most important of the four validities in the study. Internal validity is indicative of whether the study can support the premise of the authors or not. Supporting the premise is a core determinant of the success and accuracy of the study as a whole. The authors wish to claim that weapons or the presence of weapons has an incremental effect on aggressive thoughts, behavior, and hostility. The variable controlled for was the presence of weapons. Tests were done on the rate of aggressive reaction to the provocation of individuals before and after they accessed weapons. A high rate of reaction or an increased tendency to aggressive thoughts in the presence or possession of a weapon displayed the influence of weapons and supported the premise. However, there was no control for biases within the study. Individuals were groups into men and women, college-educated or non-college educated, all with varying backgrounds (Benjamin et al., 2017). The study does not account for any other factors that may influence aggressive behavior, such as personality. Failing to account and control for such variables exposes the study to possible biases that may result in inconclusive results.

**External Validity**

The results of the study indicating an increase in aggressive tendencies in the presence of weapons cannot be generalized for a broader population, say within a workforce or town for crime control. However, the results indicate an increase in aggression in the presence of weapons, how the study sample was collected, and the use of naïve meta-analysis does not control for other variables, biases, and influences on aggression. The impact on aggressive behavior is also inconclusive, making it impossible to determine the impact weapons may have on aggression within the larger society and populace.

**References**

Benjamin, A., Kepes, S., & Bushman, B. (2017). Effects of weapons on aggressive thoughts, angry feelings, hostile appraisals, and aggressive behavior: A meta-analytic review of the weapons effect literature. Personality and Social Psychology Review, 22(4), 347-377. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088868317725419>

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