

Psicologia politica: metodi ed esperienze di indagine applicata

Scienze e Tecniche Psicologiche (a.a. 2023/2024)
Classe di Stage II semestre – T1 GLI LAB TURNO 1 GRUPPO I

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Scadenze – Lavoro di gruppo

❖ **Lezione 5**

- Scegliere la Variabile Dipendente (VD) e lo strumento di misura della VD
- Formulare le ipotesi di ricerca

❖ **Lezione 5/6**

- Scegliere eventuali Moderatori e/o Mediatori e gli strumenti di misura dei Mod e/o Med
- Ridefinire le ipotesi di ricerca, alla luce dell'aggiunta di eventuali Moderatori e/o Mediatori

❖ **Lezione 6/7**

- Implementare il questionario su Qualtrics

❖ **Lezione 7/8**

- Preparare la presentazione PowerPoint sul questionario

❖ **Lezione 9**

- Esposizione dei lavori di gruppo (presentazione PowerPoint, questionario su Qualtrics)



Credenze cospiratorie
Mentalità cospiratoria
Teorie del complotto
Fake news

Credenze cospiratorie, Mentalità cospiratoria e Fake news

- ❖ **Credenze cospiratorie:** tendenza a ritenere che eventi rilevanti di carattere sociale o politico (e.g., lo sbarco sulla Luna, l'assassinio di un personaggio politico importante) siano stati pianificati da qualche potente entità col fine di nascondere la verità e ingannare la società (e.g., Goertzel, 1994)
- ❖ **Mentalità cospiratoria:** sostenere una specifica teoria complottista rafforza le credenze cospiratorie in generale (e.g., Goertzel, 1994)
- ❖ **Fake news:** le teorie del complotto non sono fake news ma nel dibattito pubblico vengono spesso equiparate. Non tutte le fake news affermano che sia in corso un complotto e chi le diffonde è consapevole di stare creando disinformazione (COMPACT Education Group, 2020)

Credenze cospiratorie e Variabili socio-demografiche

- ❖ In letteratura non vi è molto accordo sulla relazione che le credenze cospiratorie intrattengono con le variabili socio-demografiche
 - per il **genere** e l'**età**, le correlazioni emerse risultano essere deboli e incoerenti tra loro e dipendere dai diversi tipi di teorie complottiste che vengono prese in considerazione (e.g., van Prooijen & Acker, 2015)
 - per il **livello di istruzione** le correlazioni sono spesso negative, ma non sempre significative (Douglas et al., 2016; van Prooijen, 2017)
 - lo **status socioeconomico percepito** correla negativamente con le credenze cospiratorie (Douglas et al., 2016; Goertzel, 1994)
 - l'**orientamento politico** e le credenze cospiratorie potrebbero avere una relazione rappresentabile con una curva a U, perché le persone che hanno un'ideologia radicale tendono a condividere i medesimi modelli psicologici di fondo (Krouwel, Kutiyski, van Prooijen, Martinsson & Markstedt, 2017)

Conspiracy beliefs

- ❖ Tendency to believe that powerful entities orchestrate relevant social or political issues to deceive society (Goreis & Voracek, 2019)
- ❖ Conspiracy theories gain relevance for the individual when they can satisfy epistemic, existential, and social needs (Douglas et al., 2017)
- ❖ Spread of conspiracy theories has increased consistently (→ distrust of knowledge produced by experts; e.g., Bergmann, 2020)
- ❖ Filter bubbles and echo chambers (online – but not only – environments):
 - ❖ confirmation bias, us vs. them
 - ❖ exclusion from the discourse of elites and those who do not identify with what is defined as the people (Engesser et al., 2017a, 2017b)
- ❖ Anti-system component:
 - ❖ despise the elite and exalt the people and their virtuous values

Conspiracy beliefs (Douglas et al, 2017)

Epistemic need for certainty

- ❖ “Conspiracy theories help cope with uncertainty and contradiction
- ❖ Belief increases in situations of uncertainty (van Prooijen & Jostmann, 2013)
- ❖ Belief in conspiracy theories is stronger when the motivation to find patterns is experimentally heightened (Whitson & Galinsky, 2008)”

Existential need for security

- ❖ “Feel anxious (Grzesiak-Feldman, 2013)
- ❖ Feel powerless (Abalakin-Paap et al., 1999)
- ❖ Lack personal and socio-political control (Bruder et al., 2013; van Prooijen & Acker, 2015)
- ❖ Feelings of paranoid thinking (Imhoff & Lamberty, 2018)”

Social needs for image protection

- ❖ “Conspiracy theories valorise the self and ingroup by blaming others for negative outcomes
- ❖ Linked to self-group-aggrandising tendencies:
- ❖ Narcissism (Cichocka, Marchlewska, & Golec de Zavala, 2016)
- ❖ Collective narcissism (Cichocka, Marchlewska, Golec de Zavala, & Olechowski, 2016)”

Belief in climate change conspiracy theories (Bertin et al., 2021)

1. The claim that the climate is changing due to emissions from fossil fuels is a hoax perpetrated by corrupt **scientists** who wish to spend more taxpayer money on climate research
2. Some **scientists** falsify their results, concluding that climate change is due to humans, in order to gain power and influence
3. In order to impose their neo-liberal political reforms, **Western governments** are developing the idea that climate change is caused by human activities
4. **The government**, in cahoots with large private groups, seeks to promote nuclear energy by spreading the idea that human beings emit too much carbon and that this causes climate change
5. **Some companies** are funding false climate change alarmist research to secure their investments in renewable energy
6. In order to increase their profits, **some multinationals** agree to finance organizations that accuse human beings of being the cause of climate change
7. **Some companies** having invested large sums of money in renewable energies are financing worrisome research into climate change in order to secure their investment

Belief in economic and financial conspiracy theories (Krowel et al., 2017)

1. The financial crisis was planned by **bankers and politicians** for their personal gain
2. **Large companies** in the pharmaceutical industry are deliberately spreading diseases to sell drugs
3. **Lobbyists** in the oil industry have paid politicians to wage wars in the Middle East
4. Many **politicians** in parliament have links to organized crime
5. **Left Politicians** want to keep people poor in order to secure their votes



Progetto: Costruzione di un questionario

Google Scholar

- ❖ **Link a lato** (e.g., ResearchGate) con i PDF/accesso più veloce all'articolo di ricerca
- ❖ **Supplementary materials** (nella pagina della rivista su cui è stato pubblicato l'articolo)

The screenshot shows the Google Scholar search results for the query "measuring populist attitudes". The search bar at the top shows the query and a search icon. Below the search bar, the results are displayed in a list. The first result is highlighted with a red box. The search results include the following information for each article:

- Article 1:** [PDF] Measuring populist attitudes. KA Hawkins, S Riding, C Mudde - 2012 - Citeseer. ... In this article we develop and deploy a new, survey-based measure of populist attitudes and use it to gauge the affinity for populism in the United States. We present the results of ...
- Article 2:** How populist are the people? Measuring populist attitudes in voters. A Akkerman, C Mudde... - Comparative political ... 2014 - journals.sagepub.com. ... In this article, we seek to measure populist attitudes directly and to investigate whether these attitudes can be linked with party preferences. The article is organized as follows. First, we ...
- Article 3:** Measuring populist attitudes on three dimensions. A Schulz, P Müller, C Schemer, DS Wirz... - ... Journal of Public ... 2018 - academic.oup.com. ... populist attitudes as a unidimensional construct. To address this issue, we propose to conceptualize populist attitudes ... test the construct validity of this measure of populist attitudes. The ...
- Article 4:** An empirical comparison of seven populist attitudes scales. B Castanho Silva, S Jungkunz... - Political Research ... 2020 - journals.sagepub.com. ... populist attitudes items that work better at capturing populism, ... different scales that supposedly measure the same construct. ... We do not expect that two items measuring populist attitudes ...

On the right side of the search results, there is a vertical list of links to PDF files, also highlighted with a red box:

- [PDF] psu.edu
- [PDF] sagepub.com ACNP Full Text
- [PDF] uzh.ch
- [PDF] sagepub.com ACNP Full Text

At the bottom of the search results, there is a section for "Ricerche correlate" (Related searches) with the following terms:

- measuring populist attitudes three dimensions
- measuring populist attitudes voters
- conceptualization and measurement populist attitudes
- activation of populist attitudes
- protest and discontent populist attitudes
- cross-national scales populist attitudes
- external political efficacy populist attitudes

The screenshot shows the Article Menu for a research article. The menu is displayed in a vertical sidebar on the right side of the page. The menu items are:

- Download PDF
- Open EPUB
- Did you struggle to get access to this article? This product could help you
- LEAN LIBRARY A SAGE Publishing Company
- Full Article
- Content List
 - Abstract
 - Introduction
 - Populism Defined
 - Measuring Populism: Data and Methods
- Supplemental Material
- Figures & Tables
- Article Metrics
- Cite
- Share
- Request Permissions

Dove trovare gli item?

- ❖ Articolo di ricerca

Metodo → Strumenti → Item di esempio → Materiali supplementari
(elenco item delle scale di misura)

- ❖ **Esercizio: Ricerca bibliografica**

- trovare da 3 a 5 strumenti di misura della variabile dipendente considerata nel vostro questionario

Per la fine della lezione

- ❖ Scegliere la Variabile Dipendente e lo strumento di misura della VD
- ❖ Formulare le ipotesi di ricerca
- ❖ Compilare il foglio Excel su e-Learning nella pagina della Classe di Stage, inserendo:
 - ipotesi di ricerca
 - variabile dipendente (indicando gli autori dello strumento di misura scelto)
 - eventuali altre variabili già decise/prese in considerazione

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- ❖ Van Prooijen, J.-W. (2017). Why education predicts decreased belief in conspiracy theories. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 31(1), 50–58. DOI: 10.1002/acp.3301
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