

EXPLORING PREJUDICE, DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

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Abstract

This article presents a review of the contribution of discursive social psychology to the study of prejudice and racism. At first I will discuss the theoretical and methodological characteristics of discursive social psychology showing that this field of social psychology has re-specified some of the traditional socio-cognitive approaches to stereotyping, prejudice and racism by shifting its emphasis on the study of the discursive practices, on the discourse which is seen as the action that construes reality. The paper ends with a presentation of what is known as “critical discursive social psychology”, which scope’s is to investigate the way in which some forms, discursive practices, institute, modify, create and reproduce patterns of social inequality and unequal relations of power which function on an ideological level. The basic idea of this approach, which has major implications for the study of prejudice and racism, is to highlight the social, political and ideological consequences of different types of discursive organizations such as naturalization and the legitimate dominance and maintenance of the status-quo.

Keywords: *prejudice, racism, discursive practices*

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