

## What is dehumanization?



Source: Haslam, links between conceptions of humanness and corresponding forms of dehumanization

we propose that **dehumanizing media** is any such media which seeks to...

1. spread lies and negative evaluations of a group
2. portray a group as barbaric, amoral, irrational, unintelligent, uncreative, and unfeeling
3. inflame hostile sentiments against a group
4. justify atrocities against - or general mistreatment of - a group

## What could anti-dehumanization look like?

What we've come up with so far is that **anti-dehumanizing media should do the following...**

1. **Expose lies and makes the reality visible to otherwise blind groups**
2. **Make the individual salient in someone's mind (self-assertion is a term that gets thrown around)**
3. **Attributes human experiences to groups (love, individualism, grief, etc.) - attempt the reverse of Haslam's model**
4. **Connects dots to make the arc of history apparent**

## How do we teach anti-dehumanization?

- Dr. Mindich will discuss journalism specifically, so I want to discuss how we handle anti-dehumanization in social science fields where we use a lot of data analysis:
    - *The Politics of Large Numbers* (Desrosières, 1998) → statistics allow administrators and researchers to think about large groups.
      - Unfortunately, where the subsuming of the individual into a group goes, so too, very often, does dehumanization
    - Telling individual stories is one way to combat this issue
    - Teaching the ecological fallacy (inferences about individuals based on statistics of the group) is another strategy
    - Critical analysis of data sources and structures, and the motivation behind data analysis is another strategy
- Fun fact, I didn't get to think about any of this until my master's education.

## But should we teach anti-dehumanization?

- Does it create value in the education of future professionals?
- Does it create undue burden on the instructors?

- Does it distract from the basic skills and concepts we are expected to teach?