

Gender prejudice among mothers, fathers and young adults: similarities or differences?

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Despite the large number of studies investigating prejudice, little work has examined prejudice within the context of family relations. During an individual's life cycle, the family is a privileged context in which s/he learns beliefs, attitudes, models, values, and norms (Cigoli, Marta & Tamanza, 2000). It is conceivable that prejudice is also included in these family socialization processes. The most frequently used strategies to measure similarities and differences between parents and their children can be broken down into two types: a *variable-centered* strategy, that compares the group characteristics of different family members; and a *couple-centered* strategy, that creates dyads and conceptualizes them with respect to a specific construct (Lanz & Rosnati, 2002).

The present research will investigate the similarities and differences between parents and children in their gender prejudice, in relation to the type of measurement strategy chosen, and the impact of *cultural stereotypes* on these.

196 family triads participated in the present study. Each participant was administered a self-report questionnaire that contained Italian versions (Manganelli, Volpato & Canova, 2007) of the *Ambivalent Sexism Inventory*, and of the *Ambivalence toward Men Inventory* (Glick & Fiske, 1996; 1999).

Our data suggest two aspects that future research can take into consideration. The first is methodological: when choosing analyses to use when investigating the theme of prejudice within the family, it is critical that they be appropriate for the objectives. The second, more conceptual aspect, is the knowledge that gender prejudice can be considered specific to the social context (*cultural stereotypes*).