

# DOWNLOAD PDF STATUS CHARACTERISTICS AND SOCIAL INTERACTION

## Chapter 1 : Achieved status - Wikipedia

*"Status Characteristics and Social Interaction," with Berger and Cohen, American Sociological Review Read More This literature demonstrates that status characteristics, such as age, sex, and race determine the distribution of participation, influence, and prestige among members of such groups.*

Scope[ edit ] The theory attempts to explain: Specifically, this theory explains unequal distribution of participation, influence, and prestige between members of the group. This theory has implications for macro- and population-level hierarchy and inequality between groups. In general, expectation states theory is meant to explain the way that interpersonal status hierarchies work. Expectation states theory originated in the sociology literature and started with observations about differences in participation, influence, and prestige across members small groups, and these differences varied as a function of status characteristics. The primary goal of expectation state theory as applied to gender is to explain how observed differences between social groups become the basis for inequality in everyday social encounters. Forebears[ edit ] In general, expectation states theory is meant to explain the way that interpersonal status hierarchies work Berger et al. Ridgeway also draws on status construction theory which states that as various groups e. If this effect is repeated over time, the group with the higher status hierarchy will become more influential and the group with the lower status hierarchy will be more likely to give in to what the higher status group wants. There are two types of status characteristics in status characteristics theory. Diffuse status characteristics operates in a culture if one state i. Specific status characteristics do not have the third requirement i. Reward expectations theory suggests that individuals who receive greater rewards are expected to be more competent than group members who do not receive high level of rewards. Basic assumptions[ edit ] Berger et al. Assignment If any components of an activated diffuse status characteristic are relevant to characteristic predictive of success, p will assign states of characteristic predictive of success to self and other in a consistent manner. In addition to the assumptions identified by Berger et al. First, that men and women see their gender differences as salient. This is something that could differ based on the task that the group is working on or what their common goal is , their cultural norms are they more liberal or more conservative may be more relevant than if they were working on a less gendered task e. If men and women are working on a highly gendered task for example, a marketing team working on an advertising campaign for lipstick , expectation states then advertising campaign for flu vaccinations. Similarly, expectation states theory may be less relevant when referring to a group of individuals who do not conform to gender norms versus those that do. Expectation states theory makes a number of unique assumptions in accounting for gender inequality. The theory can therefore account for not only gender inequality, but also racial and other types of inequality. In other words, status beliefs imply not only group differences but also group inequality. Third, expectation states theory makes no assumptions regarding gender differences in individual ability to lead or achieve high levels of success. Thus, gender inequality will typically not surface except in mixed-sex groups, particularly if they are working on a task that is relevant to stereotypical gendered competence. These theories make similar predictions about how gender inequality is most likely to surface in contexts of cooperative interdependence and the "prescriptive element" of gender beliefs. However, the distinguishing feature here is that Expectation States Theory holds this prescriptive element to relate not only to gender but to any group distinction that may foster inequality. Locations and contexts of application[ edit ] Close relationships: However, status hierarchy and expectation states theory may also influence close relationships, particularly if the situation is new or unusual. Overall, whether expectations state theory operates within close relationships might depend on how egalitarian the views of the individuals in the family are. For example, a highly egalitarian couple would relate to each other based on their legitimate experience. A less egalitarian couple may fall into "traditional" husband and wife roles because their status beliefs may serve as a crutch for how to act in their new and unfamiliar situation. Expectation states is based on how group interactions are influenced by implicit status characteristics. If someone holds legitimate

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expertise, she may be able to overcome the negative attributions associated with her gender, but this may not always be the case. Culture broadly defined, including popular culture, media Expectation states theory emerges based on cultural stereotypes and status beliefs. Although, there is that self-fulfilling prophecy aspect of expectation states, so perhaps it is cyclical in the lens of culture as a whole as well. Formation of status beliefs[ edit ] At the heart of expectation states theory is the concept of status beliefs. Status beliefs are defined as "widely held cultural beliefs that link greater social significance and general competence, as well as specific positive and negative skills, with one category of a social distinction compared to another". That is, they are perceived to have advantages in influencing members of other groups, due to possessing greater resources such as money or prestige. If such perceived differences are observed across multiple interactions, in multiple contexts, they may become ingrained as a status belief. Over time and repeated interactions, such beliefs can give rise to a hierarchy, in which individuals from groups with perceived greater status are granted power, authority, and influence over groups perceived to have lower status. The construction and enacting of status beliefs typically appears consensual, in that both the perceived higher and lower status groups take part in their formation and propagation. In summary, status beliefs, which hold men to possess greater competence, have a prescriptive element. Due to the notion that status beliefs are widely held, they have great power in determining the behavior of both men and women in mixed gender settings. The theory holds that while people are sex-categorized in almost every situation, they are also categorized according to other markers as well e. Depending on which status characteristics are salient at a given time, gender and such other identities will combine to influence the ultimate performance expectations held by the individual and observers. However, it does explain how people come to believe that there are essential differences based in gender: Beliefs about essential differences between genders are an important part of the theory because people draw on these beliefs mostly unconsciously in important ways. Within small groups that share a collective goal, group members need to decide who in the group will be most instrumental in achieving the goal i. These essential beliefs come into play when group members decide whom they should listen to men and who should listen and provide support women. Even if members of the subordinate group do not personally endorse the status beliefs, they still assume that others will treat them according to these widely shared beliefs and therefore must take these beliefs into account in their own behavior. Ridgeway and Erickson found that status beliefs spread when people were treated in ways consistent with the beliefs. Sexuality, including sexual orientation Expectations states theory does not directly address this. To the extent that sexual orientation is a concealed identity at least to others , sexual orientation may not be within the scope of expectations states theory. There may be value in exploring the intersectionality between sexual orientation and gender in expectation states theory. However, since expectation states theory typically focuses on work groups this may be less applicable people may be unlikely to share their sexual orientation with their coworkers than other attributes such as race. Women are stereotypically communal and lower status than men. There has been empirical support for an implicit hierarchy gender stereotype. Mast found that the association between men and hierarchical and between woman and egalitarian was stronger than the associate between men and egalitarian and women and hierarchical. The implicit hierarchy gender stereotype is stronger for men than it is for women, which means men end up with more status and power than women. These status beliefs are "widely held cultural beliefs that link greater social significance and general competences, as well as positive and negative skills, with one category of social distinction compared to another" Ridgeway, p. Because these are so ingrained in culture, individual accomplishments cannot overcome the disadvantages that come with being in a lower status group. Thomas-Hunt and Phillips found that female leaders who held expertise were less influential than male leaders, and that having expertise actually decreased how expert others perceived them to be. These differences were also reflected in group performance groups with male experts outperformed those with female experts. Diversity within and between groups, particularly intersections of social identity Expectation states theory does not address intersectional issues. However, because the theory argues that people draw on information based on their identities, intersectionality is relevant. For instance,

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how do people process identities that are dually marginalized black women? Are these women based on cumulative status characteristics going to be less influential than white women? There have been studies that look at difference between different intersections. For example, Dugger found that African American women typically endorse more moderate forms of status beliefs than White women. However, they conducted two studies, each looking at a different grouping. This would have been a prime example of a study that may have benefited from an intersectionality framework. Origins of gender Nature vs. Nurture This theory does not deal with nature; it deals with "nurture. How do we "get" gender? Expectation states theory does not touch on the development of gender identity. Again, it is more about how other perceive and responses to that perception. Gender is explained as an external, diffuse status characteristic that is used in groups to create expectations about an individuals performance capacity. The theory says that social role theory explains the ultimate origin, which is that physical differences, lead to the perception of psychological differences via observations of divisions of labor by sex. Experimental tests[ edit ] One characteristic of expectation states theory that sets it apart from many other psychology or sociological theories of inequality is that it has been tested empirically. In particular, recent experimental studies have tested and found support for the development of status beliefs relating to gender. In particular, a study by Ridgeway and colleagues [6] placed men and women into a fabricated decision-making scenario, in which members of one group were manipulated to have greater resources than another. Results showed that both men and women were more likely to listen to ascribe greater authority to individuals in the high status group, suggesting that both men and women take part in the formation and propagation of status beliefs. The researchers also found that, when women were in the high status group, they would perceive themselves to have legitimate authority, but would be less likely to act on it than would male participants. It was suggested that this hesitation may arise out of a perceived greater social consequence for women who wrongfully exert authority than for men. Evidence for gender and leadership emergence[ edit ] Much of the research evidence on Expectation States Theory regards women and leadership emergence. In order for such research to support Expectation States Theory, five pieces of evidence must be presented. Second, these same results should be stronger in mixed-sex groups working on a masculine task because the status beliefs should be even more salient. Third, women should show slightly higher levels of emergence when the task is feminine in nature. This is because women are attributed higher competence in such situations. Finally, differences in leadership emergence should be mediated by competence perceptions. First, there is a good amount of evidence showing that men in mixed sex groups show more signs of leadership emergence. In a study of 24 mixed sex dyads performing a non-gendered task, men showed higher levels of power through verbal and nonverbal communication. Similarly, Wood and Karten [7] observed that men engaged in more task-related behaviors such as opinion-giving while working in four-person mixed-sex groups. A recent meta-analysis found that men are more talkative than women in general but that the difference is even greater in mixed-sex groups. However, a recent study by Burke, Stets, and Cerven [10] found that even when women were selected into a formal managerial role they used more of the resources they had at their disposal. The second piece of evidence was that men should show even more signs of leadership emergence when the task is masculine in nature. First, men showed higher levels of verbal and nonverbal communication than women on a gender-neutral task. However, when the dyads worked on a masculine task discussing changing oil in a car , the difference became ever greater.

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## Chapter 2 : Status Characteristics and Social Interaction - CORE

*STATUS CHARACTERISTICS AND SOCIAL INTERACTION 1. Background and statement of the problem. The purpose of the present paper is to study the ways in which status.*

This is usually associated with "closed" societies. Achieved status is distinguished from ascribed status by virtue of being earned. Many positions are a mixture of achievement and ascription; for instance, a person who has achieved the status of being a physician is more likely to have the ascribed status of being born into a wealthy family. This is usually associated with "open" societies or "social" class societies. Some people with achieved status have improved their position within the social system via their own merit and achievements. Someone may also have achieved status that decreases their position within the social system, such as by becoming a notorious criminal. Cultural capital[ edit ] Cultural capital is a concept, developed by sociologist Pierre Bourdieu , that can refer to both achieved and ascribed characteristics. It may include high expectations, forms of knowledge, skill, and education, among other things. Parents provide children with cultural capital, the attitudes and knowledge that make the educational system a comfortable familiar place in which they can succeed easily. There are other types of capital as well; Social capital refers to ones membership in groups, relationships, and networks. It too can have a significant impact on achievement level. Education[ edit ] Industrialization has led to a vast increase in the possible standard of living for the average person but also made this increase necessary. For the productivity of the average worker to rise, he or she had to receive far more education and training. This successively made the average worker much less replaceable and therefore more powerful. Employment[ edit ] According to sociologist Rodney Stark , few Americans believe coming from a wealthy family or having political connections is necessary to get ahead. In contrast, many people in other industrialized nations think these factors are necessary for advancement. While most nations value hard work, the Italians , for example, are hardly more likely to rate it as very important than they are to think one needs political connections. Income[ edit ] People with a lower income will generally be a better example of moving up in the social stratification and achieving status. This holds to be evident in most cases because those who accrue a lower income usually have the motivation to achieve a greater status through their own ambitions and hard work. Those of higher income are typically the result of achieving status. In other cases the people of higher income may have unjustly acquired that position, or were ascribed the status and income they hold such as monarchs, family run businesses, etc. Those without the privilege of ascribing their status will generally have the greater motivation of achieving their own status. The general economic well being of the society the person lives in also tends to be another factor in their status and to what extent they are able to achieve their status. For example, Americans are less likely than people in other industrialized nations to object to current income variances. According to Rodney Stark , in , only twenty-seven percent of Americans strongly agreed that income disparities in their country were too large. In contrast, more than half of Russians , Italians , and Bulgarians agreed with this statement. Societies differ markedly on several dimensions in this process: People born into the noble class were likely to keep a high position and people born of peasants were likely to stay in a low position. This political system is known as feudalism and does not allow for much social mobility. Feudalism in Latin America[ edit ] Bolivia has had past newspaper advertisements that claimed to have land, animals and peasants for sale. In Ernesto Laclau addressed the argument of whether Latin America was either under a social system of feudalism or capitalism. He determined that the social system was extremely different from the capitalistic system in Europe and America, so therefore Latin America would be more closely related to have a Feudalism approach to social interaction. Caste The formation of hierarchy differs somewhere between the polarities of given and achieved status. Traditional society in South Asia and other parts of the world such as Egypt, India, Japan, and others were composed of castes. Each group was limited to certain occupations. Low paying occupations such as collecting garbage, were reserved for one caste, whose members were excluded from holding any other occupation. Correspondingly, highly skilled

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occupations, such as being a priest, goldsmith , were reserved for another caste. However, some people managed through talent and luck to rise above their given caste. For example, great aptitude as a soldier was often a way to reach a higher status.

## Chapter 3 : Expectation states theory - Wikipedia

*This paper investigates how we infer the status of others from their social relationships. In a series of experimental studies, we test the effects of a social relationship's type and direction on.*

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