Theoretical Perspectives on Evil

METTE MORELL NØRRE GYM 2012
Central Experiments and Selected Theories

- Milgram - Obidience
- Zimbardo – Role and Behavior
- Asch – Conformity
- Sherif – Robber’s Cave
- Jane Elliott – A Class Divided
- Bandura – Cognitive Restructuring
- Schema Theory and Stereotyping
- Harris and Fiske – Dehumanisation Theory
Proposes a discussion of whether you can in fact ‘quantify evil’

- Ethical concerns
- Responsibility
- Agentic State
- Authorities
- Experimental psychology – variables – ecological validity
- Quantitative versus Qualitative data
- Deceit and Debriefing of subjects – how are they today?
Background and methodology: Zimbardo

- The importance of the role on behavior
- Depersonalization, dehumanization, deindividualization
- Who/what is responsible? The bad apples? The bad barrels? The barrelmakers?
- Evil as threefold: Dispositional, Situational, Systemic

Using children as participants – ethical concerns

Conformity – when do you conform to social norms?

Peer Pressure?

Conformity types?
  - Normative?
  - Informative?
Discussing Schema Theory and Stereotyping

- Possible focus on Nazism and Holocaust
- Eugenics
- Use examples of Der Ewige Jude
- Propaganda/Indoctrination
- Discussion of the process of stereotyping
  - Categorization
  - Stereotyping
  - Illusory Correlations
  - Discrimination
Evil in Society Today?

- Perspectives
- Bullying
- Discrimination
- Psychopathy
- Crime
- Violence
- Minorities

- Other Areas of Psychology
  - Developmental Psychology
  - Biological Psychology
  - Abnormal Psychology
  - Case Studies
  - Forensic Psychology