

Preliminary scientific report on the implementation of the project
„Emotions and morality: the influences of emotion regulation strategies on moral judgments”,
acronym ESMISDREAJM Project type: PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-2872, Contract number:
155/01.10.2015
during October-December 2015

The general aim of the project is to investigate the influences of emotion regulation on moral judgments and to analyze the differences between the effects of two major emotion regulation strategies (reappraisal and suppression) in this respect, as well as the cognitive, motivational, affective and embodiment – related mediators and moderators of these effects. The project proposes four studies, one correlational and three experimental studies.

The activities that have been undertaken in the period October-December 2015 towards this aim were:

1. literature search and review in order to update the set of studies used as bibliographic material on which the theoretical background of the four studies would be built, by including the publications issued after December 2014.

2. the analysis of these publications in order to identify the theoretical models relevant for the area of emotion regulation and moral judgment, the research designs used in the empirical studies in this new set, and the materials and instruments employed in these studies.

3. the selection and translation of the psychological evaluation instruments that will be used in the four empirical studies, targeting: the strategies of emotion regulation (Emotion Regulation Questionnaire - Gross & John, 2003), the use of experiential suppression (Acceptance and Avoidance Questionnaire - Hayes et al., 2004), emotional clarity (Trait Meta Mood Scale - Palmieri et al., 2009), need for cognition (Cacioppo et al., 1984), trust in intuitions (Betsch, 2004), sensitivity to bodily indexes (Miller et al., 1981).

4. the selection, adaptation and preparation for pilot studies of the materials targeting moral evaluations and decisions (moral scenarios and dilemmas); they are pilot-tested in the interval 2-15 December 2015.

5. the planning of the four studies, more precisely the planning of participants (student groups) which would be included in these studies and their allocation in the experimental groups,

taking into account the capacity of the laboratory; given the status of the previous activities and the structure of the university year, these studies are planned as follows:

Study 1. Correlational research on the associations between emotion regulation and two major types of moral judgment (moral appraisals and moral decisions) – month 4 of the project (January 2016).

Study 2. Experimental research on the moral contamination phenomenon generated by emotion suppression – month 6 of the project (March 2016). The proposed date for submitting for publication the manuscript that will present the results of the first two studies is month 14 of the project (November 2016).

Study 3. Experimental research on the “moral rebound” effect generated by emotion suppression – month 7 of the project (April 2016). The proposed date for submitting for publication the manuscript that will present the results of this study is month 15 of the project (December 2016).

Study 4. Experimental research on the differences between cognitive reappraisal and suppression in what regards the decisions in moral dilemmas – month 13 of the project (October 2016). The proposed date for submitting for publication the manuscript that will present the results of this study is month (May 2017).

We undertook the following dissemination activities, based on the critical synthesis of the studies already published in the field of emotion regulation and moral judgment, and on the research designs we proposed in the project:

1. a presentation in national conference: Holman, A. *Emotion suppression and moral judgment*. International Conference on Applied Psychology 6-th Edition, Iasi 22-24 Oct. 2015.

2. writing and submitting a manuscript- Holman, A., Pascal, E. *Emotion regulation and moral judgment: future avenues of research* – to the BDI journal *Psihologia socială*.

Date

3.12.2015

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