



UNIVERSITY  
OF TRENTO - Italy  
Department of Psychology  
and Cognitive Science

# Small group meeting

# OBJECTIFICATION: SEEING AND TREATING OTHER PEOPLE AS OBJECTS

## 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Palazzo Fedrigotti - corso Bettini, 31 - Rovereto, Italy

Objectification represents a powerful and potentially damaging way in which we can see and treat others. When people become tools, instruments, or objects of our appreciation they can lose out on their humanity, inner mental life, and sometimes even moral standing. This objectification can have a sexual element - sexualized women and men become objects of our sexual attention. However, objectification goes beyond the sexual sphere; it can be the worker or the boss, the patient or the practitioner who becomes the object. Objectification - reducing a someone to a something - can occur in any human relationship.

Despite this importance and breadth, the interpersonal aspects of objectification and its connections to morality, dehumanization, motivation, and social cognition have only recently received social psychological attention. We aim to draw on this attention, hosting a comprehensive and broad summary of the psychology of objectification. This could include work on the causes of objectification (e.g., media, parenting, evolution), the nature of objectification in different domains (e.g., sex, gender, work, healthcare), the socio-cognitive processes of objectification (e.g., visual attention, memory, communication) and the consequences of objectification (e.g., aggression, control, sexism).

#### SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZERS

**Steve Loughnan** - School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences - University of Edinburgh (UK)

**Jeroen Vaes** - Department of Psychology and Cognitive Sciences University of Trento (Italy)

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

[www.unitn.it/cogsci-peopleasobjects](http://www.unitn.it/cogsci-peopleasobjects)

#### CONTACTS:

**Jeroen Vaes:** [jeroen.vaes@unitn.it](mailto:jeroen.vaes@unitn.it)

**Steve Loughnan:** [steve.loughnan@ed.ac.uk](mailto:steve.loughnan@ed.ac.uk)

**Staff for Communication - Rovereto**  
Communication and Events Office  
University of Trento  
[comunicazione-rovereto@unitn.it](mailto:comunicazione-rovereto@unitn.it)

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