

Dispositions toward ridicule and being laughed at: Current research on gelotophobia, gelotophilia, and katagelasticism

Gelotophobia (fear of being laughed at), gelotophilia (joy in being laughed at), and katagelasticism (joy in laughing at others) describe three different dispositions toward ridicule and being laughed at. Since the publication of the first empirical article on gelotophobia using the GELOPH measure (Ruch & Proyer, 2008) and the introduction of the PhoPhiKat-45 (Ruch & Proyer, 2009) as a measure of all three dispositions, there has been a lot of basic and applied research on how people deal with ridicule and laughter. The aim of this symposium is to present and discuss some recent research findings based on samples from different countries. In the first paper, Willibald Ruch, a leading researcher in this field, presents the findings on the expression of gelotophobia in 78 countries and its relations to some cultural dimensions such as collectivism and short-term orientation. In the second paper Vera Ćubela Adorić presents the results of the first study using the Croatian version of the PhoPhiCat45, which examined the relationships of gelotophobia, gelotophilia and katagelasticism with humiliation, core self-evaluation and resilience. The third paper, by Tracey Platt, presents the results of a study focusing on the affective and physical responses to ridicule and teasing in extreme gelotophobia. The final paper by Vera Ćubela Adorić presents the results of another study in Croatia focusing on katagelasticism and its relationships with the dark tetrad traits, attitudes toward gossip and tendency to gossip.

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