



HAL
open science

Preventing stigma and dehumanization towards persons with alcoholic use disorder: A multicategorization proposition

Pauline Rasset, Nicolas Cabé, Jessica Mange

► To cite this version:

Pauline Rasset, Nicolas Cabé, Jessica Mange. Preventing stigma and dehumanization towards persons with alcoholic use disorder: A multicategorization proposition. 17th Congress of the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism, Sep 2019, Lille, France. 2020, 10.13140/RG.2.2.34724.63368 . hal-03261320

HAL Id: hal-03261320

<https://normandie-univ.hal.science/hal-03261320>

Submitted on 15 Jun 2021

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Preventing stigma and dehumanization towards persons with alcoholic use disorder: A multicategorization proposition

Pauline Rasset^a, Nicolas Cabé^{bc}, Jessica Mange^a

^a Normandie Univ, UNICAEN, Laboratoire de Psychologie Caen Normandie (LPCN, EA 4649), Pôle Santé, Maladies, Handicaps - MRSH (USR 3486, CNRS-UNICAEN), 14000 Caen, France

^b Normandie Univ, UNICAEN, PSL Research University, EPHE, INSERM, U1077, CHU de Caen, Neuropsychologie et Imagerie de la Mémoire Humaine, 14000 Caen, France

^c Service d'Addictologie, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Caen, 14000 Caen, France

INTRODUCTION

Persons affected by **Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)** are heavily **stigmatized** notably because they have to deal with **negative stereotypes** (e.g., unpredictably), especially when compared to other mental disorders¹.

Recent models suggest that AUD patients could also be the victims of a **dehumanization** process². Dehumanization occurs when people are viewed as having less **uniquely human traits (UH; e.g., intelligence)** or **human nature traits (HN; e.g., sensibility)**. This process can also be expressed through dementalization when people are seen as less able to be **agentic** (i.e., the capacity to do) or to **experience** life (i.e., the capacity to feel and sense)³.

Two strategies will be tested to prevent negative stereotypes and dehumanization: **multiple categorization** (i.e., emphasizing multiple group membership; e.g., through nationality, occupation) and **individuation** (i.e., emphasizing the individuating information; e.g., what a person enjoys doing)⁴.

AIMS

1. Specifying **dimensions of both stereotypes and dehumanization** involved in stigma towards AUD patients
2. Testing **strategies** to prevent both processes

METHOD AND MATERIAL

132 participants ($M = 18.94$ yrs, $SD = 1.14$)

Paper-and-pencil survey:

- Attribution of stereotypic traits
- Attribution of uniquely human (UH) and human nature (HN) traits
- Attribution of agentism and experience

RESULTS - Stereotypes and dehumanization of individuals with AUD

Individuals with AUD are:

Negatively stereotyped $t(45) = 4.14, p < .001$

→ having low competence

Dehumanized $t_s > 3.92, p_s < .001$

→ having low UH and HN traits

→ not very able to be agentic

No stereotype regarding warmth and experience has been demonstrated.

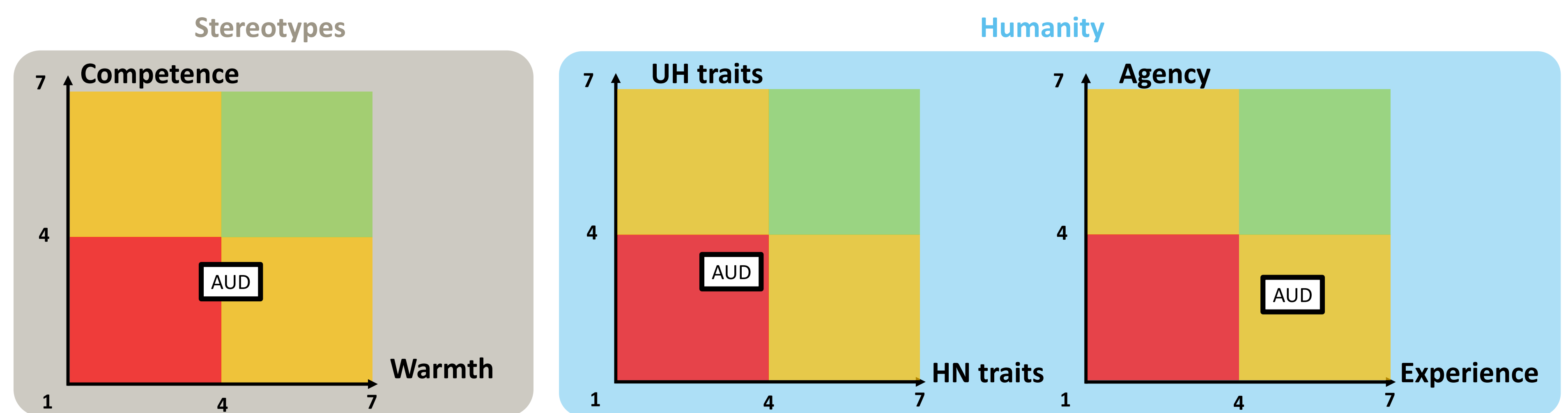


Figure 1. Schematic representation of AUD perception on each dimension

RESULTS - Prevention

Multiple categorization improves the perception of AUD targets by:

- Increasing the perception of both their competence and their warmth ($F(2,129) = 56.84, p < .001, \eta^2 = .31$)
- Increasing the perception of both their UH and HN traits ($F(2,129) = 12.48, p < .001, \eta^2 = .16$)
- But neither on their experience nor their agentism ($F_s < 1$)

No improvement due to the adding of individuated information has been evidenced.

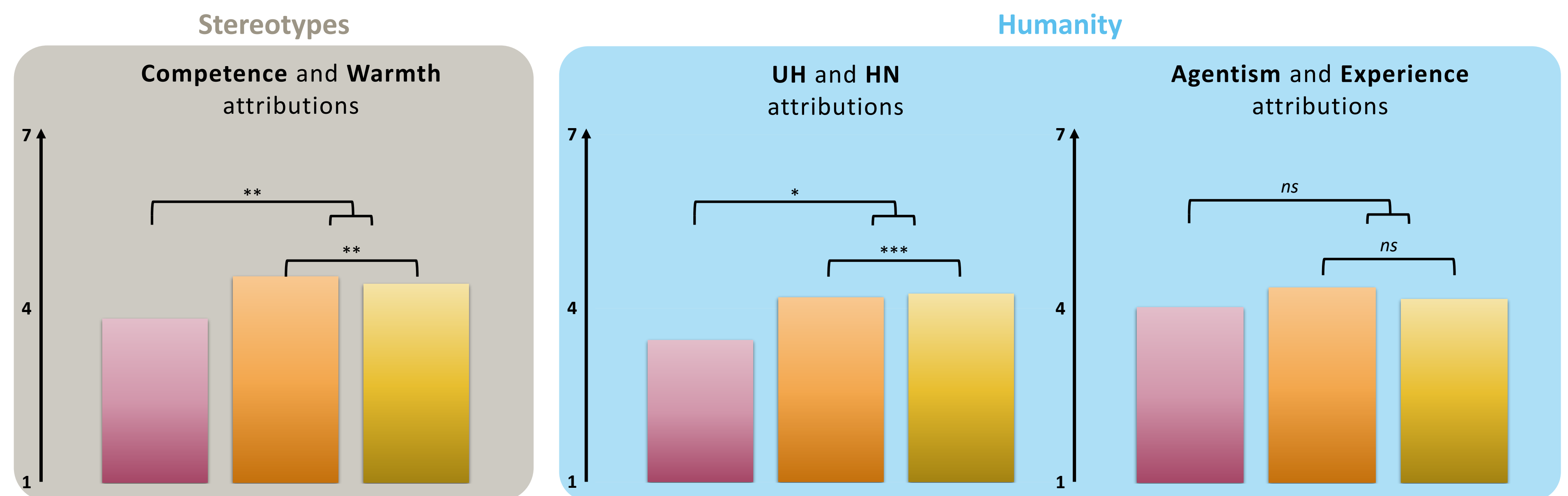


Figure 2. Computed means of each dimension attribution depending on the experimental condition

3 experimental conditions (between subjects) based on the presentation of the AUD target
 SC: Stigmatising category only
 MC: Stigmatising category + Multiple categorization
 MCI: Stigmatising category + Multiple categorization + Individuating information

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$ specifying significant Helmert contrasts

CONCLUSION

Even among a **population aware** of the difficulties they face such as psychology students, AUD persons are **stigmatized**, especially on their competence. They are also **dehumanized** on the basis of their UH and HN traits and on agentism.

Multiple categorization is an effective strategy to **prevent dehumanization** and **negative stereotypes** in situations of **impression formation** and could be useful to implement in **teaching** and **clinical practice**. The added value of the individuating information needs further investigation.

REFERENCES

- ¹ Schomerus, G., Lucht, M., Holzinger, A., Matschinger, H., Carta, M. G., & Angermeyer, M. C. (2011). The Stigma of Alcohol Dependence Compared with Other Mental Disorders: A Review of Population Studies. *Alcohol and Alcoholism*, 46(2), 105–112.
- ² Fontesse, S., Demoulin, S., Stinglhamber, F., & Maurage, P. (2019). Dehumanization of psychiatric patients: Experimental and clinical implications in severe alcohol-use disorders. *Addictive Behaviors*, 89, 216–223.
- ³ Haslam, N., & Loughnan, S. (2014). Dehumanization and Infrahumanization. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 65, 5.1-5.25.
- ⁴ Prati, F., Crisp, R. J., Meleady, R., & Rubini, M. (2016). Humanizing Outgroups Through Multiple Categorization: The Roles of Individuation and Threat. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 42(4), 526–539.

CONTACT

pauline.rasset@unicaen.fr
 nicolas.cabe@unicaen.fr
 jessica.mange@unicaen.fr

Laboratoire de Psychologie Caen Normandie
 Université de Caen Normandie
 Esplanade de la paix
 14032 Caen Cedex 05
 France
 +33 2 31 56 66 30