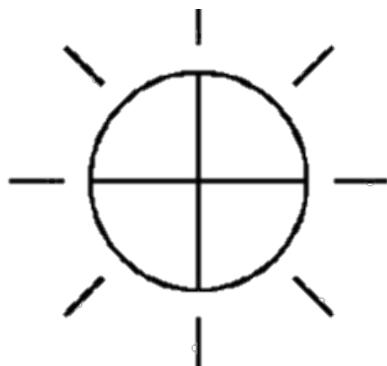


**UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES**

**FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES PSYCHOLOGIQUES ET DE L'ÉDUCATION**

# **From the Trenches to Europe**

## **Do Memories of the Great War Shape Contemporary Pacifist Attitudes?**



**Pierre Bouchat**

Dissertation préparée sous la direction de Monsieur et Madame les Professeur.e.s Olivier Klein et Valérie Rosoux en vue de l'obtention du titre de Docteur en Sciences Psychologiques

Juin 2017

# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

1. A Snapper Dish .....	2
2. No more War!.....	3
3. A matter of Context.....	4
4. Overview of the Thesis.....	5

## PART I. SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS OF WAR AND PACIFIST ATTITUDES

I. THEORETICAL INTRODUCTION.....	8
1. Social Representations.....	9
1.1. <i>Origins</i> .....	9
1.2. <i>More than a Concept</i> .....	11
1.3. <i>Different Approaches</i> .....	12
1.3.1. <i>Structural</i> .....	12
1.3.2. <i>Socio-dynamic</i> .....	14
1.4. <i>Social Representations of History</i> .....	16
2. Attitudes.....	19
2.1. <i>Attitudes and Social Representations</i> .....	20
2.1.1. <i>Structural Approach</i> .....	21
2.1.2. <i>Socio-dynamic Approach</i> .....	23
3. Social Representations and Attitudes Toward Peace and War.....	24
3.1. <i>Social representations of war</i> .....	24
3.1.1. <i>Structural</i> .....	24
3.1.2. <i>Socio-dynamic</i> .....	25
3.2. <i>Attitudes Toward Peace and War</i> .....	27
3.3. <i>Social Representations of War and Pacifist Attitudes</i> .....	31
4. Summary and Conclusion.....	32

<b>II. EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE.....</b>	34
1. Overview and Rationale of the Studies.....	35
2. A Century of Victimhood: Antecedents and Current Impacts of Perceived Suffering in World War I Across Europe.....	37
2.1. Victimization in World War I.....	40
2.2. Acknowledgment of Inflicted Suffering.....	42
2.3. Effects of Collective Victimhood on Pacifist Attitudes.....	43
2.4. Method.....	47
2.5. Results.....	52
2.6. Discussion.....	63
3. World War What? A Study of the Representations of the Great War in Europe	
4.1. Societal-level Perspective.....	72
4.2. A Social Representational Approach.....	74
4.3. Interindividual-level Perspective.....	76
4.4. Method.....	78
4.5. Results.....	80
4.6. Discussion.....	89
4. Great War and Pacifist Attitudes: A Social Representational Approach.....	96
4.1. A Social Representational Perspective.....	98
4.2. Great War and Pacifism.....	100
4.3. Method.....	101
4.4. Results.....	104
4.5. Discussion.....	110
5. Social Representations and Pacifist Attitudes: The Belgian Case.....	116
5.1. Method.....	119
5.2. Results.....	120
5.3. Discussion.....	127
6. Discussion of the First Section.....	132
6.1. Overview of the Results.....	132
6.2. Reflexions and Implications.....	134
6.2.1. Contextualization.....	134
6.2.2. Attitudes, Representations and Ideology.....	136

## PART II. COMMEMORATIONS AND ATTITUDE CHANGE

<b>I.</b>	<b>THEORETICAL INTRODUCTION.....</b>	142
1.	<b>The Commemorations of the Great War.....</b>	143
1.1.	<i>Commemoration? .....</i>	143
1.2.	<i>Commemorations of the Great War in Belgium.....</i>	145
1.2.1.	<i>Different communities.....</i>	145
1.2.2.	<i>A matter of values.....</i>	147
1.2.3.	<i>Commemorations as a marketing product.....</i>	148
1.2.4.	<i>Individualization, Identification &amp; Emotions.....</i>	148
2.	<b>Commemorations &amp; Persuasion.....</b>	149
2.1.	<i>Elaboration-likelihood Model.....</i>	150
2.1.1.	<i>Postulates.....</i>	150
2.1.2.	<i>Effects.....</i>	152
2.2.	<i>Narrative Persuasion Theory .....</i>	154
2.2.1.	<i>Process and mechanisms of narrative persuasion.....</i>	155
3.	<b>Summary and Conclusion.....</b>	159
<b>II.</b>	<b>EMPIRICAL EVIDENCES.....</b>	160
1.	<b>Overview of the Studies.....</b>	161
2.	<b>The Paradoxical Impacts of the Commemorations of the Great War in Belgium</b>	
2.1.	<i>Commemorations and Persuasion.....</i>	165
2.2.	<i>Exhibitions.....</i>	168
2.3.	<i>Study 1.....</i>	169
2.3.1.	<i>Method.....</i>	170
2.3.2.	<i>Results.....</i>	172
2.3.3.	<i>Discussion.....</i>	172
2.4.	<i>Studies 2 and 3.....</i>	173
2.4.1.	<i>Method .....</i>	174
2.4.2.	<i>Results.....</i>	175
2.4.3.	<i>Discussion.....</i>	176
2.5.	<i>Documentaries.....</i>	178
2.6.	<i>Studies 4 and 5.....</i>	179
2.6.1.	<i>Method .....</i>	180
2.6.2.	<i>Results.....</i>	180

<i>2.6.3. Discussion</i> .....	184
<i>2.7. General Discussion</i> .....	184
<b>3. Discussion of the Second Section</b> .....	189
<i>3.1. Overview of the Results</i> .....	189
<i>3.2. An Individual-centered Perspective</i> .....	190
<i>3.2.1. Toward a rejection of the persuasion approach?</i> .....	191
<i>3.2.2. The benefits of some anarchy</i> .....	195

## PART III. GENERAL DISCUSSION

<b>1. Summary of the Results and Implications</b> .....	198
<i>1.1. Attitudes and Social Representations</i> .....	198
<i>1.2. Attitudes and Commemorations</i> .....	203
<b>2. Limitations</b> .....	206
<i>2.1. Empirical</i> .....	206
<i>2.2. Methodology</i> .....	207
<i>2.3. Theory</i> .....	209
<b>3. Prospects for Future Research</b> .....	211
<b>4. Recommendations</b> .....	213
<b>5. The Past in our Present</b> .....	220

## REFERENCES