

Research Activities

Intermediate Report

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1. Theoretical framework

In the last years, the phenomenon of migration has been increasingly perceived by citizens as one of the most threatening social risks to local identities and security (Karamanidou, 2015). In this framework, media communication plays a critical role as it can strengthen the negative image of immigrants therefore increasing social perception of threat and polarising representation of migrants as desperate or dangerous. The scientific literature in this field has mostly focused on the so-called 'dark side' of media by highlighting those factors that could increase racism and discrimination (Hutchens, 2014). Differently, the present research implemented in the FUTURE program intends to provide a new reading key of the role of media, highlighting their potential positive effects: in fact, media could help building a positive orientation toward hosting immigrants.

Thus, in line with refugee agency (UNHCR, 2010) that has signed several conventions acknowledging the necessity of a 'moral standard and promotion of migrants rights across nations, by governing the protection of migrants and their families', the present research program addresses citizens in the general population with the aim of orienting favourable attitude towards unaccompanied minors in Italy. Specifically, considering the case of unaccompanied refugee minors, that often pay the high costs of prejudices, the research intends to examine the impact of positive media message considering the individual dimensions that could support public attitude towards accepting minor refugee immigrants. In practical terms the research questions concerns on if and how FUTURE videos can have a positive effect on watchers, considering their individual differences in prosocial motivations. Hosting and integrating immigrants is indeed a form of collective prosocial behaviour, therefore the dimensions related to moral care/harm domain need to be examined (Haidt, 2001). To this end, we refer to the well-known literature on prosocial moves that has stressed the importance to jointly consider cognitive and emotional aspects. In particular, to examine the potential

affective impact of FUTURE videos on different watchers, personal values and empathy levels mainly are taken into account. Personal values refer to motivational determinants of behaviour that transcend specific situations and serve as general criteria to select and evaluate one's decisions and actions; while empathy refers to emotional and relational individual dimensions, such as the ability to feel and show emotional concern for others (Eisenberg and Miller, 1987). With respect to the former, literature had suggested that self-transcendence values direct attention to others' needs and promote prosocial behaviour, whereas self-enhancement values legitimize selfish behaviours and allows individuals to avoid involvement with others in need (Schwartz, 2010). Moreover, in the specific case of immigration, previous findings have shown that conservation values (e.g. security) are inversely related to the attitude towards hosting immigrants (Sagiv and Schwartz, 1995). With respect to the latter dimensions, literature has shown that whereas empathy promotes a mode of reasoning oriented to improve others' conditions, personal distress fosters a hedonic reasoning, which is only conducive to prosocial behavior that has minimal cost for the self (Eisenberg et al., 2002). Moreover, research on different prosocial motives (Batson & Shaw, 1991) have documented that when people feel true empathy, they perform helping behaviors to reduce others' negative feelings, even if their own personal interests are compromised. Conversely, when people experience personal distress, they tend to reduce their own negative emotional reactions and help others only if their own interests are not compromised and if there is no alternative.

Consistently with these premises, the research of FUTURE program focuses on individuals that could be differently oriented toward hosting of immigrants and, more specifically, toward minor refugee immigrants. By combining different methodological approaches, this part of the project will provide a more comprehensive picture of individuals' profiles to examine the potential emotional impact of FUTURE videos in a scientific framework.

2. Aims

The evaluation of the effectiveness of video materials in raising citizens' awareness of the problem of unaccompanied minors is a crucial aspect for the verification of the achievement of the ultimate goal of the project, i.e. the promotion of an attitude that positively oriented towards reception and integration. The openness of the host citizens is in fact important to restore hope and confidence to children seeking a "safe" landing place to rebuild the own life project. It is therefore necessary to understand if and how the materials produced are associated with the presence of emotions, experiences, beliefs capable of bringing citizens humanly closer to the realities of unaccompanied minors.

For this reason, a series of research activities have been planned within the project to evaluate clips produced by minors in terms of affective resonance in the potential recipients of these products, which may differ in socio-demographic aspects, individual characteristics, as well as prosocial orientations. The main purpose of the research is to assess the emotional impact of the documentary and audio-visual products produced within the project. Specifically, the following strategic objectives have been defined to achieve this goal:

- To empirically validate the theoretical models of reference by directly analyzing the online comments made by Italian citizens on the subject of immigration
- To analyze the themes of videos spontaneously recorded by unaccompanied minors in the framework of the FUTURE project.
- to identify the profiles of potential viewers of the documentary through the selection of ad hoc target variables and standardized measurement tools
- to carry out an experimental pilot study to assess the impact of video content on potential viewers

- to examine the emotional reactions of viewers to the documentary produced within the framework of the project

The activities carried out for the various objectives are described below, together with their results, if completed.

3. Research Activities

3.1 Validation of theoretical model: qualitative study

Case study

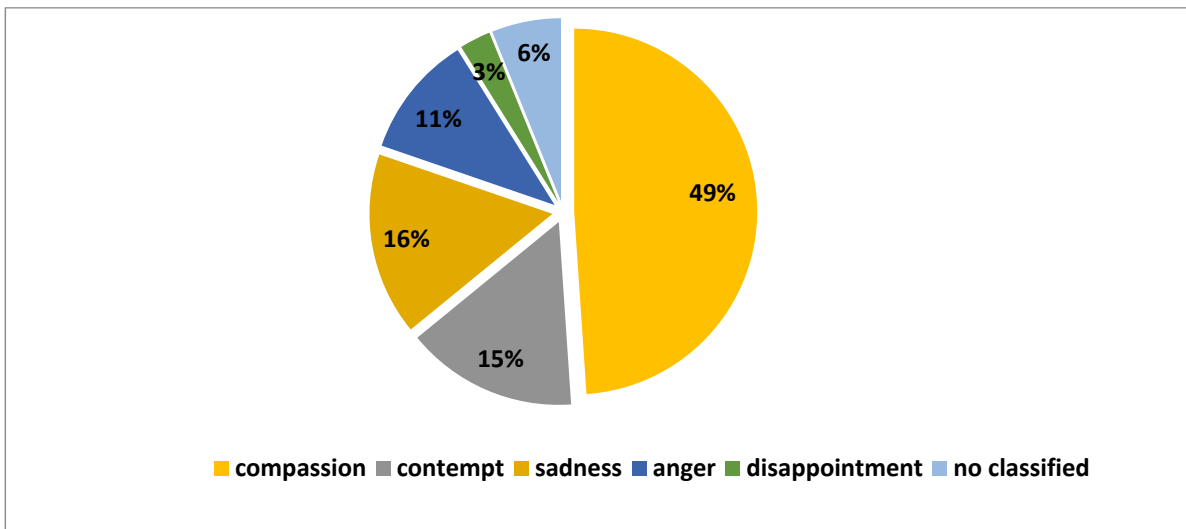
The first activity concerns the evaluation of online comments on immigrants' hosting in order to verify if theoretical dimensions related to prosocial behavior are identifiable also in relation to this specific topic. The activities started on October 2017 and finished on February 2018 and followed methodological approach used in previous study aimed to assess discriminative and unsupportive orientation toward immigrants (D'Errico e Paciello, 2018). In particular, we decided to perform a qualitative study focusing on "positive" comments to public communication on immigration hosting on Facebook. The research goals of were: (1) to identify specific emotional and cognitive dimensions related to favorable position toward immigrations, and (2) to analyze the relationship among these emerging dimensions. This kind of study could be useful to verify the appropriateness of theoretical constructs guiding the choice of target variables in the subsequent quantitative study on possible spectator's profiles.

Data and procedure

A part of online comments (about 2.000 comments) have been used for more extensive ongoing study were encoded in terms of expressed emotions and cognitive/attentive focuses. All examined comments were prosocial oriented arguments in support of hosting immigrants (e.g. ‘We are all humans!’). The robustness of the filtering process was tested by Cohen’s Kappa coefficient on ‘codifiable’ comments vs ‘non-codifiable comments’. In particular, two expert judges on moral topics and one naïve judge shared and discussed coding criteria starting from the subset of 500 comments and draft a common coding grid. Then, they coded other 500 comments separately, in order to measure the agreements that could be considered ‘good’. All remaining comments were randomly assigned and separately coded following psycholinguistic approach (Poggi, 2001). After coding, the codebooks were re-discussed and refined. Subsequently, the Chi Square Test was performed to verify if and how emotional and cognitive dimensions could be interrelated among them. Of note, the qualitative study is still ongoing and new comments will be coded to replicate these preliminary results.

Preliminary results

As shown in the figure below, compassion is the more frequently expressed emotion in prosocial comments. The majority of supportive comments are indeed characterized by a feeling of pity and sympathy towards immigrants, their sorrows and misfortunes. Moreover, a part of comments are also characterized by two negative feelings related to the following topics: a) the contempt toward people that write discriminative and racist comments against immigrants; and b) the sadness for the dramatic immigrants situation and for the perceived inability of the Government to provide an adequate support to citizens and immigrants.



With regards to the cognitive dimensions the attentive foci are presented in the following table.

FOCUS	Types of comments	%
Negative in-group members	Insults, euphemistic labeling, external attribution of responsibility, recalling collective responsibility, disappointment	28.8
Suffering immigrants	Humanization, universalism, perspective taking	59.6
Intra-group accountability	Self-awareness, self-culpability, reprimandable and blaming orientation	11.5

As in the case of emotional dimension, the most frequent prosocial comments focused on immigrants' sufferance. With regards to the interplay among cognitive and emotional dimensions emerging from supportive comments, the chi square test indicates that compassion is positively associated with attentive focus toward suffering of immigrants, contempt is positively associated with focus on negative in-group members, and finally sadness is positively associate with intra-group accountability focus.

Conclusion

Overall, the present qualitative study confirms the role of other-oriented emotions and cognitions in sustaining pro-social orientations also even in the specific case of immigration. The comments defined as “pro-social” are characterized by expressing compassion and empathy, by recalling positive values such as universalism and human rights, and also by activating cognitive mechanisms such as humanization, taking responsibility and recalling to immigration story of one’s one country. However, despite the selection of comments in favor of immigrant hosting, the presence of negative emotions associated with the issue of immigration has also been emerged. In particular, negative moods, such discomfort, are associated with the perceived ineffectiveness of Institutions in managing the phenomenon of immigration. Moreover, feelings of hostility towards the members of the same group connoted some comments that could trigger conflicts and negative dynamics damaging both citizens and immigrants. The study, therefore, suggests that in studying prosocial moves not only positive aspects need to be considered but also the negative ones, such as the distress towards emergency related other in need and the preservation of social balance and conservatorism values, such as security.

3.2. Identification of prototypical videos: observational study

This activity comprises the examination of video clips created during FUTURE workshop by immigrant adolescents who filmed different subjects by using the smartphone devices they have been given by the project. The aim of this activity was to identify the most frequent subjects filmed by young immigrants during their stay in the Syracuse hosting center. More specifically, the audiovisual materials were classified in broader thematic categories and prototypic videos were selected in order

to design the subsequent experimental study. The activities started on November 2017 and finished on February 2018 and have been realized by the researchers of Psychology Faculty, a naïve student in training, and one expert on social communication as external judges to test the goodness of classification.

Materials and procedure

The video clips were about n=700 with an average duration of 3 minutes each. All of them were archived on an external hard disk support stored and protected in the Uninettuno archive. From an initial preliminary examination performed at the Faculty of Psychology of Uninettuno, the audio / video integrity, usability and consistency of the videos were evaluated, discarding the duplicated and low quality videos to make a complete collection available to analyze. Subsequently, an observational analyses were conducted on 658 video clips. Before that, a part of video (100) were analyzed separately by members of research staff to create a common coding grid; then, the codes were discussed and tested with a naïve and an expert judge; finally each video clip has been examined and classified according to the thematic categories ad-hoc conceptualized for the present project. The video clips have been classified and subdivided according to the thematic macro-categories to which they belonged, using the file name as identifier, organizing the collection in a table as the following example:

INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS	AFFECTIVITY	DEGRADATION / DISAPPROVAL	PROVOCATION / TRANSGRESSION	SYMBOLIC
20170329_103852	V70319-150916	VID_20170324_125856	Snapchat-1018054791	VID_20170323_160323
20170329_105640	20170402_124753	VID_20170324_132337	Snapchat-1358607649	VID_20170324_141731
.....
.....

Moreover, in order to select the most representative prototypical video clips for each thematic macro-category, a further vision of the classified clips was performed, selecting about 10 video clips within each grouping and identifying them as "Best performer", to indicate the highest inter-group representativeness of the same films within the category. The best prototypical videos were identified by verifying a level of agreement among Uninettuno researches, expert and naïve judges.

Preliminary results

The thematic categories identified during observational analyses were:

- 1) "Intercultural Relationships": video clips in which the subjects relate to people and the host environment (e.g. city spaces, shops, streets, etc ...);
- 2) "Affectivity": video clips in which the subjects self-initiate while exhibiting a certain emotional state, positive or negative;
- 3) "Degradation / disapproval": video clips in which the subjects denounce - directly or indirectly - situations of unease, highlighting some situational criticalities;
- 4) "Provocation / transgression": video clips in which behaviors, attitudes, body postures and / or provocative language are present on the part of the subjects, both in groups and on their own;
- 5) "Symbolic": video clips in which there are elements that are symbolically relevant for understanding the "history" and the situation of origin of the subjects, for direct or indirect association with such contents (for example: a swim in the pool as a protected place, boats in the sea, fixed sun setting in the frame, etc ...);
- 6) "Arrival / Journey": video clips in which there are elements that suggest or let you imagine the arrival or the journey of the subjects (for example: boy with suitcase in the bus station, group walk taken in open spaces and directed to a place, etc ...);

7) "Construction activities": video clips in which the subjects show constructive and collaborative activities while these are carried out inside or outside the reception center (for example: Italian lessons, subjects who cook food for everyone, repair of smartphones, scooters, etc ...);

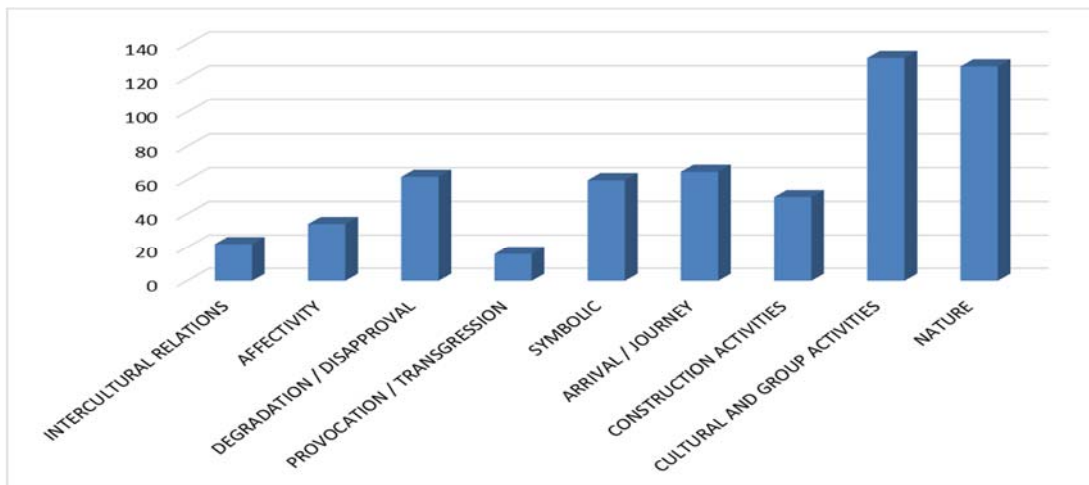
8) "Cultural and group activities": video clips in which the subjects are engaged in recreational activities (for example: walk of two friends who recover while talking, group exit to shop at the supermarket, sports or theater show at the which they assist, etc.);

9) "Nature": video clips in which the subjects show their interest in animals (for example: cats and dogs that caress or play with, etc.) or plants, trees, fruits, green spaces, landscapes taken with the smartphone.

The following table shows the frequency distribution - in descending order for each macro category - resulting from the classification analysis of 658 films.

CULTURAL AND GROUP ACTIVITIES	132
NATURE	127
ARRIVAL / JOURNEY	65
DEGRADATION / DISAPPROVAL	62
SYMBOLIC	60
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES	50
AFFECTIVITY	34
INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS	22
PROVOCATION / TRANSGRESSION	16

The following histogram and pie charts provide a representation of relative frequencies and percentages for each macro category.



Conclusion

From the observational analysis of the 680 video clips it emerges that unaccompanied immigrants minors mainly document intra-group activities. This finding suggests the importance of supportive peer relationships for immigrants adolescents within the center of Syracuse. The crucial role of peers in the adolescence is well-known and it is plausible that constructions of peer networks, also in this particular and difficult situation, is essential to cope difficult moments. There are also other topics recoded by immigrant adolescents, such as natural elements and situations recalling the journey of these youths and their arrivals at the reception of hosting center. It is also interesting to observe a substantial percentage of videos that refer to daily constructive activity; in particular, we observed videos (category: construction activities) in which young people actively show their previous skills and competences (e.g. techniques competences) or construction abilities (e.g. linguistics ones) and video reporting (category: degradation) in which the boys show the difficult situations to cope with. The lowest percentages refer to videos characterized by themes that could facilitate a process of integration and inclusion (intercultural relations) or hinder (hostility).

3.3. Spectator Profiles: person-oriented analysis.

The presents research activity consists in an on-going quantitative study focusing on potential spectators characteristics that could moderate the emotional effect of video realized in FUTURE project. The study started on February with the specific aim of identifying configurational profiles based on empathic dimensions and personal values of potential spectators. As anticipated in the introduction, we selected those dimensions that are theoretically related to prosocial and immigration orientations previously tested in the qualitative study. In particular, by adopting a person-centred approach (Magnusson, 1999), the research activities permit to achieve a twofold aim: (1) identifying groups of spectators characterized by different empathic dimensions and personal values and (2) examining how these configurations could be associated with prosocial tendencies.

The methodology implemented in this study and preliminary results are described in the next paragraph.

Participants and procedure

To date, the sample included n=115 adults university students of Faculty of Psychology - Uninettuno University (from 22 to 63 years old). The research activities were approved by the ethical committee of Uninettuno University. During university courses held by researchers involved in Future project, students completed an online questionnaire after receiving instructions in a *ad-hoc* online interactive lessons. Their participation was rewarded by a brief tailored personal profile that first have individually realized as *lab* exercise, and that then discussed with teacher in order to reflect on interplay among cognitive and affective dimensions related to helping behavior .

Measures

Standardized and validated measures were used with the following general instruction “The following statements describe a large number of common situations. There are no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ answers; the best answer is the immediate, spontaneous one. Read carefully each phrase and mark the answer that reflects your first reaction.”

To assess empathic dimensions an Italian version of Interpersonal Reactivity Index was used (IRI, Davis, 1980). In this study, we selected the two subscale related to the affective dimensions of empathy: Empathic Concern and Personal Distress. The former subscale investigates the tendency to experience feelings of compassion and concern linked to negative experiences. The latter subscale investigates the tendency to experience discomfort and anxiety when witnessing the negative experiences of others. The items are presented in the form of statements with respect to which the individual must state their level of agreement on a 5-point Likert scale (from 1 "does not describe me at all" to 5 "describes me well").

To assess personal values the Portrait Values Questionnaire was used (PVsQ; Schwartz, 1992). This scale includes 23 items, each portraying a person (his or her aspirations, goals, and important aspects of his or her life). Participants were asked to rate how similar to the described person they felt to be, using a 6-point Likert-type (from 6 = very similar to 1 = very dissimilar) scale. For the present study, according to literature and preliminary results emerging in qualitative study, we took into account items related to universalism, power, and security.

Finally, to assess prosocial tendency PB scale was used (Caprara et al. 2005). In particular for this study we included those items that reflect behaviors and feelings that can be traced back to one of three types of actions, namely, sharing, helping, and taking care of. The items were presented to the participants with the following instructions: Participants have to indicate the score on a five-point Likert scale (from 1 never/almost never true to 5 almost always/always true).

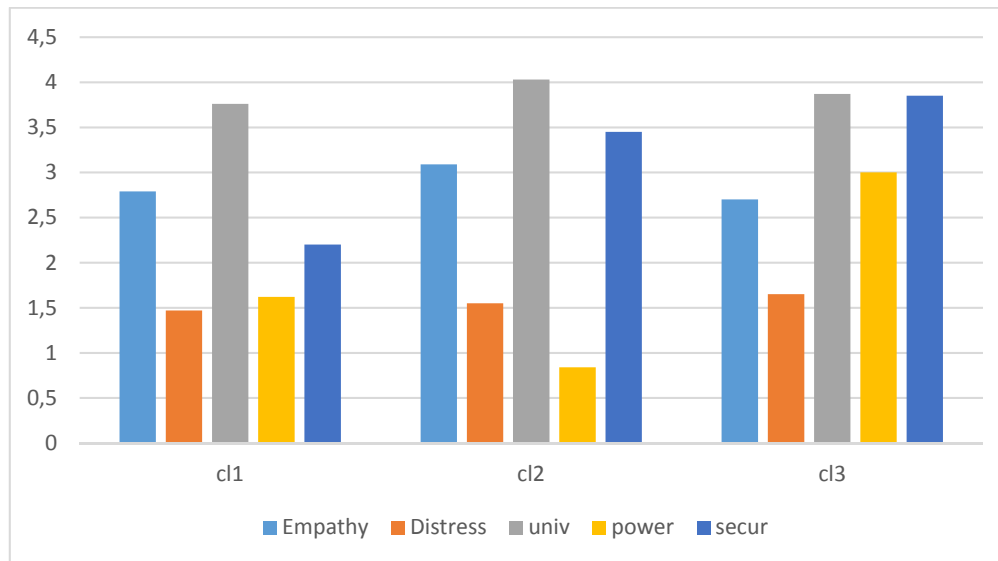
Data Analysis

As a preliminary step, the normality of variables was determined and T-test analyses were performed to test differences between males and females. Preliminary analyses showed that all variables were normally distributed, and no significant gender differences were found.

Configurational patterns were derived by adopting a cluster analytic procedure. First we applied a hierarchical clustering procedure (i.e., Ward Method with squared Euclidean distance) using Ward's hierarchical clustering method, which is a stepwise procedure that initially considered each individual as a single cluster and then merges the clusters that less increase the overall error sum of squares. In particular, we used the following criteria to determine the optimal cluster solution: theoretically meaning, size of the explained variance, homogeneity coefficients of each cluster. Then, in order to improve the homogeneity of the clusters and to increase the proportion of explained variance the optimal cluster solution was replicated, and subjects were finally reclassified into non-hierarchical partitions (i.e., k-means algorithm) based on the centroids derived from the original sample. Finally, mean differences across configurations on prosocial tendencies were tested to evaluate discriminative power of cluster solutions by univariate ANOVAs.

Preliminary results

As shown in the figure below, results supported the 3-cluster solution (figure 1).



Note: univ= universalism; secur = security

Cluster 1 (47 subjects of total sample) includes individuals characterized by medium-high levels of empathic concern and medium levels of distress, power and security than subjects in other two clusters. Cluster 2 (41 subject of total sample) included people characterized by highest levels of empathic concern, high levels of security and lowest levels of power. Finally Cluster 3 (41 subject of total sample) includes people characterized by medium –high levels of empathy and highest levels of power and security. Universalism shows similar levels across clusters.

With respect to prosocial behaviour the Anova suggested that the Cluster 2 is more oriented to other need than other clusters.

Conclusion

The present preliminary finding suggests the necessity to consider not only universalism and empathic concern (other-oriented dimensions) but also other dimensions implied in understanding prosocial tendencies, in particular self-oriented and group-oriented values. In fact, only the cluster with lower levels of power shows higher prosocial levels. Furthermore, the cluster analysis attested that if there are high levels of empathy and low levels of power, the need to protect the safety of the in-group does

not necessarily associate with low levels of prosociality. These first results indicate that emotional-relational dimensions and value can interplay among them and their relationships need to be taken into account to understand the different moves of helping behaviors. Therefore, different types of spectators should be distinguished when examining communicative messages: there is not just a general spectator, but individuals who, despite sharing important values typically associated with universalism, may differ in other dimensions and may present more complex profiles. The different profile could be more or less "permeable" to social issues such as immigration and hosting of unaccompanied minors. These results will be considered in the final phase of the project aimed to verify the emotional impact of videos on different kind of spectators

3.4. Videos and affective reactions: experimental study

Requirement of Ethical approval

Preliminary, research was previously approved by the Ethical Committee of the authors' Faculty and ethical issues were discussed with PI of Future project (i.e. use of audio-visual materials). During the CdS of Faculty of Psychology the main goal and procedure of study were described. Specifically, the researchers explain that the main goal of the experimental study is to investigate the role of prototypic videos of more frequent subject recoded by minors on affective reactions considering a potential effect of spectators prosocial orientation. Thus, in line with literature (Schwartz, 1992) pointing out how positive affect induces a more prosocial behaviour compared to negative one (more analytic and costs oriented), we hypothesised that while the videos that show positive topics (such as positive affect and/or constructive activities) will result in higher level of affective affect beyond values and empathic profiles of potential spectators. However, we also hypothesized that in the case of negative topics (such as unconstructive attitudes) individual differences could moderate the effect of videos

on affective reactions. It will also presented the definition of experimental design that will start at May 2018 and it should conclude at September 2018.

Definition of experimental design

The experimental design will be defined in several meeting with also experts on present research topics. The final design of experiment is presented in the following table.

Experimental phase	Tasks
Participants enrolment	Participants were enrolled during university courses held by researchers involved in Future project. All participants took part in the study voluntarily and provided their consent to the research through application before starting to response to the items. They were free to stop the procedure at any moment if they chose so
Assessment	Measures presented in quantitative study will be administered in order to identify different prosocial profile
Affective reaction to selected videos	Videos selected in observational study will be presented in interactive class to participants and affective reaction will be assessed by using ad hoc tool adapted by well-recognized instrument used in the literature to evaluate negative and positive affectivity (PANAS, Watson et al. 1988).
Statistical analyses	No hierarchical cluster analysis will be performed by starting from previous results presented in quantitative study in order to verify the presence of different kind of spectator. Then, Manova will be performed to test the principal effect of prototypic video clips and spectator's types, and interactive effect of them on affective reactions.

The results and above presented activity will be describe in final report of Project.

3.5. Affective reactions to final FUTURE product: quasi-experimental study

At the end of the project the affective impact of the whole documentary on a sample of spectators will be considered. The current activity consists in the sample identification for evaluation of the most salient individual characteristics. The activities that will be realized will followed in part the experimental design presented in the experimental study but differently from previous study the stimulus will be unique, that is total documentary realized by using part of video-clips examined in observational study. After the presentation of film, the spectators will indicate their emotional activation and involvement (positive / negative affectivity)

The results and above presented activity will be describe in final report of Project.

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