

Self-Overestimation and Underestimation of Others: A Catalyst for Religious Conflict in Nigeria

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Abstract : This study investigates the role of self-overestimation and underestimation of others in fueling religious conflicts in Nigeria. Using a mixed-methods approach, this research examines how exaggerated self-perceptions and diminished views of others contribute to intergroup tensions, stereotypes, and violence. The findings reveal that self-overestimation and underestimation of others are significant predictors of religious conflict, mediated by factors such as intergroup bias, social identity, cultural narratives and lack of interfaith dialogue. The study also identifies the consequences of these biases, including Escalated sectarian violence, social cohesion erosion and polarized communities. To mitigate these effects, the research recommends interfaith education and dialogue initiatives, inclusive governance and policy frameworks and pluralistic media representation. This study contributes to the understanding of psychological and social dynamics driving religious conflict in Nigeria, informing evidence-based policies and interventions to promote peaceful coexistence.

Keywords : conflict resolution, intergroup relations, Nigeria, Religious conflict, self-overestimation, social psychology, underestimation of others

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