

Perceived freedom of choice as a modifier of egotistic mechanisms in the situation of helplessness threat. Witkowski, Tomasz; *Przegląd Psychologiczny*, Vol 39(3-4), 1996. pp. 105-117. [Journal Article] Abstract: One hundred and twenty-three managers participated in a 2x2x2 experiment on effects of perceived freedom of choice and task difficulty on task performance after an exposure to insoluble problems. Ss were exposed to either high or no helplessness training on a series of tasks. In the second phase, Ss either received an option to choose a set of tasks (easy vs difficult), or were explicitly denied the opportunity to make such a choice. Results indicated that Ss in the "forced" condition performed better than Ss in the "freedom" condition. Furthermore, the performance deficits produced by exposure to insoluble problems were eliminated in Ss who had been forced to solve easy tasks. A pattern of attributional egotism was also supported by the causal ascription data. The results suggest that Ss in the forced condition perceived their outcome to be less of a threat to their self-esteem than did Ss in other groups. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2010 APA, all rights reserved)

Tematy: Choice Behavior; Egotism; Learned Helplessness; Performance; Task Complexity; Adulthood (18 yrs & older)