

### **Tall poppies, deservingness, and schadenfreude**

I will describe a research program that began in the late 1980s with research on “tall poppies” or people who hold high status positions. In this research I was interested in variables that predicted when observers respected tall poppies and when they felt happy when tall poppies fell from their high status positions. Deservingness emerged as a key variable in this research along with some other variables that I will note. I will describe some recent studies from my research program that have focused on how schadenfreude or pleasure in another’s misfortune relates to the appraisal of deservingness, a justice-related variable. I will propose that this appraisal also influences how we report other discrete emotions such as pride, guilt, disappointment, and resentment in regard to the success or failure outcomes of self or other person.