



Program - Abstracts

Preconference: Consensus-Building

09:00 - 12:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Saal 1

Daniel Leising, TU Dresden, Dresden, Germany

This workshop is supposed to encourage participants to engage in systematic consensus-building processes (CBPs), and to think about a concrete project of this type that they would find worthwhile and could see themselves pursuing together with some of their peers. For decades, it has been bemoaned that many branches of (e.g., social and personality) psychology do not value this crucial type of academic work enough, resulting in (e.g.) ambiguous terminology, uneven methodology, and an overall lack of efficiency and traceable progress.

I will begin by briefly reviewing the arguments that can be made in favor of systematic consensus-building, as well as against it. I personally am convinced that the benefits clearly outweigh the risks, although the latter do have to be taken seriously and kept in check. To help with this, I recently published a "tentative roadmap for consensus building processes", together with a group of colleagues (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/27000710241298610 >).

Using this roadmap, we will devote the main part of the workshop to exploring possible CBPs regarding topics that the participants themselves are most interested in and find most important. Among the questions that we will grapple with are: Who would you want to work with? How would you manage the overall process? What is a realistic timeline? What would be important milestones along the way? What would an optimal outcome look like? And when would the process have to be considered a failure? I will also spend some time introducing the Visual Argument Structure Tool (VAST; <https://open.lnu.se/index.php/metapsychology/article/view/2911>), which may be used to structure a discussion over the actual content matter of a CBP.

Preconference: Theory Specification

09:00 - 12:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Saal 2a

Andreas Glöckner, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Susann Fiedler, WU Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Fiona tho Pesch, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

As in all other scientific fields, theories in psychology should meet at least minimal scientific criteria, including objectivity, coherence, and non-tautology. However, most theories in social psychology are formulated as verbal narratives, which only partially meet these standards. We propose that all psychological theories should be formally specified to ensure these minimal criteria are fulfilled. The Theory Specification Challenge for Bochum 2025 aims to address this issue using a “many theorists” approach and a simple Proposition-Based Theory Specification methodology. In this workshop, we will (a) present the methodology for theory specification, consensus building, and theory rating used in the challenge, (b) discuss the materials and guidelines, and (c) share results, insights, and problems identified in the many theorists project. In the second part of the workshop, we will (d) provide hands-on practice in applying the theory specification methodology and (e) encourage participants to contribute to the continuation of this approach.

Preconference: Cross-Cultural Psychology

09:00 - 12:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Saal 2b

Vanessa Clemens, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Pinar Ugular, Özeğin University, Istanbul, Turkey

Angela Dorrough, University of Cologne, Cologne/Fernuniversität Hagen, Germany

This workshop is designed for researchers at all career stages, from early-career scholars new to cross-cultural research to established researchers seeking to expand their networks. The diversity of perspectives will enrich discussions and inspire innovative collaborations.

The workshop will consist of two main parts, each addressing a critical aspect of cross-cultural research: Part 1 (Best Practices and Challenges in Cross-Cultural Studies) will focus on practical and methodological issues encountered at various stages of cross-cultural research projects. Part 2 (Directions for Future Collaborations) will explore opportunities for collaboration and innovation in cross-cultural research, with a focus on multi-site studies and new approaches.

Preconference: Power Structures

09:00 - 12:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025

Saal 3

Franziska Stanke, University of Münster, Münster, Germany
Le Vy Phan, University of the Bundeswehr Munich, Munich, Germany

Surveys conducted by the DGPs indicate that power abuse is an issue that also occurs in academic settings (Bössel et al., 2023; Elson et al., 2020) and can have a lasting impact on the academic environment. This workshop aims to provide an opportunity to openly and practically address this sensitive topic, which is of central importance to the academic community. Power abuse can manifest in various relationships within universities, such as between doctoral candidates and supervisors, employees and assistants, or instructors and students. As a result, it is a relevant issue for academics at all career stages.

The workshop will cover various forms of power abuse as well as legitimate uses of power in academia. After a brief introduction to theoretical foundations, the workshop will focus on discussing systemic factors that contribute to power abuse, as well as exploring possible courses of action tailored to the structures and demands of universities and research institutions. In a safe environment, participants will be invited to reflect on their own experiences based on case studies and discuss them in small groups. Using these examples, participants are invited to discuss concrete strategies to identify and appropriately respond to both subtle and overt cases of power abuse at an early stage. The goal of the workshop is to create a space for dialogue on power abuse and power use in academia and, ultimately, to foster a culture of mutual respect and transparency that contributes to a productive and respectful academic environment.

Snack Break

12:00 - 13:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025

Welcome Opening

13:00 - 13:40 Sunday, 14th September, 2025

Saal 2a

Wilhelm Hofmann, Hans Alves

Session: Diversity in Higher Education

13:40 - 15:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025

Saal 1

242 The role of student diversity in CSCL: Results of a systematic literature review

Martin Schulze, Jennifer Hochstein, Laura Froehlich, Jan-Bennet Voltmer, Stefan Stürmer

FernUniversität, Hagen, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Higher distance education promotes educational equity by lowering barriers to higher education for individuals from diverse sociodemographic backgrounds and study-related skills. Interest in diversity within Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning (CSCL) is growing, as CSCL research examines how technology enhances group learning and student success through virtual communication. However, a unified theoretical framework addressing the effects of student diversity in CSCL is lacking. This systematic literature review investigates the role of student diversity in CSCL, aiming to develop a unified theoretical model to inform future research and educational practice. A systematic literature search was conducted, employing a combination of keywords related to CSCL, diversity, and education. The search yielded 463 abstracts. Finally, 19 studies were included based on predefined exclusion criteria. We developed a framework to systematize the results in terms of type of student diversity (sociodemographic; e.g., gender, cultural background; task-related: e.g., learning styles, prior knowledge) and the level of outcomes (group vs. individual). Results indicate that the majority of studies focused on a single diversity dimension, with the sociodemographic dimensions of gender and culture being most frequently examined. Group-level results showed that collaboration and performance tended to be lower in more heterogeneous CSCL groups. Individual-level results were more nuanced concerning communication roles, satisfaction, and learning. We conclude that future research should extend its focus from single attributes towards a multi-attributational perspective to fully capture diversity-related intragroup dynamics in CSCL. We therefore integrate our results with social-psychological research on the salience of different diversity dimensions in virtual collaborative settings.

93 Student Diversity, Communal Self-Views, and Benefits of Choice: Supporting Autonomy and Relatedness

Mai Grundmann¹, Laura Froehlich^{1,2}, Oliver Christ², Lena Schützler²

¹CATALPA, Hagen, Germany. ²FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Marginalized student groups (e.g., female, low socioeconomic status, and ethnic minority students) face higher dropout rates and reduced belonging at university. We aim to utilize socialization-based differences in agency (valuing self-assertiveness and competition) and communion (valuing helping and social connections) to enhance basic need satisfaction, thereby improving motivation and performance. Two studies investigate the interplay between students' communal self-views, framing of options in a choice task (communal vs agentic), and changes in basic need satisfaction. Both studies are set in a statistics module in a B.Sc. Psychology program at a large distance university. Study 1 ($N = 240$) found that communal self-views were higher among female students and positively predicted relatedness. Study 2 ($N = 442$) implemented a choice task where students selected datasets framed either agentically or communally for statistics calculations. Before the choice task, group memberships, communal self-views, and basic need satisfaction were recorded. After the choice task, basic need satisfaction was recorded again. Results of pre-registered hypothesis tests show that communal self-views predicted choice of the communal framing and choice generally was associated with a decrease in autonomy frustration. However, no changes in relatedness emerged, which is discussed in light of unexpected limitations of the choice task. Exploratory analyses of end-of-year exam performance ($N = 270$) revealed need satisfactions as positive predictors and communal self-views as negative predictor of performance. The role of social group memberships and communal self-views in STEM courses, as well as the potential of choice to support need satisfaction are discussed.

47 Effects of Stereotypes for Perceivers and Targets in Multi-Attributionally diverse CSCL Groups

Jennifer Hochstein¹, Laura Froehlich¹, Jan-Bennet Voltmer¹, Niels Seidel¹, Stefan Stürmer¹, Sören Michallek¹, Martin Schulze¹, Sarah E. Martiny², Jana Nikitin³, Jörg Michael Haake¹, Nathalie Bick¹

¹FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ²UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway. ³University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Submission Type

Abstract

Higher distance education opens a wide range of opportunities for students with different socio-demographic backgrounds (e.g., age, gender, first language) and study-related skills (e.g., experience in scientific reading or online learning, previous degrees). Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning (CSCL), where students work together in virtual groups, is a common teaching method in distance education. The current research investigates the consequences of stereotyping for perceivers and targets during the formation and collaboration phases in multi-attributionally diverse CSCL groups by systematically examining the individual level and the CSCL group level. $N = 2025$ students in 286 CSCL groups participated in a longitudinal field study in the introductory module of the BSc Psychology curriculum at a large public distance university. Analyses corresponding to pre-registered hypotheses replicated the finding of previous research that CSCL groups with high sociodemographic and high task-related diversity showed lower group cohesion during collaboration. To explain this at-risk constellation for CSCL groups with highly diverse members, we investigated the role of being a target vs. perceiver of negative stereotypes within the group. For targets, social identity threat predicted lower sense of belonging to the CSCL group and in turn lower motivation to initiate and maintain social relations with other group members. Moreover, targets showed higher social identity threat than perceivers, independent of the socio-demographic and task-related diversity of the group. Findings are discussed in terms of social-psychological approaches to micro-dynamics in CSCL groups and interventions to mitigate diversity and stereotyping effects in higher distance education.

101 Social Identity Threat Relates to Satisfaction and Frustration of Students' Need for Competence

Laura Froehlich, Mai Grundmann, Lena Schützler, Oliver Christ

FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Student groups who are negatively stereotyped in academic contexts show lower performance and lower sense of belonging. The current research focuses on a higher distance education module of statistics within a BSc Psychology curriculum. In this context, female students, ethnic minority students as well as students with low socioeconomic status receive negative competence stereotypes. We combine social-psychological research on social identity threat with self-determination theory. Specifically, we investigated the relation of social identity threat with satisfaction and frustration of the basic psychological need of competence, which is in turn associated with intrinsic motivation. The sample consisted of $N = 545$ students, of which 69% self-identified as female, 21% as members of an ethnic minority, and 10% as having low socioeconomic status. In line with pre-registered hypotheses, results showed that compared to traditional student groups, social identity threat was elevated for female students and students with low socioeconomic status, but not for ethnic minority students. Moreover, membership in our target student groups was implicated in lower competence satisfaction and higher competence frustration in the statistics module. Exploratory mediation analyses uncovered corresponding indirect effects: Female students and students with low socioeconomic status showed higher social identity threat, which in turn predicted lower competence satisfaction and higher competence frustration and in turn lower intrinsic motivation. However, results were non-significant for ethnic minority students. Findings are discussed in light of the particularities of online learning and generalizability to other courses.

180 A Belonging Intervention to Reduce Social Identity Threat in Higher Distance Education

Nathalie Bick¹, Laura Froehlich¹, Mai Grundmann¹, Lena Schützler¹, Oliver Christ¹, Rene Kizilcec²

¹FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ²Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

In higher distance education, students experiencing social identity threat are disadvantaged and face educational challenges. The current research adapted a belonging intervention to the distance education context and implemented it in an introductory module at a large public distance-learning university. Students enrolled in the module had the opportunity to participate in the intervention on a voluntary basis. Participating students were randomly assigned to the intervention vs. the control condition. Surveys including measures of social identity threat and sense of belonging were completed at the beginning of the semester (T1) and after the intervention (T2). In the intervention condition, students completed a reading-writing task including testimonials of senior students which described how their sense of belonging in the module increased over time. In the control condition, students completed a similar task on the topic of study skills. In the total sample of 520 students, 208 (40%) were categorized as belonging to disadvantaged demographic groups (i.e., students with migration background/ non-native first language, chronic illness/ disability, or low SES). Analyses related to pre-registered hypotheses showed significant baseline differences regarding social identity threat but no significant intervention effect on social identity threat, belonging, or performance although a priori sample size estimation indicated sufficient power with the achieved sample size. However, descriptive trends were mostly in line with our expectations. For a subsequent study in a comparable sample with a different control condition, data collection is currently underway, aiming to unfold reasons of the lacking significance of effects.

Panel Discussion: Sozial- und Persönlichkeitspsychologie – Where is the love?

13:40 - 15:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Saal 2a

36 Sozial- und Persönlichkeitspsychologie – Where is the love?

Chair(s)

Jens Lange

HMU Health and Medical University Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany

Symposium: Human Agency in Social and Ecological Transformations: The Interaction Between Personal, Collective, and Institutional Layers

13:40 - 15:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Saal 2b

A sense of human agency seems crucial for people's motivation to support societal transformation in response to accelerating ecological crises. Agency comprises the perception of autonomous goals, goal-directed action, and efficacy. In the context of complex large-scale crisis, agency is relevant not just on a personal level but also on a collective and an institutional layer of human interaction. The interplay of these layers determines the emergence of human agency. This agenda-setting symposium showcases initial research on the role of inter-layer agency in the context of societal crisis and transformation. Specifically, Hoppe et al. present longitudinal evidence that perceived collective agency was both the outcome and predictor of accepting COVID policy measures and predicted compliance beyond personal attitudes. Sevincer et al. investigate (mis-)perceptions of politicians about actual collective agency (through policy acceptance) and discuss how these misperceptions may hinder individual agency on part of the politicians to advance climate action policies. Majer et al. scrutinize the role of negotiations between representatives in generating joint agency to reconcile immediate and future interests in sustainability transitions. Fritsche and colleagues look at the consequences of lacking collective agency, showing across three experiments that people derogate ethnic and migrant minorities as a (destructive) collective response to salient threatening climate change when they perceive national agency in tackling climate change to be low. Finally, we will discuss the present research's potentials to advance a differentiated understanding of human agency in the ecological transformation.

23 Human Agency in Social and Ecological Transformations: The Interaction Between Personal, Collective, and Institutional Layers

Chair(s)

Immo Fritsche

Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany

141 Lacking Collective Agency Fosters Hostility towards Minorities as a Collective Response to Threatening Climate Change

Sadi Shanaah¹, Immo Fritsche², Mathias Osmundsen³

¹University of Warwick, Warwick, United Kingdom. ²Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany. ³Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Threatening climate change poses a security risk as it may elicit ethnocentric thinking and intergroup hostility. According to group-based control theory, individuals cope with threat to personal control by demonstrating agency on the group-level of their self, especially when collective agency is threatened, as well. This may result in derogation of minorities conceived of as threatening the group. We tested this notion in three survey experiments with socio-demographically diverse samples of white British participants (N=616, N=587, and N=535), manipulating the salience of threatening consequences of climate change (vs. neutral geographical facts) for Britain and measuring perceived national collective control over climate change. As a general pattern across studies, climate change threat increased participants' prejudice towards the Pakistani and Muslim communities in Britain for those participants who considered national agency over climate change to be rather low but not for those who rated collective climate agency to be high, even when controlling for political orientation. A similar pattern was found for the evaluation of climate refugees, statistically significant in one of these studies. Seemingly, when people consider problem-focused collective coping with threatening climate change futile, they turn to derogating intragroup minorities as an alternative route to demonstrating collective agency. This has implications for both conflict prevention and the justification of powerful national climate action (which may reduce alternative and hostile collective responses to threatening climate change).

149 From Individual to Institutional Agency: Bridging Citizen and Policymaker Perspectives

Timur Sevincer^{1,2}, Wilhelm Hofmann^{3,4}

¹Leuphana University Lüneburg, Lüneburg, Germany. ²Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Delmenhorst, Institute of Advanced Study, Delmenhorst, Germany. ³Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany. ⁴German Center for Mental Health, Bochum, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Advancing ambitious climate policies hinges on the dual pillars of politicians' willingness to advocate for structural solutions and citizens' support and acceptance of these measures. The concept of policy acceptance serves as a crucial link between individual and institutional levels of agency. This talk explores this interconnection from both the politicians' and the citizens' perspective. Surveying over 1,500 politicians from Germany and comparing their responses with two large nationally representative samples from Germany ($Ns \geq 1,000$) suggests that politicians and the citizens themselves often underestimate public support for climate action. This misperception was particularly large in two areas that are most effective in combatting climate change, namely the acceptance of taxes and laws. Moreover, the misperceptions on part of the politicians were substantially larger than those among the citizens and they occurred across political parties. By examining these misperceptions (pluralistic ignorance), this talk raises critical questions about how to enhance politicians' as well as citizens' awareness of the existing public support for structural solutions, ultimately fostering a more integrative approach to climate policymaking.

154 How Conflict Resolution Crowds Out Future-Oriented Solutions in Sustainability Transitions

Johann Majer¹, Laura Stalenhoef¹, Marco Schauer², Roman Trötschel²

¹University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany. ²Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Sustainability transitions often spark intense conflicts that hinder progress and demand negotiation between diverse stakeholders. However, resolving interpersonal conflicts through negotiation may inadvertently limit individual parties' agency to reconcile their immediate and future interests that emerge, for instance, from short-term benefits through immediate consumption versus long-term benefits through resource conservation. Across five studies—three simulated experiments and two interactive negotiation studies—we tested the hypothesis that resolving interpersonal conflicts through negotiation impairs intrapersonal conflict resolution. As predicted, our findings provide consistent evidence that individual parties prioritize resolving immediate interpersonal conflicts over addressing their intrapersonal conflicts, a phenomenon we term the conflict crowding-out effect. This effect arises from a systematic bias: conflict parties make tradeoffs that favor their counterparts' immediate interests while undervaluing their own future interests, leading to suboptimal resolutions of intrapersonal conflicts. We discuss how negotiation processes in sustainability contexts can unintentionally undermine long-term planning and propose strategies to strengthen individual agency for more balanced intra- and interpersonal conflict resolution, potentially accelerating sustainability transitions.

163 Collective factors promote protection behavior and policy acceptance during the COVID-19 pandemic

Annedore Hoppe, Anna Maria Becker, Immo Fritsche, Johannes Lautenbacher

Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

When societies have to cope with collective crises, such as a pandemic, this often requires that citizens comply with policy measures that severely change their everyday life. We challenge the predominant paradigm that people's policy support would depend primarily on personal costs and benefits (e.g., perceptions of personal health threat).

Instead, building on a social identity approach, we propose that collective factors, such as perceived ingroup norms and collective efficacy, play a decisive role as well. We investigated this in the context of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany conducting a longitudinal population survey from March to May 2020 ($N = 469$). Across the three measurement points, we find that collective factors, just like personal factors, independently explain protection behavior and the acceptance of policy measures. Further, longitudinal analyses revealed, particularly for people highly identified with their ingroup, that policy acceptance at the first measurement point enhanced collective efficacy and norm perceptions two weeks later. In turn, these perceptions elevated policy acceptance at the third measurement point. This indicates that the formation of collective agency is a crucial process of collective crisis coping. We discuss implications for other collective challenges, such as climate change.

Session: Attitudes and Impression Formation

13:40 - 15:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Saal 3

323 Remembering actions versus stereotypes: Stereotype effects on spontaneous trait inferences from behavior

Jana Mangels, Juliane Degner

University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

One of the most robust effects in person perception research is the spontaneous trait inference (STI) effect, the tendency to spontaneously draw dispositional inferences from actors' behaviors. In a previous line of studies from our lab, we examined whether stereotypes about actors influence STIs, but did not find reliable support for such effects. While this finding aligns with the general notion of robust STIs, it diverges from previous research in this domain and challenges prevailing assumptions that stereotypes fundamentally affect the impression formation process.

Importantly, all previous studies investigating the effect of stereotypes on STIs employed the same research paradigm – the probe recognition paradigm – which is designed to measure STIs at early encoding of behavioral information. This raises the question whether stereotypes may instead influence trait inferences at later stages of the impression formation process or bias the retrieval of formed impressions from memory.

In the current research, we employed a well-established alternative paradigm – the false recognition paradigm – a long-term memory paradigm to measure STIs. In a first study ($N = 278$), we indeed observed that stereotype congruency significantly affected STIs from behavior ($\eta_p^2 = .07$). In a second study, we examine whether this finding depends on the presentation of stereotypic images (data will be collected until September 2025). Finally, we will contrast short- and long-term memory-based measurement approaches and discuss how the current research adds to our understanding of the mechanisms through which stereotypes influence our perceptions of others.

63 Mechanisms of Spontaneous Evaluation Revision: Differentiating Between Reinterpretation and Diagnosticity Effects via Memory Recall

Anand Krishna, Leonie Gugler

Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

When existing information about an individual implies a positive spontaneous evaluation, new negative information can change these spontaneous evaluations even after a single presentation if the information is highly diagnostic or if it fosters reinterpretation of the existing information. Conceptually, these processes should differ in how they affect the evaluative meaning of existing information: unrelated diagnostic information should not change the evaluation of existing information, but reinterpretative information should. In three experiments (total $N = 847$), participants learned positive information about a target individual, followed by either diagnostic information or reinterpretative information. Although both types of information showed strong effects on spontaneous evaluations, elaboration of the initial, positive information did not improve subsequent spontaneous evaluations in either the diagnosticity or reinterpretation conditions (Exp 1). Cueing the initial, positive information during the spontaneous evaluation also did not improve evaluations in either condition (Exp 2). Only when the diagnostic information was conceptually completely unrelated to the initial, positive information did a high-powered experiment show the expected pattern: cueing initial information improved spontaneous evaluations in the diagnosticity condition, but not in the reinterpretation condition. While these findings confirm the conceptual difference between reinterpretation and diagnosticity effects, they also highlight its subtlety.

113 Anticipated Knowledge About People Based On Their Positive and Negative Attitudes

Tabea J. Zorn¹, Christian Unkelbach¹, André Mata², Hans Alves³

¹University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany. ²University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal. ³Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

As negative things are more diverse than positive things, there are also more different reasons why someone dislikes something than there are reasons why someone likes something. From this asymmetry, we derived the hypothesis that positive relative to negative attitudes are perceived as more informative and revealing about the person who holds that attitude. In five studies (total sample of $N = 898$), we confirmed that people believe to have more knowledge about a person after learning what that person likes rather than dislikes. The effect was robust across various attitude domains, and we ruled out that it was driven by attitude frequency or by perceivers' own attitudes. Instead, we showed that participants perceived dislikes as more ambiguous than likes regarding their underlying reasons, and that participants were more certain regarding the reasons underlying likes than regarding the reasons underlying dislikes. This higher certainty regarding the reasons underlying people's likes explained why perceivers felt to know more about others based on their likes. These findings help to explain why shared likes foster stronger interpersonal attraction compared to shared dislikes.

232 Contextual Renewal of Trait Expectations in a Social Context

Kiara Roth, Sahar Aghajari, Metin Üngör, Sarah Teige-Mocigemba

Philipps-Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

How do individuals adapt their trait-based expectations when encountering inconsistent behaviors across contexts? We investigated whether contextual renewal, a phenomenon observed in predictive and associative learning, extends to social settings and behaviors related to personality traits. Specifically, we examined whether expectation-incongruent predictions remain confined to the unique context in which unexpected behavior was shown, while expectation-congruent predictions recover in their initial context. Participants predicted the behaviors of a target person based on learned cue-outcome associations in a specific context (e.g., the target showing social warmth in the presence of different social cues). Specifically, participants acquired stable cue-outcome associations in an initial context (context A) during the acquisition phase. In the reversal phase, cue-outcome contingencies were reversed in a new context (context B). Test trials assessed whether participants' predictions reflected the initially learned expectations from the acquisition context A or the reversed expectations from the new context B. Preliminary findings are linked to attention and context-processing theories, suggesting that expectation-incongruent behaviors (reversed associations) are represented as context-specific, while expectation-congruent behaviors are represented as context-free. This implies that contextualization might enable the maintenance of initial person impressions by limiting the impact of incongruent information to specific contexts. This mechanism may explain how individuals make sense of others' trait-inconsistent behaviors, maintaining coherent expectations to guide their social interactions. Our studies combine predictive learning and implicit attitude research, offering insights into expectation maintenance through contextualized cue-outcome associations in social contexts. Implications for person impression formation and stereotype change are discussed.

279 The Temporal Dynamics of Attitudinal Conflict: An Experience Sampling Study of Conflict Emergence and Resolution

Shiva Pauer¹, Bastiaan Rutjens², Wilhelm Hofmann³, Frenk van Harreveld²

¹Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany. ²University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

³Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Although attitudinal conflicts pervade daily life, little is known about the temporal dynamics of how people experience and resolve such conflict. Our preregistered experience sampling study (N=462, 18,586 observations, in the domain of meat consumption) examined a temporal framework of conflict emergence and resolution. Especially when people engaged in decision-making, the cognitive accessibility of evaluative inconsistency (attitudinal ambivalence) elicited conflict. The conflict faded only gradually, but it was downregulated more strongly when eating meat despite contradictory evaluations (cognitive dissonance). This decline was only temporary, and the conflict resurged. People engaged in dissonance reduction by initially denying responsibility for eating meat and subsequently aligning their attitudes. These findings elucidate the sequential and situational processes underlying how people struggle with conflicted choices and rationalize them in everyday life. Furthermore, our sampling method offers fine-grained insights into the entire decision-making process, which can be applied to various research questions and to inform interventions.

Symposium: Empörung und Gesellschaftliche Konflikte

13:40 - 15:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025

Saal 4

Die Beiträge präsentieren Ausschnitte aus dem interdisziplinären kooperativen Forschungsprojekt "Konflikt und Kommunikation" (Koko), das Konflikte aus psychologischer, politisch-soziologischer und medienwissenschaftlicher Sicht analysiert. Neben der Beschreibung und Analyse personaler und gesellschaftlicher Konflikte widmet sich Koko auch dem Wissenschaftstransfer und versucht, konfliktpsychologisches Wissen an die Bevölkerung weiterzugeben, um ihre Konfliktkompetenz zu stärken.

Die Beiträge fokussieren vielfältige Motivationen, Erscheinungsformen und Wirkungen der Emotion Empörung.

Kals et al. betrachten Empörung als emotionale Dimension wahrgenommener Ungerechtigkeiten und zeigen in metaanalytischer Sicht auf vierzig multimethodale Studien aus unterschiedlichen Handlungskontexten die Bedeutung von Empörung für Entstehung und Beilegung von Konflikten sowie für soziale Engagementbereitschaften.

Ein anderes Licht auf Empörung wirft Miram, der verschiedene Literaturlinien sichtet und zeigt, dass hinter dem Ausdruck von Empörung auch unterschiedliche Ziele und Zwecke stehen können, etwa Aktivierung anderer oder Demonstration von "moral grandstanding". Er präsentiert zwei stratifizierte Erhebungen, die die Vielfalt von Motiven vergleichend untersuchten.

Geppert untersucht Polarisierungsprozesse in Deutschland anhand von Einstellungsveränderungen zum Thema Migration und die Bereitschaft zur Auseinandersetzung mit gegensätzlichen Ansichten. Anhand zweier stratifizierter Umfragen, in denen sowohl standardisierte als auch offene Antworten genutzt wurden, identifiziert sie sieben Einstellungsmuster, wobei negative Einstellungen zu Migration nicht generell mit einer geringen Toleranz gegenüber gegensätzlichen Ansichten verbunden sind.

Grunenberg et al schließlich untersuchen die Wirksamkeit der im Projekt hergestellten Videos zur Vermittlung konfliktpsychologischen Wissens an die Bevölkerung. Die Längsschnittdaten einer kontrolliert-randomisierten Studie zur Videointervention über einen Zeitraum von fünfzehn Wochen zeigen zeitlich stabile positive Effekte, wobei Konfliktwissen den schnellsten Zuwachs und flexibles Konflikthandeln einen späteren Zuwachs verzeichnet.

34 Empörung und gesellschaftliche Konflikte

Chair(s)

Jürgen Maes

Universität der Bundeswehr München, München, Germany

Elisabeth Kals

Katholische Universität Eichstätt, Eichstätt, Germany

277 In der Sache dagegen oder in eigener Sache dagegen? – Motive moralischen Empörungsausdrucks

Rune Miram

Universität der Bundeswehr, München, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Aufregerthemen lauern überall und Empörung begegnet uns täglich. Gemäß dem kognitivem Emotionsmodell fühlen wir Empörung, wenn eine Situation wie folgt interpretiert wird: Wir sehen uns von einer Normverletzung betroffen, die von einer anderen Person begangen wurde, welche wir für ihr vermeintliches Fehlverhalten verantwortlich machen, ohne ihr rechtfertigende Gründe dafür zuzugestehen (Montada & Kals, 2013). Die Frage, was Menschen motiviert, ein Empörungsgefühl auch nach außen zu tragen und sich für andere sichtbar empört zu zeigen, beantwortet dies jedoch noch nicht. Naheliegend erscheint die Motivation, ein Ventil für Emotionen zu finden oder dem wahrgenommenen Unrecht etwas entgegenzusetzen und Gerechtigkeit wiederherzustellen (z.B. Dalbert & Umlauf, 2003). Doch die Motive für Empörungsausdruck sind gewiss vielfältiger. Eine Rolle könnte etwa spielen, dass Empörung moralische Relevanz anzeigt und moralisch aufgeladene Inhalte sich besonders schnell und weit verbreiten (Brady et al., 2017; 2020). Offener Empörung könnte also die Suche nach Zugehörigkeit (z.B. Baumeister & Leary, 1995; Livingstone et al., 2016) und sozialer Unterstützung (z.B. Walther, 2022) zugrunde liegen. Gelegentlich widersprechen wir vielleicht auch weniger in der Sache, sondern primär in eigener Sache. Etwa, wenn wir Moral Grandstanding betreiben und durch moralische Botschaften nach Prestige und Dominanz streben (Tosi & Warmke, 2016; Grubbs et al., 2019). In zwei großen, bevölkerungsrepräsentativen Studien wurden Zusammenhänge zwischen diesen und weiteren Motivationen, sich empört zu zeigen, und Persönlichkeitseigenschaften wie den Big Five oder Narzissmus und Korrelaten wie politische Orientierung und affektive Polarisierung analysiert. Die komplexen Zusammenhangsmuster sollen hier vorgestellt und damit die Rolle von Empörung als moralischer und sozialer Emotion unterstrichen werden.

287 Den individuellen Konfliktumgang stärken: Ein differenzierter Blick auf die Wirksamkeiten eines videobasierten Ansatzes

Martina Grunenberg¹, Svenja C. Schütt¹, Elisabeth Kals¹, Jürgen Maes², Mathias Jaudas²

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Empörung in Konfliktsituationen signalisiert oft erlebte Ungerechtigkeiten, die meist auf der wahrgenommenen Verletzung subjektiver Normen basieren. Angesichts der Risiken eskalierter Konflikte gewinnt die Frage an Bedeutung, wie sich konstruktive Konfliktlösungsfähigkeiten entwickeln lassen. Diese Fähigkeiten entscheiden oftmals über Eskalation oder produktive Konfliktlösung. Hier setzt unsere videobasierte Intervention an, mit dem Ziel, den individuellen Umgang mit Konflikten nachhaltig zu stärken.

Die Wirksamkeit dieser Intervention auf konfliktpsychologische Variablen wurde in einer präregistrierten, kontrolliert-randomisierten Studie untersucht. Hierfür wurden quantitative Längsschnittdaten einer Panel-Stichprobe ($N = 1.567$) sowie einer Kontrollgruppe ($N = 636$) über 15 Wochen hinweg zu fünf Erhebungszeitpunkten erhoben. Beide Stichproben sind für die deutsche Bevölkerung annähernd repräsentativ. Zur statistischen Analyse wurden Mixed Models With Repeated Measures (MMRMs) durchgeführt. Dabei richteten wir ein besonderes Augenmerk auf den Verlauf der Veränderungen über die Zeit sowie die differenziellen Auswirkungen nach soziodemographischen Faktoren.

Unsere Erkenntnisse verdeutlichen, dass die Intervention verschiedene konfliktpsychologische Variablen signifikant förderte. Diese positiven Effekte waren zeitlich stabil und traten in einigen Fällen verstärkt nach einer längeren Zeitspanne oder der Darstellung einer kompletten Konfliktsequenz auf. Der Zuwachs des Konfliktwissens verzeichnet dabei den stärksten und schnellsten Effekt, während das flexible Konflikthandeln einen späteren Zuwachs verzeichnet.

Die Intervention zeigte sich besonders einflussreich bei Personen mittleren und höheren Alters, bei weiblichen Teilnehmenden sowie bei Personen ohne vorherige Erfahrungen in der professionellen Konfliktbeilegung.

Die Ergebnisse betonen die Bedeutung von zielgruppengerechten Inhalten und bestätigen videobasierte Wissensvermittlung als effektive Methode, um die individuelle Konfliktbewältigung zu fördern und so zu einem produktiveren Umgang mit erlebter Empörung beizutragen.

274 Mehr Dialog, weniger Drama? Einstellungen zur Migration im Wandel

Rahel Geppert

Universität der Bundeswehr, München, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Der Beitrag untersucht die Entwicklung der Einstellungen zur Migration in Deutschland, einem umstrittenen und politisch aufgeladenen Thema. Dabei liegt ein Fokus auf der Bereitschaft, sich mit gegensätzlichen Ansichten auseinanderzusetzen. Anhand von zwei stratifizierten Umfragen, die 2024 auf nationaler Ebene durchgeführt wurden, wurden Einstellungsänderungen im Laufe der Zeit und ihre Auswirkungen auf die gesellschaftliche Polarisierung gemessen. Die Umfragen umfassten quantitative Bewertungen auf einer 10-Punkte-Skala und eine Quantifizierung Analyse offener Antworten.

Die Ergebnisse zeigten, dass die Grundeinstellung zur Einwanderung zwar stabil blieb, die Offenheit gegenüber gegensätzlichen Ansichten jedoch zunahm, insbesondere bei Personen mit einer negativen Einstellung zur Einwanderung. Die negative Einstellung verlagerte sich subtil von wirtschaftlichen Bedenken zu Sicherheitsängsten, möglicherweise beeinflusst durch einen öffentlichkeitswirksamen Gewaltvorfall vor der zweiten Umfrage. Die Studie identifizierte sieben Einstellungen, die positive, neutrale und negative Orientierungen umfassten und signifikant mit der Bereitschaft der Teilnehmer korrelierten, mit Personen mit unterschiedlichen Meinungen in einen Dialog zu treten.

Interessant ist auch der beobachtete Rückgang der positiven Einstellung zur Einwanderung auf der quantitativen Skala, während die Valenz der qualitativen Bewertungen keine signifikante Veränderung zeigt. Die Studie stellt auch bestehende Annahmen in Frage, dass einwanderungsfeindliche Einstellungen generell mit einer geringen Toleranz gegenüber gegensätzlichen Ansichten verbunden sind.

Diese Ergebnisse tragen zum Verständnis der Funktionsweise von Polarisierung im deutschen Mehrparteiensystem bei und stehen im Gegensatz zu US-zentrierten Modellen binärer politischer Spaltung. Durch die Betonung der nuancierten Beziehung zwischen spezifischen Einstellungen und dialogischer Offenheit bietet die Studie Einblicke in die Förderung eines konstruktiven Diskurses in polarisierten Gesellschaften.

295 Empörung: diagnostische Relevanz und transformatorisches gesellschaftliches Potenzial

Elisabeth Kals¹, Isabel T. Strubel¹, Martina Grunenberger¹, Svenja C. Schütt¹, Patricia Zieris¹, Adrian Landwehr¹, Jürgen Maes²

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Empörung ist in mehr als 40, teils multi-methodalen Studien zentral, um zwischenmenschliche und gesellschaftliche Phänomene zu verstehen: Empörung ist der Schlüssel, um (1) die emotionale Dimension wahrgenommener Ungerechtigkeit zu erfassen, (2) zu erklären, warum sich Menschen bei wahrgenommenen Missständen engagieren, und (3) soziale Konflikte in ihrem Kern zu verstehen.

Ad 1: Empörung ist die emotionale Reaktion auf wahrgenommene Ungerechtigkeit, wobei die zugrundeliegenden (Un)Gerechtigkeitsurteile in vielfältigen Handlungskontexten differenziert sind.

Ad 2: Empörung ist für das Verständnis von persönlichem und kollektivem Engagement in unterschiedlichen Bereichen entscheidend. Von der Bildung über generationenübergreifendes Engagement, Hilfe für Geflüchtete bis hin zum Umweltschutz: Empörung motiviert Menschen, sich für Veränderungen einzusetzen. Dabei ist Empörung im Plural zu denken: So können Individuen Empörung über zu wenig Umweltschutz/Hilfe für Geflüchtete versus Empörung über zu viel Umweltschutz/Hilfe für Geflüchtete äußern. Beide Dimensionen der Empörung können mit unterschiedlicher Wirkungsrichtung und in variierenden Varianzanteilen das Engagement für den Umweltschutz sowie die Unterstützung von Geflüchteten vorhersagen.

ad 3: Empörung spielt eine wesentliche Rolle bei der Konfliktanalyse und -lösung. Wahrgenommene Ungerechtigkeit steht im Zentrum fast aller gesellschaftlicher Auseinandersetzungen, wie Leo Montada betont. Um diese Konflikte zu verstehen und zu entschärfen, ist es notwendig, Empörung wahrzunehmen und ihre kognitive Struktur nachzuzeichnen. Anschließend ist eine kognitive Neubewertung erforderlich: Hypothetische Überlegungen statt assertorische Urteile helfen, Perspektiven zu hinterfragen und Lösungsansätze zu finden.

Insgesamt besitzt Empörung als sozial-, konflikt- und gerechtigkeitspsychologisches Konstrukt eine hohe diagnostische Relevanz und bietet Einblicke in Grundstrukturen und Lösungswege sozialer Konflikte. Eine vertiefte Auseinandersetzung birgt somit Potential für positive gesellschaftliche Veränderungen.

Symposium: The Power of Imagination: Utopian Thinking and Prefiguration in the Context of Climate Change

13:40 - 15:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Seminarraum 2 Oben (Karthago)

Contemporary gender dynamics are characterized by striking contradictions, including the simultaneous rise in societal endorsement of gender-egalitarian norms alongside the persistence of heteronormativity and inequality. This symposium examines how gender shapes interactions and social structures by integrating findings from experiments, mixed-method studies, and intercultural research on the formation of gender perceptions, gendered social evaluations, and their consequences for identity and self-regulation. Marie Isabelle Weißflog presents a survey experiment examining how information on pronouns and face gender influence gender categorization and stereotype

ascription beyond the male-female binary. Adding on the role of social information in gender perceptions, Verena Heidrich investigates how the salience of another social category—age—affects gender categorization, face perception, and stereotypic attributions across five mixed-method studies. Her findings reveal that gender differences were perceptually and stereotypically amplified for the young and middle-aged adult category but diminish for children and the elderly. Fiona Kazarovytska shifts the focus to the influence of gender norms in social evaluations, demonstrating in two experiments that norm violations in conflict situations—rejecting an offered apology—are judged more harshly when committed by men. Sarah Buhl extends this perspective to violations of gender-equality norms, showing through three experiments that such violations by the male ingroup provoke moral threats, particularly among egalitarian men. Finally, Marina C. Orifici provides an intercultural perspective, examining how perceived gender inequality and gender stereotypes shape self-regulation, social regulation, and risk-taking behavior across 26 countries. Together, this symposium offers a comprehensive understanding of gender dynamics across interpersonal, social, and cultural contexts.

13 The power of imagination: Utopian thinking and prefiguration in the context of climate change

Chair(s)

Frank Eckerle

University of Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, Austria

Helen Landmann

University of Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, Austria

69 The ability to imagine social change: Motivational effects and boundary conditions

Julian Bleh, Torsten Masson, Immo Fritsche

Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Having a vision, being able to imagine social change, is a source of motivation for the transformation towards a socially and ecologically just society. We investigated the motivational effects and boundary conditions of such imaginative capacity. In several experimental studies (N>3000), people were prompted to actively imagine and write about a roughly sketched vision of a society based on social justice, ecological sustainability, democratic participation and solidarity. Subsequently, they were asked to either indicate why this society is or is not a real possibility. This activity was compared to reflecting on the state of current society along the same dimensions, as well as with a neutral control group. The results showed that engaging with the presented societal vision (vs. control) increased a range of psychological determinants of support for social change (i.e. collective action intentions, willingness to pay, moral and efficacy beliefs). On the other hand, reflecting the status quo also had a motivational effect, although slightly less than the vision. Moreover, the effects of the vision were independent of

political orientation. A condition for these effects, seems to be plausibility – perceiving the envisioned society as a real possibility. Interestingly, this perception of possibility depends less on people's assessment of current developments than on their fundamental beliefs and theories about human beings and society. In conclusion, increasing the mental accessibility of societal alternatives seems to be a promising approach to mobilise for socio-ecological change across the political spectrum. However, to be fully effective, change must be made plausible.

68 When means are no dead end: The potential of prefigurative disruption for traffic transformation

Frank Eckerle¹, Helen Landmann¹, Edward J. R. Clarke²

¹University of Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, Austria. ²Philipps-University Marburg, Marburg, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Grassroots movement play a pivotal role in shaping norms and discourse around transformation, especially regarding the ideological justification of the status quo. We argue, based on social identity theory and emerging research on utopian imagination, that experiencing protests where means and ends align (direct action) can increase acceptance of disruption and support for transformation compared to protests where means and ends differ (contentious action). Based on this, we hypothesised that witnessing direct action (e.g., self-drawn bicycle lanes) can increase access to cognitive alternatives compared to witnessing similarly disruptive contentious action (e.g., orange colour on the street where a bicycle lane should be). We expected that direct actions that have this prefigurative effect will be more accepted and increase support for transformation. Two experiments have been conducted in Germany (N = 645) using a 2(direct action/contentious action) x 3(protest ends) design and finding support for most of the pre-registered hypotheses. Specifically, direct actions that had a positive effect on access to cognitive alternatives, also elicited more intense feelings of hope and joy, received more support and solidarity, and were considered more effective and legitimate. We also found evidence for a mediated positive effect on perceptions of desirability, feasibility, and probability of a lower traffic future. Based on this evidence we call on collective action researchers to investigate the transformative potential of experiencing prefiguration.

95 Visions for future: The effect of utopias on acceptance of socio-ecological policies

Felicia Winter¹, Frank Eckerle¹, Robert Gaschler², Helen Landmann¹

¹University of Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, Austria. ²FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Research suggests that thinking about a sustainable future can motivate collective action for sustainability. However, the process of this effect and its relevance for policy acceptance are not clear. We investigated to what extent confrontation with sustainable utopias increases acceptance of socio-ecological policies. Participants (N=180) were randomly assigned to one of four conditions: They either received a technical, social, local, or no utopia. Subsequently, they evaluated the favorability and feasibility of socio-ecological policies, access to cognitive alternatives (i.e., their self-reported ability to imagine how a sustainable future would look like), and the frequency with which they think about the future of their individual life and society. The study is still active, and further data is being collected. The data already collected shows that the description of the social and local utopias affected support of a subset of political measures to reach these utopias. Participants who learned about the social utopia evaluated the regulation of car traffic in cities and of less necessary products (e.g. mass-produced meat and dairy products) more positively, whereas participants who saw the local utopia were more favorable towards increasing the local availability of products and services necessary for daily life. Overall, participants indicated that they think more frequently about their individual future than about the future of the society they live in, whereas only the latter was positively associated with access to cognitive alternatives. These findings highlight an egocentric bias in envisioning the future and the potential of social and local utopias to support socio-ecological policies.

106 Imagining a Just and Sustainable Future: Cognitive alternatives in environmental and social justice efforts.

Annika Lutz¹, Helen Landmann², Elyse Collyer¹, Michael Schmitt¹

¹Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada. ²University Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Environmental cognitive alternatives (ECA)— ideas about a more sustainable world—can foster support for environmental activism and policy. However, given the intertwined nature of environmental and social issues, we will present three studies that explore how ECA relate to social justice. Studies 1 and 2 develop and validate the Justice-Related Cognitive Alternatives Scale (JRCAS) for future research. In Study 1, we develop the scale through exploratory factor analysis and evaluate initial validity via correlations with social justice measures. In Study 2, we use confirmatory factor analysis to further establish construct validity, and we examine the relationships between JRCAS, ECA, and support for activism and policy in environmental and social justice contexts. These analyses will help

determine whether the relationship between ECA and support for environmental outcomes is at least partly dependent on their overlap with being able to better imagine a socially just world. We will further present preliminary results from Study 3, where we compare a control condition with a three-day ECA intervention that includes writing tasks and videos, and investigate effects on environmental and social justice outcomes. We measure activism and policy support for both domains immediately post-intervention and one week later. Data collection is completed for Study 1, and will be completed for Study 2 and 3 by the time of the conference. In sum, these three studies expand on existing literature by exploring and measuring the relationship between ECA and support for social justice, potentially informing strategies to promote support for climate justice.

119 Blaming then changing the system: Do utopian visions and system-level attributions motivate climate action?

Edward Clarke¹, Frank Eckerle², Christopher Cohrs¹

¹Philipps University of Marburg, Marburg, Germany. ²University of Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Calls for “systems change, not climate change” reflect a position that addressing climate change requires deep and fundamental reforms to our society. Despite the reported psychological barriers to system change, research into individual-system relations indicates that accessing cognitive alternatives to the status quo and utopian visions could be a pathway to engaging people in system-challenging efforts and sustaining them in the long-term. This is perhaps because cognitive alternatives and utopian visions provide a standard by which people can compare the status quo to, leading to system-level criticism and subsequently action for change. However, whether it leads people to consider precisely why the status quo is flawed is unknown. Qualitative research suggests that motivated climate activists not only criticize the status quo but make reasonably precise system-level causal attributions for climate change, for example, governments, the fossil fuel industry, and capitalist economic systems. Making system-level over individual causal attributions may be a crucial component of system change motivation alongside cognitive alternatives, because they hold the system responsible for what is wrong with the status quo. This paper will report on two experimental studies (S1 $N = 226$; S2 yet to commence data collection) examining the effect of utopian thinking on system-challenging collective action and support for system change, moderated by structural attributions.

Session: Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing for Social Psychology

13:40 - 15:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Seminarraum 4 Oben (Krakau)

303 Machines or Mates? An Exploratory and International Perspective on Public Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence

Bianca Nowak, Nils Köbis, Nicole Krämer

Reserach Center for Trustworthy Data Science and Security, Duisburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

With AI progressively integrating into society and people's lives, we must understand users' perceptions of these technologies as they build the foundation for meaningful interactions, adoption, and trust (e.g., Andrews et al., 2023; Grimes et al., 2021). Large language models, like ChatGPT, can produce content indistinguishable from human-generated content (e.g. Frank et al., 2024). Given these advancements, we aim to explore whether AI is seen purely as a technical tool or if public perceptions are increasingly shifting toward viewing AI as more human-like. Moreover, AI's visibility, applications, and potential based on political as well as infrastructural circumstances vary significantly in global regions and cultural contexts (e.g., Cazzaniga et al., 2024; Dong et al., 2024; Mamad & Chichi, 2024), which underscores the need for considering international perspectives shaping public perceptions about AI. To fill that gap, we are running a large cultural-comparative survey across five countries (UK, USA, India, South Africa, Australia, total $N = 2500$). By studying public perception using open-ended responses, we aim to gain insights into the mental models and expectations that shape interactions with AI, reflecting broader societal norms. Combining the results of subsequent content analyses with participants' mind perceptions and consciousness beliefs will provide insights into how these perceptions evolve with AI's advancing capabilities. Our results will provide new insights into whether classic theoretical accounts explaining humans' perceptions of machines, e.g., heuristics on machines outperforming humans in logical tasks (Sundar & Kim, 2019), accurately capture perceptions about AI and whether cultural differences exist.

339 “Me and the Machine” – University Students' Attribution of Humanity to Chatbots

Eileen Plagge, Regina Jucks

University Münster, Münster, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

To what extent is artificial intelligence perceived as “warm” or “cold” in the sense of Asch (1946), and what features contribute to these attributions? We report two studies from the usage of Chat-Bots in Higher Education.

Study 1 employed a 2x2 design to examine the effects of kind cues (presence vs. absence) and chatbot description type (anthropomorphic vs. technical). German-speaking university-students were recruited. Study 2 also using a 2x2 experimental design varied: (1) type of language (anthropomorphic vs. technical) and (2) personality cues (kind vs. neutral). Dependent measures participant's perception of warmth and benevolence (Study 1) and perceived warmth and humanity (Study 2). Using LIWC (Pennebaker, 1999) we identified affect-related terms in the written description of participants about the Chat-Bot.

Results indicate a main effect of kindness on perceived warmth in both studies.

In addition, open responses showed that kind cues raised the proportion of affect-related terms ($F(1,304) = 6.37, p = .012, \eta^2 = 0.02$), particularly positive emotions ($F(1,304) = 8.76, p = .001, \eta^2 = 0.03$; interaction: $F(1,304) = 2.77, p = .049, \eta^2 = 0.01$), while anthropomorphized descriptions increased the use of social terms ($F(1,304) = 4.75, p = .03, \eta^2 = 0.02$). Discussion addresses how chatbot descriptions impact on user's perceptions and how this relates to using Chatbots in Higher Education.

117 Political Ideologies and AI: How Ideologies and Underlying Values Shape AI-Acceptance in Sensitive Domains.

Claas Pollmanns, Theresa Fritzsche, Nils Heimhumber, Frank Asbrock

Chemnitz University of Technology, Chemnitz, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) systems into various aspects of society over recent years has posed profound social challenges. This presentation investigates the relationship between political ideologies and the evaluation of AI applications. Political ideology is not merely a political preference; it is closely connected to deeply ingrained values and socio-cognitive needs (Jost et al., 2009). Consequently, political ideology shapes the evaluation and perception of social life and the adoption of new technologies (Peng, 2023).

In two studies, we examine the relationship between political ideology, specifically Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) and Social Dominance Orientation (SDO), and attitudes toward the use of artificial intelligence in sensitive societal domains. We illustrate how distinct underlying personal values (Schwartz, 1992) mediate the relationship between RWA, SDO, and acceptance of AI technologies.

Study 1 (N=243) used a vignette experiment to examine attitudes toward AI-driven security technologies and AI applications in financial loan evaluations. We hypothesized that RWA would predict acceptance of AI in security domains, mediated by an individual preference for security. Conversely, we anticipated that SDO would predict acceptance of AI technology in financial services, mediated by an individual preference for power. Results supported our hypothesis for RWA but not for SDO. In Study 2 we aim to replicate and refine Study 1 by using an improved and pretested vignette for SDO in a balanced sample.

These studies contribute to the growing body of research on AI alignment in various contexts and shed light on the challenges associated with the concept of AI alignment.

92 How Fine-tuning Shifts the Moral Perception of Language Models

Sarah M. Müller, [Frederic R. Hopp](#)

Leibniz Institute for Psychology (ZPID), Trier, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Moralizing language is a powerful tool for capturing attention, influencing discourse, and motivating collective action. Consequently, detecting moral content in textual data has become an important goal for computational psychology. State-of-the-art moral sentiment approaches leverage pre-trained language models (PLMs) that are subsequently fine-tuned on moral annotations to perform the specific task of identifying moral content. While it was demonstrated that PLMs display an inherent moral bias, how this bias evolves during fine-tuning with human moral annotations remains unclear.

We investigate (1) how moral bias shifts during fine-tuning on English, German, and Dutch moral annotations and which factors drive this shift, (2) how fine-tuning reshapes moral sensitivities to align with annotators' values, and (3) how these models evaluate experimental moral vignettes compared to human judgments. Using mono- and multilingual PLMs for fine-tuning on moral annotations, we employ the MORALDIRECTION framework to define a moral embedding subspace and derive a "moral direction vector" quantifying each model's moral bias. We compare this bias (RQ1), along with models' moral sensitivities—assessed via the Moral Foundations Questionnaire (MFQ) (RQ2)—and evaluations of moral violation scenarios (RQ3) before and after fine-tuning, highlighting how fine-tuning influences alignment with human perspectives.

Our results shed light on the extent to which fine-tuned models conform to diverse moral beliefs across linguistic and cultural contexts, and identify dataset characteristics that most strongly influence these outcomes. By offering theoretically-grounded, actionable insights into the processes underlying moral alignment, this research provides critical guidance for developing morally balanced, culturally adaptable NLP models.

Coffee Break

15:00 - 15:20 Sunday, 14th September, 2025

Session: Trust and Distrust

15:20 - 16:40 Sunday, 14th September, 2025

Saal 1

320 Accuracy of deception judgments – updating the classic meta-analysis

Simon Schindler¹, Thanee Bläsing², Sandro Gomera², Florian Scharf²

¹Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences, Berlin, Germany. ²University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Deception and lying are everyday phenomena. When it comes to the ability to accurately discriminate true from false messages, to date, the overall accuracy rate is a little above the random 50% chance of guessing correctly, namely 54%. This widespread number goes back to the classic meta-analysis of Bond and DePaulo (2006; cited 2897 times according to google scholar). They further found that people were better in classifying true messages as true (61%) than false messages as lies (47%). This so-called veracity effect was explained by people's truth bias, that is, a general tendency to err in the direction of judging messages as true. Nearly 20 years later, we aim to update this meta-analysis. While the original work synthesized research results from 206 documents, our comprehensive literature search left us with more than 400 documents. In this talk, we will discuss the findings in relation to those of the original meta-analysis as well as to existing theoretical ideas on deception judgments.

297 Understanding the Social Impact of Trust and Distrust Responses: The Role of Interpersonal Closeness

Ann-Christin Posten¹, Pinar Ugurlar²

¹University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland. ²Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey

Submission Type

Abstract

Trust and distrust are pivotal in shaping social interactions, yet little is known about their effects on targeted individuals. This research examines how expressed trust and distrust influence recipients' affective and behavioral responses, particularly in light of interpersonal closeness. Drawing on the Emotions as Social Information (EASI) model, we propose that identical trust and distrust expressions evoke different reactions in targets depending on relational proximity.

Across four experiments ($N = 1973$), we investigate how trust and distrust expressions affect the recipient's expectations, emotional responses, and behavioral tendencies. Experiments 1, 2, and 4 demonstrate that the same trust behavior shown by a close versus distant has different effects on recipients' surprise reactions. While trust responses shown by a close other do not elicit much surprise, they do if a distant other shows the same trust behavior. An opposite pattern emerges for distrust. Furthermore, positive affect is pronounced if distant others show trust compared to close others (Experiments 1, 2, and 4). This is true for general affect scales (Experiment 1) and more specific emotions like joy (Experiment 2). Conversely, negative affect is pronounced if close others show distrust rather than distant others (Experiments 1, 2, and 4). This applies to general affect (Experiment 4) and specific emotions like anger and sadness (Experiment 2). Experiments 3 and 4 show that trust is more rewarded when expressed by a distant other, while distrust is more punished when expressed by a close other. These findings deepen our understanding of relationship-specific trust thresholds.

55 Beyond Benevolence-Based Trust in Social Dilemmas: The Role of Competence

Stephan Nuding, Mario Gollwitzer

LMU Munich, Munich, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Social dilemma research typically defines trust as the willingness to accept a risk based on the expectation of others' benevolent intentions or behavior. However, recent theorizing suggests that trustworthiness judgments are formed not only on the basis of benevolence, but also on the basis of competence expectations. Competence expectations are typically situation-specific (e.g., task-dependent skills), but they might also entail person-specific, situationally and temporally stable characteristics (e.g., perspective-taking, intelligence). In three preregistered studies ($n_1=437$, $n_2=330$, $n_3=283$), we tested whether situation-specific competence expectations predict cooperation in social dilemmas beyond benevolence expectations. Participants played incentivized economic games (prisoners dilemma and

trust games) with a fictitious partner. Benevolence and situation-specific competence expectations were measured via self-report scales. In two studies, information about the interaction partner's competence (i.e., intelligence; perspective-taking skills) were experimentally manipulated. Across all studies, situation-specific competence expectations predicted cooperation in social dilemmas beyond benevolence expectations. The effect of information about the partner's intelligence on cooperation was mediated both by expected competence and benevolence. The findings are discussed with regard to potential avenues for further research of competence-based trust in social dilemmas.

218 People trust others making claims outside their field of expertise: A demonstration and explanatory account

Francisco Cruz¹, Austin Smith², Alex Koch², André Mata¹

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

In the present research, we explore the conditions under which people fall prey to epistemic trespassing, trusting those without expertise that pass judgment onto areas they are not knowledgeable about. In Study 1, participants read claims provided by trespassers coming from low- and high-status occupations, pertaining to similar or dissimilar domains to their own but about which they held no expertise. The socio-occupational status of the trespassers increased perceptions of a claim's truthfulness, namely buffering against its decrease for occupations that were dissimilar (rather than similar) from the trespasser's. We then turned to *why* people believe these trespassers. We present a spill-over account, whereas capability ascriptions in one's domain of expertise transfer to trespassed domains, with people calling to mind different exemplars for low- and high-status occupations – those that are average vs. those that excel, respectively. In Study 2, we measured the extent to which participants found trespassers to be knowledgeable about their area and about those they trespassed into. Importantly, the extent to which they found the trespasser to be knowledgeable on their domain of expertise positively predicted the extent to which participants believed their claims about trespassed domains, even when controlling for perceptions of knowledge about the latter. In Study 3, we again tested this account by instead providing feedback about the trespasser's performance in their occupation. In line with our explanation, high-status trespassers that did poorly in their occupation were particularly punished for trespassing into dissimilar domains.

288 The influence of customizing a robot on psychological ownership and trust: A conceptual replication

Dimitri Lacroix, Hannah Brinkmann, Ricarda Wullenkord, Friederike Eyszel

Universität Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany

Submission Type

Abstract

The adaptation of robots to their users' preferences and needs contributes to their deployment and adoption in society. Yet, insights on the psychological effects of adapting robots to their users is scarce. Customization, an adaptation process that is performed by the user, remains largely underexplored in human-robot interaction (HRI) research. Our previous work (Lacroix et al., 2022) demonstrated that customizing a robot, compared to merely evaluating it, elicited more psychological ownership and trust towards it, with psychological ownership significantly predicting trust. However, this online experiment included an imagination task, and the vividness of mental imagery indeed exerted a significant effect on our outcomes. To rule out that customizing a robot facilitated imagining it, resulting in increased psychological ownership and trust towards it, we conducted a conceptual replication with $N = 205$ participants. Here, we manipulated both customization of the robot and the instruction to imagine the robot. Results confirmed that customizing a robot (vs. not) elicited more psychological ownership and trust towards a robot, whereas the presence or absence of an imagination task had no effects on the dependent variables. Theoretical and practical implications for the psychology of HRI will be discussed, with an emphasis on the gaps that research in psychology could fill to improve future investigations of the impact of the adaptation of robots on how people perceive them and interact with them.

Symposium: The Theory Specification Challenge: A Collective Effort for Specifying Classic Theories of Social Psychology

15:20 - 16:40 Sunday, 14th September, 2025

Saal 2a

Efficient knowledge development requires that scientific theories are objective. This means that scientific theories are formulated in a way that they (a) allow for the derivation of unambiguous predictions for each situation in which the theory applies and (b) that their understanding—and consequently, the derived predictions—is commonly shared. It has been repeatedly criticized that many theories in psychology are described only in verbal narratives and might therefore not be sufficiently well specified to live up to this standard. In this symposium we report results from a collective effort (a) to formally specify a substantial number of classic theories from social psychology, (b) to identify challenges, insights, and opportunities that appear during this process, and (c) to generate a first empirical estimate concerning the magnitude of the problem of insufficient theory specification in social psychology. The symposium begins with an introduction to the theory specification challenge and the used methodology. Subsequently, four teams participating in the challenge will present their results and insights from specifying classic theories. Finally, the results will be discussed.

32 The Theory Specification Challenge: A Collective Effort for Specifying Classic Theories of Social Psychology

Chair(s)

Andreas Glöckner

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

251 The Theory Specification Challenge for Bochum: An Introduction and First Overall Findings

Fiona tho Pesch¹, Susann Fiedler², Andreas Glöckner¹

¹University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany. ²WU Wien, Wien, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

In an open call we invited researchers—in a first step mainly social psychologists from Germany—to take part in the theory specification challenge for the social psychology division meeting in Bochum. This challenge constitutes a collective effort to formally specify a substantial number of classic theories from social psychology in small teams. The challenge uses a proposition based theory specification methodology, in which the core predictions of each theory are derived in the form of IF [proposition A] - THEN [proposition B] statements from verbal descriptions of the theory (e.g. by the theory's author). Furthermore, the formalization procedure required the definition of all concepts included in these propositions and the provision of valid operationalizations for each of the concepts or propositions. Using a theory specification template, theories are first specified independently, the degree of agreement of these specifications is measured, and finally an objective consensus version of the specified theory is generated and the original verbal description of the theory is rated concerning various aspects. Details concerning the methodology and the participating teams will be presented. From the perspective of the overall project, first results will be reported and important insights, challenges, and lessons learned will be shared.

231 Theory Specification: From Cognitive Dissonance Theory to the Self-Standards Model of Dissonance

Daria Lisovoj, Jennifer Biehl, Jasper Siol

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Cognitive Dissonance Theory (CDT) has been one of the most influential theories in social psychology for decades. The Self-Standards Model (SSM) of dissonance represents an

important extension of CDT and aims to specify the conditions under which dissonance occurs. The SSM particularly emphasizes the importance of inconsistency with one's self-standards as a main driver of cognitive dissonance and offers a more nuanced explanation of when and why dissonance is experienced. However, the exact predictions of the model and its differentiation from CDT remain somewhat unclear.

We apply the Proposition Based Theory Specification (PBTS) approach to systematically specify SSM into concrete propositions, formulated as IF-THEN statements, along with definitions of key constructs, as well as provide operationalizations for these constructs. By applying PBTS, we aim to clarify the distinctions between SSM and CDT and to refine the theoretical structure of SSM.

In this contribution, we present the resulting specification of the theory and share the insights gained throughout the specification process. We hope that these reflections will contribute not only to the further development of SSM as a theory, but also to the application of PBTS as a methodological approach.

244 Theory Specification for the Theory of Planned Behavior

Massimo Köster¹, Maximilian Schmidt², Franziska Stanke², Julian Fick³, Juliane Burghardt⁴

¹University of Marburg, Marburg, Germany. ²University of Münster, Münster, Germany. ³University of Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany. ⁴Karl Landsteiner University of Health Sciences, Krems, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

The theory of planned behavior (TPB) is a highly influential theory in social psychology. Especially applied social psychology as well as environmental and health psychology have used the theory in studies aimed at behavioral change through interventions. The TPB stands out as a relatively precisely formulated theory within the field. We apply the Proposition Based Theory Specification (PBTS) approach to transform this theory into propositions, involving specific antecedents and consequences. In this contribution we compare the specification of the TPB with the original TPB and share insights from the theory specification process (e.g., interrater reliability) for an already highly specified theory. We thereby hope to identify and potentially resolve existing imprecisions of the TPB, such as whether perceived behavioral control should be differentiated from self-efficacy and provide insights regarding the process of theory specification more generally. Finally, given that the PBTS method is currently applied to a broad range of theories, this theoretical specification potentially paves the way for the integration of the TPB with other existing theories.

257 Specifying Self-Determination Theory as a FAIR Theory

Caspar van Lissa¹, Ranran Li², Florian Weber³

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Self-Determination Theory (SDT; Deci & Ryan, 1985) is one of the most widely cited social psychological theories. It posits that satisfaction of the needs for autonomy, competence, and relatedness fosters internalization and intrinsic motivation, thereby enhancing well-being, performance, and personal growth. Despite its broad adoption, SDT remains largely presented in narrative form. The resulting ambiguity leaves room for inconsistent application. To overcome this limitation, we specify SDT in terms of IF-THEN statements. We evaluate interrater agreement and discuss challenges encountered during formalization. Going beyond the initial challenge, we apply the FAIR principles to our theory specification (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable). The result is a FAIR Self-Determination Theory, whose development over time can be tracked via version control, and which is interoperable within the R programming language. FAIR SDT will be a useful starting point for further formal modeling and empirical research, and serves as an illustrative example of FAIR theory specification.

267 Theory Specification: Attachment Theory and a Meta-Perspective

Juliane Burghardt¹, Nathalie Claus², Omri Gillath³

¹Karl Landsteiner University of Health Sciences, Krems, Austria. ²University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany.

³University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Attachment theory is among the oldest social psychological theories and is supported by decades of empirical evidence. It originated from observing troubled children and was expanded to adults in the adult attachment theory. The results are widely influential in developmental and clinical research as well as research on romantic relationships. However, the theory has been kept in its narrative form, which limits its precision. We use the Proposition Based Theory Specification (PBTS) approach to distill the theory's propositions and identify operationalizations of the involved concepts. The results will help unveil underspecifications, potential contradictions, or even tautologies that are less visible when a theory's implications and assumptions are not formally explicated. We will compare the experiences from the specification process to that to other theory specifications using quantitative (i.e., interrater reliability) as well

as qualitative assessments. We aim to identify conditions that support or hinder theory specification.

Symposium: Conspiracy Beliefs in Societal Discourse

15:20 - 16:40 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Saal 2b

Recent years have witnessed a massive increase in scholarly as well as public interest in conspiracy beliefs and their psychological undercurrents, not least due to their suspected problematic role in democratic answers to pertinent crises like pandemics, the climate catastrophe, or social change. The present symposium highlights state-of-the-art research on potential antecedents of conspiracy beliefs (nostalgic deprivation, Grosche), their upholding conditions (vagueness, Landmann), as well as problematic consequences (procedural justice concerns, Frenzel; low endorsement of democratic values, Bertlich; political violence, Pummerer). While the first talk (Grosche) combines cross-sectional and experimental evidence to show that nostalgic deprivation increases generalized conspiracy beliefs (conspiracy mentality), the second contribution (Landmann) relies on the case of climate change conspiracies to exemplify that believers may claim great confidence in their general beliefs, but (strategically) indicate lower confidence in specific aspects. The second half of the symposium focuses on potentially detrimental effects of conspiracy beliefs and their underlying processes. The contributions ask whether conspiracy beliefs attenuate perceptions of procedural justice over time (Frenzel), loosen allegiance to democratic principles (Bertlich), and under which conditions conspiracy beliefs motivate political violence (Pummerer). The symposium comprises research programs with high-power samples, intensive longitudinal data, as well as experimental methods to shed light on the role of conspiracy beliefs in current societal discourses.

9 Conspiracy beliefs in societal discourse

Chair(s)

Roland Imhoff

Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

34 Defending or Defying Democracy? Reinvestigating the Relationship Between Conspiracy Beliefs and Support for Democratic Principles.

Tisa Bertlich, Roland Imhoff

Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Mainz, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Research on the relationship between conspiracy beliefs and democratic attitudes has so far been contradictory: While some research shows that people with stronger conspiracy beliefs are more likely to support non-democratic regimes, other research suggests that people with stronger conspiracy beliefs are more likely to support democratic principles. The study at hand aims to unravel these contradictory findings by re-examining this relationship for different operationalizations of conspiracy beliefs. In three cross-sectional survey studies, we find that people who are more likely to believe in implausible conspiracy theories are less likely to support democratic principles. We also find that this negative relationship with support for democratic principles emerges for unwarranted cognitions, too, such as the tendency to perceive nonsense statements as profound. Furthermore, we do not find evidence for a relationship between plausible conspiracy beliefs and support for democratic principles. The research at hand sheds light on the importance of the operationalization of conspiracy beliefs. Additionally, it calls researchers to demonstrate the unique contribution of conspiracy beliefs over and above overlapping or confounding variables, such as shared thinking styles or political orientation.

35 The Pandemic's Aftermath: Conspiracy Beliefs Predict Perceptions of Procedural Justice

Svenja Frenzel¹, Lotte Pummerer^{2,3}, Sonja Utz^{3,4}, Kai Sassenberg^{1,5}

¹Leibniz Institute for Psychology, Trier, Germany. ²University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany. ³Leibniz-Institut für Wissensmedien, Tuebingen, Germany. ⁴University of Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany. ⁵University of Trier, Trier, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a significant amount of people believed that the virus was a hoax or that the measures against the pandemic were outcomes of a conspiracy. The people believing in a political COVID-19 conspiracy likely perceived low procedural justice - the perception that the government executes power unfairly and, thus, questioned the legitimacy of the political system. In line with this notion, this talk seeks to examine the relationship between conspiracy beliefs and procedural justice regarding COVID-19 policies during the peak and the decay of the pandemic (i.e., June 2022 – September 2023). In addition, we considered the moderating role of economic and health threats. We tested our hypotheses using data from a five-wave study ($N = 4939$, quota-based). Latent growth curve analysis revealed a negative relationship between conspiracy beliefs (at Time 1) and the average starting value of procedural justice (i.e., intercept). Furthermore, conspiracy beliefs were also negatively related to the change of procedural justice over time (i.e., slope), as people with lower conspiracy beliefs at Time 1 showed a steeper increase in procedural justice over time. Finally, economic and health threats weakened the relationship between conspiracy beliefs and the intercept of procedural justice, implying that people with strong conspiracy beliefs reported lower resentment against COVID-19 policies when they perceived to be under threat. These results show that the negative long-term consequences of conspiracy beliefs last beyond the pandemic context.

43 Conspiracy beliefs and violent political action: the role of symbolic and realistic threat

Lotte Pummerer¹, Paula Wessel¹, Lena Frischlich^{2,3}, Nadira Faber¹, Kevin Winter⁴, Pia Marie Schmidt¹

¹University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany. ²Digital Democracy Centre, Odense, Denmark. ³University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark. ⁴Universität Hohenheim, Hohenheim, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Conspiracy beliefs have been linked to violent political action; however, the underlying mechanisms have gained less scientific attention so far. Anecdotal evidence suggests that believing in some conspiracy theories (e.g., those accusing the government of dictatorial structures) leads more readily to violence than believing in others (e.g., those surrounding the death of Princess Diana). In three studies, we examined perceived threat as a potential factor underlying this relationship. In Study 1 ($N = 650$), we experimentally manipulated conspiracy beliefs by asking participants in the experimental group to imagine living in a country where secret arrangements between powerful players are common. Doing so increased perceived threat, which in turn increased hypothetical willingness for illegal and violent actions. In Study 2 ($N = 119$), participants rated the threat potential of conspiracy theories circulating on social media. These ratings were used to rank theories by threat potential. In Study 3 ($N = 432$), we tested this potential to lead to violence. Combined with the ranking from Study 2, we found that higher threat potential in interaction with stronger belief in the specific conspiracy theory were associated with higher justification of violence. Regarding actual willingness to use violence, symbolic (but not realistic) threat potential predicted willingness to use violence in interaction with belief in the theory. Overall, threat implied in conspiracy theories seems to serve as justification of illegal and violent political action. Implications regarding different types of conspiracy theories and challenges in disentangling threat and conspiracy theories will be discussed.

44 Overconfidence and vagueness in climate change conspiracy beliefs

Helen Landmann¹, Martin Hänsel², Robert Schmidt³

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

People who believe in conspiracy theories tend to overestimate their understanding of political issues (i.e., political overconfidence). In contrast to the political overconfidence approach, we argue that conspiracy theories profit from vagueness in specific aspects of conspiracy theories: Not committing oneself means not being able to be disproved. To test this claim, we conducted two surveys balanced with regard to age, gender, political orientation and income in Germany ($N = 1,588$) and the US ($N = 1,501$). Participants responded to the Global-warming Conspiracy Scale and the Political Overconfidence Scale. In addition, they indicated for each conspiracy item how confident they were about their response. In line with previous research, political overconfidence was positively associated with conspiracy beliefs about global warming. However, contradictory to the overconfidence approach but in line with our

hypotheses and consistent across both studies, confidence in the specific conspiracy items was negatively associated with belief in global warming conspiracies. Hence, participants who did not believe in conspiracy theories were more confident about this than people who believed in specific aspects of climate conspiracies. People who believed in climate conspiracies tended to keep some vagueness about which specific aspect of the conspiracy theory is true. This explains why people can believe in contradictory conspiracy theories and raises the question at which point vagueness in specific conspiracy theories turns into political overconfidence.

40 Investigating the Role of Nostalgic Deprivation for Conspiracy Mentality in Times of Social Change

Carla Grosche, Tobias Rothmund

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Jena, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Recent research highlights that relative deprivation can fuel conspiracy beliefs, as individuals seek to attribute blame to culprits to cope with shaken needs. However, amid an era characterized by social change, we argue that conspiracy beliefs may also be fueled by *Nostalgic Deprivation* – perceptions of an unjust decline in the ingroup's social, political, and economic status compared to the past. Drawing on correlational ($N = 1.206$) and experimental data ($N = 1.500$) from German quota samples, we show that nostalgic deprivation bolsters conspiracy mentality even beyond perceived relative deprivation and illuminate the role of positive vs. negative change compared to the past and its perceived fairness in shaping conspiracy mentality. Our findings offer insights in the psychological mechanisms linking societal change and conspiracy beliefs.

Session: Diversity and Inclusion

15:20 - 16:40 Sunday, 14th September, 2025

Saal 3

112 Introduction of a psychological framework conceptualizing social deconstruction as a diversity strategy

Judith Masselmann, Katherina Hildebrand, Julia C. Becker

Universität Osnabrück, Osnabrück, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

The framework of diversity strategies, also termed as diversity ideologies or intergroup ideologies, examines how individuals produce social groups by using categorical markers such as skin color to migrantize, racialize or normalize other people as being different or similar to one's own group. In psychology, the two most researched strategies are colorblindness and multiculturalism. Colorblindness seeks to ignore categorical markers with the intention of promoting equality; however, this approach often overlooks the personal significance of social identities and can perpetuate existing inequalities by concealing power differences. In contrast, multiculturalism fosters appreciation for differences but may reinforce intergroup boundaries. We propose incorporating social deconstruction into the diversity strategies framework as a perspective that critiques the socially constructed nature of identity categories like race or ethnicity. Despite recognition in related social sciences, social deconstruction is underexplored in psychological research. The concept emphasizes that categories and intersectional power imbalances have historically been shaped within societal contexts of inequality, often functioning to uphold and perpetuate such inequalities. Unlike multiculturalism and colorblindness, which predominantly focus on the marginalized and seek to reduce prejudice, social deconstruction critically highlights the responsibilities of the privileged and strives to deconstruct the meanings attached to social categories, advocating for social justice. Incorporating social deconstruction as a focal topic in social psychological research requires expanding the overarching research question from how prejudice can be reduced to how systemic inequalities can be dismantled. Ultimately, this paper introduces conceptual frameworks and prospective psychological measures of social deconstruction to guide this empirical shift.

155 Two field experiments on hiring bias against gay kindergarten teachers who engage in LGBT* activism

Claudia Niedlich, Christian Rölz, Ezgi Altun, Melanie C. Steffens

University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

In two field experiments ($N = 376$, $n = 424$), we investigated hiring biases against gay men applying for kindergarten teaching positions in Germany, with a focus on the role of LGBT* activism. Identical applications were sent to nearly 800 childcare institutions with advertised open positions—both state-sponsored and denominational. In Experiment 1, the applicants' CVs indicated gay marriage, LGBT* activism, or presumed heterosexuality. Experiment 2 compared applicants in a heterosexual versus gay relationship, with the latter either involved in LGBT* activism or married. Applications were sent to both state-sponsored and denominational institutions, with the latter legally permitted to discriminate based on religious beliefs.

In both experiments, we found a small yet significant bias against applicants identified as LGBT* activists, with a stronger bias observed in denominational institutions. When

activism was not disclosed, the response rates for gay and heterosexual applicants were comparable, challenging the assumption of discrimination based solely on sexual orientation. These findings align with prior research on workplace discrimination and provide new insights into how sexual orientation and activism interact in hiring biases.

Our experiments highlight the importance of institutional contexts. While LGBT* activism elicited discrimination in religious institutions, no bias was evident in state-sponsored institutions. These findings question the assumption that social engagement is consistently valued in job applications. We discuss the practical implications of our findings, particularly regarding organizational policies and the exceptions to equality laws granted to religious organizations.

302 The Inclusion Paradox: How Social Identity and Implicit Bias Shape Responses to Inclusive Hiring Messages

Melissa Striethörster, Oliver Genschow, David Loschelder

Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, Lüneburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Prejudice and workplace stigmatization remain major barriers for marginalized job seekers. While socially responsible companies are often attractive employers, social enterprises paradoxically struggle to attract applicants despite their commitment to inclusion. This study examines how different communication strategies influence job seekers' interest.

Drawing on Social Identity Theory and implicit bias research, we conducted two preregistered experiments (total $N = 1088$). In Experiment 1, participants were randomly assigned to a company that either (1) did not communicate social inclusion, (2) explicitly communicated social inclusion (e.g., hiring people with lived experiences such as mental disorders or former prisoners), or (3) indirectly communicated inclusion (e.g., membership in a social impact network). Explicit communication reduced perceived company attractiveness and willingness to apply due to anticipated team conflicts. Experiment 2 replicated these findings and showed that providing clear work instructions and psychological support improved perceptions of explicitly inclusive companies, though application willingness remained unchanged.

These findings suggest that explicit inclusion messaging can decrease perceived company attractiveness and application willingness due to concerns about workplace dynamics. However, providing clear work structures and psychological support can improve perceptions of such companies. This research extends Social Identity Theory and implicit bias research by demonstrating how different communication strategies shape workplace perceptions and hiring barriers.

260 Diversity in the Eye of the Beholder: How Representation Overshadows Distribution in Diversity Evaluations

Johanna Woitzel¹, Anne Irena Weitzel², Moritz Ingendahl¹, Alex Koch³, Hans Alves¹

¹Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ²University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany. ³University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Chicago, USA

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts require a consensual understanding of where diversity needs to be improved, yet lay perceptions often differ from formal diversity measures. Across seven preregistered studies, this research examines how individuals evaluate the diversity of groups, focusing on whether they prioritize richness (i.e., the number of represented groups) over distribution (i.e., the evenness among groups). Study 1 tests whether common diversity indices predict lay perceptions, finding that people rely on richness as a cue for diversity above and beyond distribution cues. Studies 2a-c experimentally demonstrate that individuals systematically prioritize richness over distribution across different contexts, using non-social (geometric shapes), social-esque (alien species), and social (nationalities) stimuli. Study 3 replicates these findings when the diversity of sampled distributions is judged. The final Studies 4a-b investigate real-world consequences of this richness heuristic in hiring and applicant perceptions. Study 4a demonstrates that individuals in hiring positions are more likely to place applicants from non-represented groups in teams that are low in richness (but evenly distributed) when tasked with diversifying the workforce. In contrast, Study 4b shows that applicants from non-represented groups are more willing to work in teams that are high in richness (but unevenly distributed). Overall, this research highlights that in lay perceptions of diversity, richness cues systematically overshadow distribution cues. This tendency can contribute to tokenism—that is, the practice of including someone from a marginalized group merely to appear diverse, without genuinely integrating them into decision-making or offering them real opportunities.

230 “My Pronouns Are...”: A Mixed Methods Study on Pronoun Sharing Experiences Across the Gender Spectrum

Nicole Methner, Meike Dietrich

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Sharing one's pronouns is an emerging practice in various contexts, including emails, social media platforms, and virtual meetings. While often intended to promote inclusivity and create safe spaces for gender minorities, little is known about how transgender and nonbinary (TGNB) individuals actually experience this practice.

This exploratory study aims to gain a better understanding of pronoun sharing experiences across the gender spectrum in Germany, focusing on TGNB perspectives while also including cisgender experiences. Our mixed methods approach combined quantitative and qualitative data from 601 participants (263 TGNB, 320 cisgender, 18

unknown) recruited primarily from LGBTQIA+ groups and related organizations. Participants completed an online survey measuring attitudes and expectations regarding pronoun sharing, along with open-ended questions about their experiences and thoughts on the topic.

Quantitative results indicated generally positive attitudes towards pronoun sharing, with TGNB individuals expressing more favorable views than cisgender participants. However, thematic analysis of 144 open responses revealed a nuanced picture. At the individual level, TGNB people experienced pronoun sharing as a complex practice involving personal concerns about coming out, navigating discrimination, and receiving support and validation. At the structural level, participants highlighted how pronoun sharing intersects with broader discourses on gender identity, potentially perpetuating gender categorizations and stereotypes, while also fostering safe communities.

Overall, the study challenges universal pronoun sharing recommendations, suggesting the need for nuanced and context-dependent approaches that consider both benefits and potential pitfalls of pronoun sharing.

Symposium: Neoliberale Gesellschaften in der Krise: Welche psychologischen Mechanismen unterliegen gesellschaftlicher Reproduktion und Veränderung?

15:20 - 16:40 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Saal 4

Gesellschaftskrisen sind charakterisiert durch das Missverhältnis zwischen internalisierten kulturellen Überzeugungen und neuen Resozialisierungsanforderungen. Neoliberalismus als dominierende Ideologie prägt dabei unsere individuelle Wahrnehmung von und Reaktion auf Gesellschaftskrisen. Die Krise tritt in der Auseinandersetzung um die Frage zutage: Wie wollen wir zukünftig zusammenleben? Welche Ideen möchten wir bewahren und welche neu denken? Dieses Symposium untersucht, wie neoliberale Denkmuster gesellschaftliche Reproduktion und Wandel beeinflussen – von internalisierten Überzeugungen zu makrostrukturellen Barrieren für politische Transformation.

Der erste Beitrag analysiert systemrechtfertigende Überzeugungen und deren Einfluss auf Krisenwahrnehmung und politisches Verhalten. Anhand empirischer Daten wird gezeigt, wie neoliberale Ideologien klimaschützendes Verhalten untergraben, moralische Entkopplung verstärken und sozialpolitisches Engagement hemmen. Der zweite Beitrag untersucht die Subjektivierung neoliberaler Ideologie in der Arbeitskultur und zeigt Zusammenhänge zwischen marktorientierter Leistungssteuerung und politischer Ohnmachtsgefühle auf.

Der dritte Beitrag betrachtet den Einfluss neoliberaler Subjektivität auf kollektive Mobilisierung. Es wird untersucht, wie eine stark individualisierte Denkweise Engagement und zugrunde liegende motivationale Qualität für gesellschaftliche Veränderung modifiziert. Der vierte Beitrag hebt die Auswirkungen von Neoliberalismus auf makrostrukturelle Faktoren hervor und präsentiert Daten des Many Labs Climate-Projekts, die zeigen, wie wirtschaftliche Freiheit, CO₂-Emissionen und demokratische Strukturen die Akzeptanz von Umweltpolitik beeinflussen. Der letzte Beitrag stellt eine neue Skalenkonstruktion vor, die Glauben an den Status quo, Imaginationsvermeidung, dystopisches Denken und utopisches Denken als Motivatoren für gesellschaftliche Reproduktions- und Veränderungsprozesse einführt.

Gemeinsam bieten unsere Beiträge ein detailliertes Verständnis des Zusammenspiels zwischen gesellschaftlicher

Krisenwahrnehmung und Prozessen der gesellschaftlichen Reproduktion und des Wandels. Wie möchten wir zukünftig zusammenleben? Wir laden Sie herzlich ein, diese Frage gemeinsam zu diskutieren.

37 Neoliberale Gesellschaften in der Krise: Welche psychologischen Mechanismen unterliegen gesellschaftlicher Reproduktion und Veränderung?

Chair(s)

Heiko Mikolajczak

Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Sascha Kuhn

Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany

309 Sozioökonomische Strukturen und die Akzeptanz von Umweltpolitik: Neoliberalismus als Hindernis für gesellschaftlichen Wandel

Sascha Kuhn¹, Sonja Grelle¹, Kimberly C. Doell², Madalina Vlasceanu³, Wilhelm Hofmann¹

¹Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ²University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany. ³Stanford University, Stanford, USA

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Die Klimakrise erfordert tiefgreifende politische Veränderungen, doch die Akzeptanz solcher Maßnahmen wird maßgeblich durch sozioökonomische Strukturen geprägt – ein Aspekt, der in der Forschung oft vernachlässigt wird. Bisherige Studien konzentrieren sich vor allem auf individuelle Faktoren und privilegierte euro-amerikanische Länder. Diese Studie schließt diese Lücke, indem sie global untersucht, wie makrostrukturelle Faktoren die Akzeptanz von Umweltpolitik (PPA) beeinflussen. Insbesondere betrachten wir Neoliberalismus als architektonischen Bauplan wirtschaftlicher, politischer und sozialer Systeme. Zur Analyse kombinieren wir nationale Datensätze mit Daten des Many Labs Climate-Projekts (N = 60.000, 63 Länder).

Unsere Ergebnisse zeigen, dass wirtschaftliche Freiheit und pro-Kopf-CO₂-Emissionen negativ mit der Akzeptanz von politischen Maßnahmen korrelieren. Wirtschaftliche Freiheit verstärkt Individualismus und somit Skepsis gegenüber staatlichen Eingriffen, während hohe Emissionen häufig wirtschaftliche Abhängigkeiten widerspiegeln und dadurch Widerstand gegen strukturelle Veränderungen fördern. Ungleichheit hingegen erhöht die Akzeptanz von politischen Maßnahmen, da ihre Wahrnehmung Unzufriedenheit mit dem Status quo verstärken kann. Zudem führt höhere Klimarisiko-Exposition zu mehr politischer Akzeptanz, da Umweltgefahren das Bewusstsein für Dringlichkeit schärfen. Vertrauen in nationale Institutionen stärkt die Akzeptanz, während demokratische Regierungsführung paradoxerweise mit geringerer Akzeptanz einhergeht, möglicherweise aufgrund verstärkter politischer Auseinandersetzungen und des Einflusses von Interessengruppen.

Diese Ergebnisse verdeutlichen, dass die Akzeptanz von Klimapolitik nicht nur von individuellen Faktoren abhängt, sondern tief in gesellschaftliche Strukturen eingebettet ist. Durch die Integration makrostruktureller Einflussfaktoren

hinterfragt diese Studie die hegemoniale Dominanz des Neoliberalismus und liefert neue Erkenntnisse zur Akzeptanz von Umweltpolitik im globalen Kontext.

311 Psychological relevance of neoliberal ideologies in the socio-ecological polycrisis

Severin Hornung, Christine Unterrainer, Thomas Höge

Universität Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Neoliberal capitalism is hegemonic in political-economic practices, but also psycho-social processes and belief systems. This presentation reports a research program on internalized neoliberal ideological beliefs in the socio-ecological polycrisis. First, theoretical and methodological contributions on system-justifying neoliberal ideologies and their operationalization are outlined. Subsequently, three studies are reported, pertaining to the climate crisis, the European "refugee crisis" and the crisis of liberal democracies. The first two are online surveys using the neoliberal ideological beliefs questionnaire with sub-dimensions individualism, instrumentality, and competitiveness. In a convenience sample (N = 344), Study 1 examines relationships with system justification, climate-protective behavior, and estimated carbon footprint, controlling for environmental attitudes, connection, and knowledge. Neoliberal ideologies were confirmed as system-justifying attitudes detrimental to climate-protective behavior. Study 2 addresses connections between neoliberal ideology and moral disengagement, as well as political activism for refugees and asylum issues (N = 276). Controlling demographic variables, moral disengagement mediated a negative relationship between neoliberal ideology and civic engagement for refugees, including a compensatory interaction between predictors. Study 3 is a qualitative investigation on internalized neoliberal ideologies among socio-economically disadvantaged groups. In interviews with (N = 9) individuals in precarious life situations and long-term unemployment, respondents endorsed neoliberal individualism, instrumentality, and competitiveness, contradicting their social interests (e.g., meritocratic explanations for poverty; rejection of wealth redistribution). Reduction of cognitive dissonance, epistemic (e.g., order) and existential motives (e.g., security) are identified as underlying psychological processes. Multiple roles of neoliberal ideologies in social and ecological crises are highlighted and implications for further research discussed.

313 Neoliberal subjectivity and collective action

Lea Hartwich

Universität Osnabrück, Osnabrück, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

It has been proposed that as the hegemonic paradigm of our time, neoliberalism has given rise to its own subjectivity characterized by four elements: a radical abstraction from context and social connections, an entrepreneurial sense

of self, an imperative for personal growth, and an individual responsibility for affect management. This research investigates how this highly individualistic subjectivity affects individuals' willingness to participate in collective action and, moreover, whether they do so out of outward-focused motivations (working towards societal change) or inward-focused motivations (feeling better about themselves or improving their image). We discovered similar patterns of associations across two different contexts: climate activism and white allies' engagement in anti-racist collective action. Neoliberal subjectivity was linked to lower support for radical climate activism in the general population (Study 1, N = 233), lower collective action intentions in climate protesters (Study 2, N = 239) and less willingness to engage in costly anti-racist actions in white allies (Study 3, N = 394). On the other hand, neoliberal subjectivity was positively related to inward-focused motives for collective action engagement and, in the context of climate change, a stronger belief in the role of individual behavior in addressing the climate crisis. These results point to a complex relationship whereby, rather than simply reducing collective action in response to societal problems, neoliberal subjectivity shapes people's motivations and perceptions around it in a distinctly individualistic way.

312 Imaginations of Our Collective Future Scale: Wie beeinflussen dystopisches & utopisches Denken gesellschaftliche Reproduktions- und Veränderungsprozesse?

Heiko Mikolajczak¹, Julia Krasko¹, Stephan Heinzel², Wilhelm Hofmann¹

¹Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ²Technical University Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Wir stellen eine neue Skala vor, die vier Strategien zur Bewältigung der Wahrnehmung gesellschaftlicher Krisen misst - Imaginationsvermeidung, Glaube an den Status quo, dystopisches Denken und utopisches Denken – und argumentieren für die Verknüpfung der Strategien mit Prozessen gesellschaftlichen Wandels und gesellschaftlicher Reproduktion.

Soziologische Theorien betrachten gesellschaftliche Krisen als Katalysatoren für dystopisches und utopisches Erzählen. Während dystopisches Erzählen Diskurse über fehlangepasste gesellschaftliche Entwicklungen anregt, um eine unerwünschte mögliche Zukunft zu vermeiden, lenkt utopisches Erzählen Diskurse hin zu Alternativen zum Status quo. Die Psychologie hat utopisches Denken im Kontext der Nachhaltigkeit untersucht. Wir erweitern den Anwendungsbereich auf diverse politische Themen (z.B. Demokratie, Krieg) und rahmen es als eine von vier Strategien zur Reaktion auf die Wahrnehmung gesellschaftlicher Krisen: Imaginationsvermeidung (Gedanken über gesellschaftliche Zukunft vermeiden), Glaube an den Status quo (Überzeugung, dass Status quo zu wünschenswerter Zukunft führt), dystopisches Denken und utopisches Denken.

Über vier Querschnittsstudien hinweg entwickelten wir Konstruktdefinitionen und Items, untersuchten deren Struktur mittels explorativer Faktorenanalyse und Netzwerkanalyse (Studie 1), bestätigten die faktorenanalytische Struktur mittels CFA (Studie 2) und bewerteten Konstrukt- und Kriteriumsvalidität (Studie 3 & 4).

Während Studie 1 eine Fünf-Faktoren-Struktur (Imaginationsvermeidung, Glaube an den Status quo, utopisches Denken und zwei dystopische Faktoren) nahelegte, zeigte Studie 2 eine Vier-Faktoren-Struktur (ein dystopischer Faktor). Das wahrgenommene Bedürfnis nach Systemwandel korrelierte negativ mit Imaginationsvermeidung und Glaube an den Status quo und positiv mit dystopischem und utopischem Denken.

Die Skala "Imagination unserer kollektiven Zukunft" verspricht, Prozesse der gesellschaftlichen Reproduktion und des Wandels und dabei politische Krisenwahrnehmungen miteinander integriert zu erforschen.

334 Ökologische Krise & Arbeiter*innensubjektivität: Umweltpolitische Einstellungen von Industriearbeiter*innen vor dem Hintergrund neoliberaler Betriebs- & Umweltpolitiken

Daniel Roose¹, Rhonda Koch²

¹Leopold-Franzens-Universität, Institut für Psychologie, Innsbruck, Austria. ²Universität Basel, Departement Gesellschaftswissenschaften, Basel, Switzerland

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Die Arbeitswelt ist ein relevantes, aber dennoch unterbelichtet gebliebenes Forschungsfeld psychologischer Erkenntnisvorhaben mit transformativer Absicht. Während umweltpsychologische Studien den sozialisatorischen Einfluss der betrieblichen Lebenswelt auf die umweltpolitischen Einstellungen von Arbeitnehmer*innen vernachlässigen, widmen sich gegenwärtige arbeitspsychologische und -soziologische Untersuchungen nur selten dem Verhältnis von Arbeitserfahrung und Umweltbewusstsein. Daher plädiert dieser Beitrag für ein Zusammenkommen dieser Disziplinen zu einer kritischen Sozialpsychologie der Arbeit, deren Erhebungsinteresse sich auf die umweltpolitischen Meinungs- und Anspruchsbildung der Beschäftigten richtet. Zunächst wird hierfür ein heuristischer Entwurf unterbreitet, der zentrale Theoreme der wieder aufgeflamnten, arbeitssoziologischen Bewusstseinsforschung mit arbeits- und sozialpsychologischen Grundbegriffen vermittelt, um Wechselwirkungen zwischen arbeitsbezogenen, umweltbezogenen und politischen Deutungsmustern zu erfassen. Zusammenhänge dieser Deutungsmuster mit (kollektiven) Selbstwirksamkeitserwartungen und identitätssichernden Verdrängungsformen werden erörtert. Darauf folgend wird die Zweckdienlichkeit dieser Heuristik am empirischen Material der jüngeren, industriesoziologischen Forschung und eigener qualitativer Erhebungen in der Fahrzeugindustrie demonstriert. Es wird argumentiert, dass es Arbeitserfahrungen des innerbetrieblichen Markt-Autoritarismus sind, die die empirisch dokumentierten, politischen Ohnmachtsüberzeugungen entscheidend mitverursachen. Neoliberale Formen der Leistungssteuerung und tayloristisch zergliederte Produktionsprozesse bringen Erwerbsarbeit um ihre identitätsstiftende Funktion. Dadurch wird sie von Industriebeschäftigten als leidenschaftsloser Broterwerb und das Arbeitsleben als apolitischer Lebensbereich begriffen. Der identitätsbedrohende Charakter industrieller Arbeitserfahrung hilft daher, Affinitäten der Arbeiter*innensubjektivität zu hegemonialen, umweltpolitischen Anpassungsstrategien eines grünen Kapitalismus zu erklären, die entscheidende Fragen nach dem Wie und Was der Produktion ausblenden. Schließlich werden

Implikationen für politische Umweltstrategien und die gewerkschaftliche Betriebsarbeit besprochen und offene Fragen einer kritischen Sozialpsychologie der Arbeit aufgezeigt.

Symposium: A journey through relationship research

15:20 - 16:40 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Seminarraum 2 Oben (Karthago)

Humans are primarily motivated to bond with others and relationships are a central aspect of everyday life and, even more important, are a key contributor to psychological well-being. Consequently, relationships have long been a major focus of social psychology. The symposium presents research that focuses on different kinds of relationships (communication partners, friendships, intimate relationships) highlighting different variables that contribute to their functioning. Freitag et al. investigated the importance of top-down processes (i.e., schemas) for empathic accuracy in the course of communicating emotional experiences. Grau and Banse show that friendship expectations vary in 11 different countries indicating that needed characteristics of friends are linked to cultural specifications. Ghose et al., using a novel synthetic cohort matching approach, demonstrated that spousal death significantly undermined well-being of older adults, while divorce showed no systematic impact. Währing et al. investigated whether men and women benefit differently from relationship transitions (e.g., moving together or marrying). Finally, Athenstaedt and Macher's diary study showed that relationship expectations function like self-fulfilling prophecies with higher expectations leading to higher relationship satisfaction. Taken together, the presented research covers a wide area of relationship forms and provides new insights into important processes that are significantly linked to relationship satisfaction and to psychological well-being.

16 A journey through relationship research

Chair(s)

Iris Währing

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Ursula Athenstaedt

Universität Graz, Graz, Austria

103 Reading Minds or Reading Patterns: Schema Use in Younger and Older Adults' Empathic Accuracy

Julia Anne Freitag, Antje Rauers, Michaela Riediger

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Empathic accuracy – the ability to accurately understand another person's thoughts and feelings – relies on two key social perception processes: On the one hand, (a) bottom-up, which integrates perceptual cues like facial expressions and tone of voice. On the other hand, (b) top-down, where prior knowledge, expectations, and experiences guide interpretation. A key aspect of top-down processes involve schemas —structured frameworks of general knowledge and beliefs that help organize and integrate information. Schema use, however, may vary depending on individual factors (e.g., age, gender) and situational characteristics (e.g., topic valence). This study examines how schemas shape empathic accuracy, drawing hypotheses from lifespan theories such as Socioemotional Selectivity Theory, and how their use varies across age, gender and topic valence. Using three datasets from naturalistic conversation studies, we analyzed interactions between unacquainted older and younger adult dyads sharing emotional experiences. The paradigm's design was optimized for eliciting emotional states and ensured high ecological validity. Participants provided self- and other-ratings after the conversations, allowing us to measure empathic accuracy as self-other agreement. Our findings suggest that schemas play a stronger role in empathic accuracy during positive conversation and that age and gender further shape these dynamics. These results provide fresh insights into the interplay of schemas and social perception, highlighting the importance of age and lifespan perspectives in empathic processes.

20 Expectations of friendships in different cultures

Ina Grau, Rainer Banse

Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

What people expect from friendships reflects which functions are ascribed to friendships and which aspects are important for a satisfying friendship. Jeffrey Hall distinguishes between reciprocity, similarity, enjoyment, communication, instrumental help, financial resources and attractiveness. We investigated the expectations of friendships in 11 countries (Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, China, Great Britain, Argentina, Ecuador, Greece, USA, Turkey and Cameroon; N > 3000), studies in other countries are planned. There are clear differences in expectations depending on the Human Development Index. The lower the index, the more of an instrumental function friendships have, and friends are expected to have specific characteristics and behaviors that can increase the own status. In Western industrialized countries, on the other hand, the focus is on "communal" expectations of fairness, pleasure in being together and communication. Methodological challenges of cross-cultural studies are also discussed.

102 Transitioning to Singlehood and Well-Being in Later Life: Insights from Synthetic Control Matching Approach

Urmimala Ghose^{1,2}, Rinseo Park³, Jacqui Smith⁴, Nilam Ram³, Denis Gerstorf^{1,5}

¹Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany. ²IMPRS-LIFE Berlin, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany. ³Stanford University, Stanford, USA. ⁴Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. ⁵Socio-Economic Panel, German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin, Germany

Submission Type

Abstract

Transitioning to singlehood is widely recognized as a risk factor for poorer well-being, but how the experience divorce or spousal loss affects well-being of older adults over time, or how social resources may mitigate those effects is not yet well described. To obtain richer causal inferences about the effects of divorce and spousal loss on well-being that were previously available, we leverage synthetic control methods in analysis of eleven biennial waves (1998–2018) of longitudinal data from 7,234 participants ($M_{age} = 66$ years, 56 % women, 75% White) of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). Specifically, we examine differences in well-being trajectories between individuals that experienced divorce or spousal loss and synthetically constructed non-transition control groups of continuously- married and never-married older adults that had the same pre-transition well-being trajectories. Results indicated that the death of a spouse caused significant decreases in individuals' psychological well-being in the two years prior to and 4 years after the event. In contrast, there was no evidence of such systematic impacts of divorce. In the follow-up examination of individual differences, we found only minimal evidence of a buffering role for social resources: individuals with larger social networks had shallower spousal death-related increases in depressive symptoms. Taken together, our analysis illustrates the utility (and limits) of using synthetic control methods and longitudinal panel data to support causal inferences about how particular events affect how individuals' well-being develops during adulthood and old age.

120 Men and Women Experiencing Relationship Transitions in the Second Half of Life

Iris Wahring¹, Urmimala Ghose¹, Nilam Ram², Christiane Hoppmann³, Denis Gerstorff¹

¹Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany. ²Stanford University, Stanford, USA. ³University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Several studies suggest that men benefit more from living with a partner and marriage in terms of well-being. Accordingly, we expected that men's life satisfaction and mental health would be more positively affected by moving in with or marrying a partner, and more negatively impacted by relationship dissolution. We hypothesized that these differences would be associated with gender differences in emotional support from friends and family, as men may rely more on romantic partners as a key social resource. Using propensity score matching with data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), we compared life satisfaction and mental health changes among up to 1089 middle-aged and older US adults experiencing a specific relationship event, with separate demographically matched control groups for each event, whose relationship status remained unchanged. Moving in with a partner was linked to improved mental health and life satisfaction for both men and women, with older men showing particularly pronounced gains in mental health. Marriage, however, was not associated with significant changes in mental health or life satisfaction. Among men, but not women, relationship dissolution was associated with decreased life satisfaction. While emotional support from friends and family did not influence changes following marriage or separation, individuals with lower support experienced stronger improvements in mental health after moving in with a partner. These findings underline the importance of understanding how social and demographic factors shape well-being during relationship transitions, particularly in midlife and older adulthood.

115 Meet my expectations? How maintenance behaviors bridge the gap to relationship satisfaction

Ursula Athenstaedt, Silvia Macher

University of Graz, Graz, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

The role of partner expectations for the functioning of intimate relationships has been discussed ambivalently. On one hand, interdependence theory suggests that high expectations (i.e., comparison level) might likely exceed actual partnership outcome (i.e., the subjective difference between rewards and costs), possibly leading to decreased relationship satisfaction. On the other hand, high expectations could potentially serve as self-fulfilling prophecies, thereby increasing satisfaction. Our research consists of three studies. Study 1 (N = 431) and Study 2 (N=360) identified a positive, yet modest, correlation between partner expectations concerning positive maintenance behavior and relationship satisfaction. To delve deeper into the nature of this association, Study 3 involved 189 participants who recorded their own and their partners' maintenance behaviors over the course of a seven-day diary study. Our analyses revealed that the extent of one's own and their partner's maintenance behaviors acted as mediators in the relationship between expectations and satisfaction. Participants with higher expectations engaged in more positive behaviors and also perceived more positive behaviors from their partners, which correlated with a higher level of satisfaction with their relationship. These findings suggest that individuals with higher expectations for their relationships tend to behave in ways that are congruent with those expectations, which could encourage positive behaviors from their partners as well. This pattern of behavior is associated with increased satisfaction, indicating that expectations may shape perceptions and behaviors within intimate relationships.

Session: Judgment and Decision-Making

15:20 - 16:40 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Seminarraum 4 Oben (Krakau)

333 Pre-decisional information search adaptation through planning and finetuning

Linda McCaughey

LMU, Munich, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

When searching for information before making a decision one faces a fundamental trade-off. On the one hand, more information will almost always improve the decision outcome. On the other hand, spending more time, money, or effort on further information search may be more costly than that improvement is beneficial. If decision makers are adaptive, they should use their resources in information search efficiently. Using a sampling-based decision paradigm with financial costs for each observation, we conducted three main experiments to investigate whether and how participants adapt their information amount to a relevant aspect of the environment when it is announced. Experiment 1a (N = 78) and b (N = 84) focussed on adaptation to different ratios of information cost and rewards, revealing that participants are capable of adapting, but seem to do so mainly based on planning. Experiment 2 (N = 147) assessed the role of a second, fine-tuning process by varying whether participants received feedback or not. Surprisingly, this did not make a difference. Experiment 4a (N = 176) and b (N = 318) implemented different feedback types with more trials, and a different cost-payoff ratio each. This did reveal adaptation through a finetuning process over time, which was, however, still not influenced by feedback. This supports planning and finetuning as meaningful categories of adaptation, offering a framework for further investigating adaptation processes and what might hinder as well as facilitate and assist them.

284 Validating the Constructs of Maximizers and Satisficers: Continuity and Measurement

Mira Hertel¹, Nathan N. Cheek², Rebecca Shiner³

¹University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany. ²University of Maryland, College Park, USA. ³Colgate University, Hamilton, USA

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Over the past two decades, research on interindividual differences in decision-making has often focused on the distinction between maximizers, who extensively evaluate their options to find the best possible choice, and satisficers, who select an option they consider good enough (Cheek & Schwartz, 2016). However, there has been little consensus on the conceptualization and measurement of these personality constructs, leading to inconsistencies in their definition and assessment (Cheek & Schwartz, 2016; Misuraca et al., 2018). While scholars now widely adopt the two-component model proposed by Cheek and Schwartz (2016), the construct validation process remains incomplete. Open questions regarding the continuity and measurement of these constructs continue to result in inconsistent interpretations and methodological approaches, ultimately hindering cumulative knowledge building. To address this, we take a systematic approach to construct validation, clarifying not only the continuity and polarity of maximizers and satisficers but also deriving and testing measurements that directly align with the latest conceptualizations. After establishing that maximizers and satisficers exist along the same unipolar continuum, we assess existing item batteries and develop a new scale using exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses.

332 The Sorites Paradox: Gradual Change Delays Category Shifts

Anne Irena Weitzel¹, André Vaz², André Mata³

¹Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany. ²Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ³Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

The “Sorites Paradox” describes the logical dilemma that arises when presuming that a heap of sand minus a single grain still constitutes a heap: At some point, one will be left with a non-plausible one-grain heap. Thus, the paradox raises the question of how people categorise a slowly changing stimulus when category boundaries are diffuse.

Psychophysics have long studied threshold detection and blindness to slow change. However, that literature focuses on perceptual detection of quantitative changes in stimulus intensity, striving to uncover “true” thresholds. But if no objective, agreed-upon threshold exists, how much must a stimulus be perceived to have changed before it gets categorised differently? And how malleable is this categorisation by presentation mode of a gradual change?

In the present work, participants observed stimuli changing gradually from one category to another (e.g., colour gradients, faces morphing from happy to angry or male to female) and indicated when they considered the category switch to occur. Supporting the hypothesis that categorisation shows a “sorites paradox”, participants indicated a later category switch when the stimulus changed continuously (vs. in discrete steps). In a second study, we tested the hypothesis that the effect stems from a “need for consistency”, showing stronger effects the smaller the changes between steps are. This time, participants judged the category of a stimulus at each step of the progression, with the size of the steps manipulated between-participants. Crucially, half the participants judged the steps in random order, where memory demands made consistency harder to achieve.

315 The old/new face recognition task is a robust but unreliable measure of the other-race effect

Felicitas Flade¹, Marleen Stelter²

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

White people confuse faces of Black or Asian people more than White faces. This is an example of the other-race effect, commonly measured by the old/new face recognition task. In this task, participants first see several own-race and other-race faces. Then, they are presented again with the same faces, mixed with as many new ones, and have to indicate for each face whether they saw it already. Typically, participants confuse more seen with unseen faces when the faces belong to another race, indicating an other-race effect. Two features of this task have made it highly popular in past research: It is simple, and it always works. Regardless of how many faces per race are shown in which quality in this task, a significant other-race effect can always be measured across participants. In six studies, we demonstrate that despite the robust intraindividual effect, there is no true interindividual variance. The old/new face recognition task is therefore unreliable and unsuitable for correlational purposes.

236 How intolerance affects the perception and valuation of social improvements

Tobias Vogel¹, André Mata²

¹Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Darmstadt, Germany. ²Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Social groups hold distinct values, and behaviors deemed acceptable by one group may be considered a violation of a sacred value by another. When a behavior is taboo, people may struggle to differentiate between varying degrees of that behavior, a phenomenon known as quantitative insensitivity. This research explores how protected values influence perceptions of social change. In three experiments, we examined how sensitivity to change varies across groups with differing values. Vegetarians were less sensitive than meat-eaters to partial reductions in meat consumption (Experiments 1 & 2), and they were more appreciative of drastic reductions resulting in complete abstinence (Experiment 2). A similar pattern appears in political groups (Republicans vs. Democrats; Experiment 3) regarding their respective protected values —illegal immigration versus gun possession on college campuses. The findings indicate that protected values amplify sensitivity to absolute changes reaching zero, but they numb sensitivity to changes -- even larger ones -- that fall short from zero. These variations in change perception have significant implications for communication strategies, particularly in behavior change campaigns.

Transfer to City

16:40 - 18:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025

Public Science Event: Zwischen Misstrauen und Mythen

18:00 - 19:30 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Auditorium Bergbaumuseum

Zwischen Misstrauen und Mythen

Psychologische Einblicke in Verschwörungserzählungen – und in das, was wir über sie zu wissen glauben
Verschwörungstheorien scheinen allgegenwärtig: Ob Pandemie, Klimawandel oder Weltpolitik – kaum ein Thema, zu dem nicht alternative Deutungen kursieren, oft mit drastischen Konsequenzen. Schnell sind die Urteile gefällt: „Das ist doch irre!“, „Die glauben jeden Quatsch im Internet!“ oder „Früher war das nicht so!“

In dieser interaktiven Abendveranstaltung gehen wir Fragen auf den Grund und konfrontieren Alltagsmeinungen mit relevanten Forschungsergebnissen: – Wer glaubt eigentlich an Verschwörungstheorien und warum? – Ist das ein neues Phänomen? – Was hat das Internet damit zu tun? – Was können wir als Gesellschaft tun, um klug damit umzugehen?

Mit dabei sind profilierte Stimmen aus der sozialpsychologischen Forschung zu diesem Thema: Prof. Dr. Roland Imhoff (Uni Mainz), Dr. Pia Lamberty (cemas.io), Dr. Lotte Pummerer (Uni Bremen), sowie Prof. Dr. Tobias Rothmund (Uni Jena). Unterstützt werden sie durch wertvolle Erfahrungen aus der Beratungspraxis von Bianca Liebrand (Sekten-Info NRW).

Mit einem unterhaltsamen Mix aus wissenschaftlichen Impulsen, praktischen Beispielen und Dialog mit dem Publikum bringen sie sozialpsychologische Erkenntnisse auf die Bühne. Ein Abend, der Psychologie lebendig macht – und dabei gängige Mythen über das Misstrauen hinterfragt.

Public Viewing

18:00 - 19:30 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Kumpels Bergbaumuseum

As tickets for the public science event are limited, we have arranged for additional viewing capacity at *Kumpels*, the restaurant located on the ground floor of the Bergbaumuseum. Join others in following the event and enjoy a first drink before the reception begins at the same venue.

Welcome Reception

19:30 - 22:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Kumpels Bergbaumuseum

Join us at *Kumpels* (ground floor of the Bergbau-Museum) for a relaxed and cozy reception following the public lecture. Drinks and vegetarian finger food will be provided free of charge. Weather permitting, seating will be available both indoors and outdoors. Larger meals can be purchased individually. The reception concludes at 22:00 (venue curfew).

Optional Guided Tour

20:00 - 21:00 Sunday, 14th September, 2025
Bergbaumuseum Underground Level

In light of high demand we are currently negotiating further capacities with the Bergbaumuseum - we will notify you via Email in time in case you applied for a ticket.

Session: Sustainability I

08:40 - 10:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 1

245 Discourses of Climate Delay and Their Association with Pro-Environmental Policy Acceptance

Dorothea Metzen, Paula Blumenschein, Stephan Heinzel

TU Dortmund University, Institute of Psychology, Department of Educational Sciences and Psychology, Dortmund, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

The progressing climate and biodiversity crises present a threat to human health and well-being worldwide. While urgent political mitigation measures are needed, the public discourse about the climate crisis does not reflect this urgency. Lamb et al. 2020 presented a framework to explain and categorize common excuses against committing to mitigation measures. The framework consists of four broader discourses: redirect responsibility, surrender, emphasize the downsides and push for non-transformative actions. We developed a 12-item questionnaire for the discourses of climate delay and applied it in a representative German sample ($n = 966$). Furthermore, we assessed pro-environmental policy acceptance with a 24-item questionnaire. For statistical analysis, we used confirmatory factor analysis and linear regression analysis. We could not confirm the four-factor structure suggested by Lamb et al. (2020) ($TLI = 0.93$, $RMSEA = 0.057$). Thus, we investigated the association between the individual discourses and pro-environmental policy acceptance. Four of the discourses explained variance in policy acceptance beyond further predictors as described by the Planetary Health Action Survey (PACE) model (risk perception, trust, social norms, perceived policy effectiveness, self-efficacy, knowledge). Appeal to wellbeing, ($\beta = -0.05$, $p = 0.039$), fossil fuel solutionism ($\beta = -0.06$, $p = 0.002$) and the free-rider excuse ($\beta = -0.08$, $p = 0.001$) showed a negative association with policy acceptance, while doomism ($\beta = 0.04$, $p = 0.024$) showed a positive association. Our results suggest that discourses of climate delay have a substantial influence on pro-environmental policy acceptance and may present candidates for future intervention studies.

278 Discourses of climate delay as potential maladaptive coping mechanisms for climate emotions

Stephan Heinzel, Paula Blumenschein, Dorothea Metzen

TU Dortmund University, Institute of Psychology, Dortmund, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

In response to the progressing climate and biodiversity crises, climate emotions like anxiety or sorrow are increasing. There are different coping mechanism an individual may use to regulate these emotions, like taking climate action. The discourses of climate delay (redirect responsibility, surrender, emphasize the downsides and push for non-transformative actions, Lamb et al. 2020) may present a maladaptive coping mechanism. We developed a 12-item questionnaire based on Lamb et al. (2020) and

applied it in a representative German sample (n = 966) together with the German version of the Inventory of Climate Emotions (ICE). We performed a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) to investigate the proposed four-factor structure of discourses of climate delay. Furthermore, we used multiple linear regression analysis to test the association between discourses of climate delay and climate emotions. We could not confirm the four-factor structure suggested by Lamb et al. (2020) (TLI = 0.93, RMSEA = 0.057). Thus, we conducted an exploratory factor analysis, revealing two distinct factors: change aversion and neoliberal hope (TLI = 0.97, RMSEA = 0.05). Change aversion was negatively associated with climate anger, enthusiasm, guilt, anxiety and sorrow, however it was positively associated with climate contempt. Neoliberal hope, on the other hand, was negatively associated with climate anger and sorrow, positively associated with climate contempt and enthusiasm and not associated with climate guilt or anxiety. These results indicate that distinct emotional associations of the discourses of climate delay and that different discourses may be used as a regulatory strategy for uncomfortable climate emotions.

301 The impact of psychological distance in climate change dystopias through virtual reality on emotions

Annalena Schroeder^{1,2}, Gerhard Reese², Nicole Harth¹

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Emotions play a crucial role in shaping pro-environmental perception and action (Brosch, 2021). However, what evokes emotional responses in the context of climate change, and how does the temporal proximity or distance of climate change scenarios influence this process? *Construal Level Theory* (CLT; Trope & Liberman, 2003, 2010) posits that individuals perceive issues such as climate change differently depending on their perceived psychological distance. This, in turn, influences our emotions: proximal negative scenarios evoke stronger unpleasant emotions (e. g. anger, anxiety), while distal scenarios tend to foster future-oriented, pleasant emotions, such as hope (Chu & Yang, 2019). Our studies aim to replicate these findings and explore a novel approach using AI-generated imagery and virtual reality (VR). Traditional strategies for creating mental proximity in the context of climate change have often proven insufficient (Keller et al., 2022). Across two preregistered studies (online-experiment: N = 406; laboratory-based experiment: N = 82), we examine how temporal psychological distance affects emotions, pro-environmental behaviour intentions, and policy support. In the online experiment, participants read an article accompanied by an AI-generated image, while the laboratory experiment featured a 360° VR flood simulation paired with an audio narrative. While results do not consistently support CLT-based hypotheses, overall, the use of virtual reality elicited stronger emotional responses than the article. Furthermore, future ecological scenarios in the VR condition induced more intense negative emotions than present-day scenarios. We discuss the potential of immersive technologies to enhance emotional engagement and psychological proximity to climate change.

100 How justice sensitivity and perceived personal threat explain perceived fairness and acceptability of climate policies

Marie Heitfeld, Baumert Anna

Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

In order to implement measures necessary to mitigate climate change, it is fundamental to understand why and when people are willing to accept climate policy measures. Meta-analyses on the acceptability of climate policy measures show that perceived fairness is one of the strongest predictors for acceptability (e.g., Bergquist et al., 2022; Ejelöv & Nilsson, 2020). However, people differ in what they perceive as fair. We therefore investigated the psychological link between individual sensitivity to injustice (observer sensitivity, beneficiary sensitivity, perpetrator sensitivity and victim sensitivity; Schmitt et al., 2010) and perceived fairness of climate policy measures. We assessed justice sensitivity and later asked participants (N = 514, representative of the German population regarding political attitudes) to rate 48 climate policy measures with regard to perceived fairness, perceived effectiveness, own affectedness and acceptability. While in other political domains (e.g. immigration attitudes), a high victim sensitivity leads to a lower support of pro-social and progressive measures (Rothmund et al., 2020), we found all dimensions of justice sensitivity to be leading to higher perceived fairness and acceptability of climate policy measures. To shed light on these results, we look at whether people in Germany perceive rather climate policy measures or climate change itself as a threat to their lives. We expect victim sensitivity to generally predict more perceived personal threat, and perceived personal threat by climate change to predict higher perceived fairness vs. perceived personal threat by climate policy measures to predict lower perceived fairness and thus acceptability of climate policy measures.

283 Minorities' psychological barriers to joining pro-environmental initiatives: Can perceived initiative inclusiveness help overcome them?

Birte Siem¹, Lise Jans²

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Marginalized minorities such as ethnic minorities or low-income groups are still underrepresented in pro-environmental initiatives in the Global North. This underrepresentation is particularly concerning given that these groups are disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change, globally, but also within the Global North. The present research examines psychological barriers that may discourage members of an ethnic minority – individuals with a Turkish migration background in Germany – from participating in mainstream

pro-environmental initiatives. We predicted that, compared to autochthonous individuals (i.e. those without a migration background), Turkish individuals perceive mainstream initiatives as less identity-safe, and view their ethnic ingroup as less concerned about the environment. Furthermore, we predicted that presenting an initiative as ethnically inclusive could mitigate these perceptions. In an experiment ($N = 537$), we manipulated the perceived inclusiveness of a fictitious pro-environmental initiative (low, high) and included participants' ethnic backgrounds (autochthonous, Turkish) as a quasi-experimental factor. Results partially supported our predictions: Turkish participants indeed perceived their ethnic ingroup's environmental concern as lower than autochthonous participants, but this perception was not affected by the inclusiveness manipulation. A potential explanation of this unexpected finding is that the inclusiveness manipulation addressed only the numeric representation of Turkish individuals in the initiative, but not how well the initiative meets the needs and interests of this target group. We discuss how our findings can inform inclusiveness strategies of pro-environmental initiatives.

Symposium: From Culture to Smartphones: New Insights into the Determinants of Well-Being

08:40 - 10:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 2a

The pursuit of happiness is one of humanity's most universal aspirations. But what does it mean to be happy? And what makes people happy? Philosophers have pondered these questions for over two millennia. Social psychological research on these questions has accelerated over the past decades, disentangling components and determinants of well-being. In this symposium, we present five projects that build on diverse data sources (experimental, longitudinal, text, and smartphone behavioral data) to identify determinants of well-being.

Specifically, Talk 1 uses experimental data to show that person-culture match effects on well-being depend on match/mismatch dynamics, the cultural group, and its relevance. Talk 2 uses a representative sample of longitudinal dyadic data to study the interplay between sleep problems and relationship quality, uncovering bidirectional actor effects. Talk 3 uses text data from obituaries to study three components of well-being—happiness, meaning, and psychological richness—uncovering the predictive roles of life events, affect, and life domains. Talk 4 uses smartphone sensing physical activity data to study how behavioral patterns determine life satisfaction, uncovering links between physical activity and well-being. Talk 5 demonstrates that smartphone sensing data can effectively predict life outcomes tied to behavioral anchors, such as depressive symptoms, but is less effective in capturing highly subjective outcomes like overall well-being. Our symposium highlights the breadth of social psychological research on well-being. It showcases new insights into person-culture match (Talk 1), sleep and relationship quality (Talk 2), components of well-being (Talk 3), physical activity (Talk 4), and observed daily behaviors (Talk 5).

7 From Culture to Smartphones: New Insights into the Determinants of Well-Being

Chair(s)

Jana Berkessel

University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany

27 Lives Well Lived: An Obituary-Based Study of Well-Being

Jana Berkessel¹, Tobias Ebert², Hyewon Choi³, Shigehiro Oishi⁴

¹University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany. ²University of St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland. ³Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea, Republic of. ⁴University of Chicago, Chicago, USA

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

A good life is typically conceptualized as a happy or meaningful life. Recent studies have suggested a third facet: the psychologically rich life, characterized by a variety of interesting and perspective-changing experiences. In the current project, we introduce obituaries as a complementary and informative data source to (a) replicate happiness, meaning, and psychological richness as three robust and ubiquitous facets of a good life. We then (b) explore the role of life events, affect, and life domains in constituting a happy, meaningful, and psychologically rich life. To do so, we gather and analyze 333 newspaper obituaries (Study 1), and 1,200 obituaries from an online gravesite collection (Study 2). Combining expert ratings with natural language processing, we (a) replicate previous findings that people agree on what is a happy, meaningful, or psychologically rich life, that obituaries and, thus, lives vary in their happiness, meaning, and psychological richness, and that the three facets are related but distinct. We further find (b) that life events primarily contribute to a psychologically rich life. We also find that positive affect is conducive to all three facets of a good life, while negative affect is only conducive to psychological richness. Regarding life domains, we find that work is positively related to meaning and psychological richness, while private life is negatively related to the two facets. Overall, our paper further establishes (a) psychological richness as a robust third facet of a good life and (b) life events, affect, and life domains as important contributing factors.

28 Activities of the (Un-)Well: Uncovering Behavioral Manifestations of Life Satisfaction in Smartphone Activity Data

Maximilian Bergmann¹, Sarah Marie Müller², Mirjam Stieger³, Mathias Allemand⁴, Gabriella M. Harari⁵, Samuel D. Gosling⁶, Ramona Schödel^{7,8}, Markus Bühner⁸, Clemens Stachl¹

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Life satisfaction is linked to numerous positive outcomes, including better health, longevity, and social relationships. Previous research has associated life satisfaction with everyday behaviors such as physical activity, mobility, and sleep. However, these studies often rely on self-reported behavioral data, which are prone to biases like social desirability and recall errors. To address these limitations, our study utilizes smartphone-based physical activity data to objectively explore behavioral manifestations of life satisfaction.

We analyzed four large datasets from Germany, Switzerland, and the United States, each spanning at least four weeks and including sample sizes of 600 to 1,500 participants. These datasets combine accelerometer-assessed activity with self-reported life satisfaction measures. To guide feature engineering and comprehensively represent everyday activity patterns, we conducted a literature review that identified three key research streams: (1) physical engagement level, (2) general life engagement, and (3) circadian rhythms. This framework informed the contextualization of raw activity data into meaningful features capturing diverse aspects of physical activity.

Using predictive modeling, we evaluate the extent to which these features explain individual differences in life satisfaction. Additionally, interpretable machine learning techniques are employed to explore complex relationships and investigate the moderating effects of person-level factors, such as personality and demographics.

Our findings provide novel insights into how behavioral patterns reflect subjective well-being, advancing the understanding of life satisfaction's behavioral correlates. This work demonstrates the potential of mobile sensing to uncover nuanced activity–well-being relationships in real-life contexts.

29 Interplay Between Sleep Problems and Relationship Quality: Unpacking Actor and Partner Effects

Marcel Strauß, Olga Stavrova

University of Lübeck, Lübeck, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Relationship problems can easily become a reason for sleepless nights. They trigger emotional and physiological responses, making it more difficult to fall asleep and reducing overall sleep quality. Here, drawing from the literature on how sleep problems can impair conflict solving ability, heighten emotional reactivity, and reduce empathy, we tested the possibility that poor sleep might undermine marital relationship quality as well, ultimately resulting in a vicious cycle where sleep and relationship problems fuel one another. In addition to testing the links between an individual's sleep and his or her own perception of the relationship ("actor effects"), we examined the links between an individual's own sleep problems and their partner's perception of the relationship quality ("partner effect"). We used a large representative sample ($N = 1,376$ dyads) of couples surveyed twice within four years. We tested the

bidirectional actor and partner effects using a longitudinal actor-partner interdependence model (L-APIM). The results revealed significant bidirectional actor effects: sleep problems were prospectively associated with lower relationship quality, which was in turn prospectively associated with more sleep problems. We did not detect partner effects, with one exception: husbands' sleep problems predicted a decline in wives' perception of relationship closeness. These findings underscore the bidirectional relationships between sleep and relationship quality, inform the literature on actor and partner effects and contribute to the work at the intersection of sleep and social relationships.

89 Behavior Speaks for Itself? Smartphone Behaviors Predict Life Outcomes

Jan Digutsch¹, Larissa Sust², Ramona Schoedel^{2,3}, Markus Buehner², Timo Koch¹, Max Bergmann¹, Pietro Alessandro Aluffi¹, Daniel Racek², Alejandro Hermida Carillo⁴, Clemens Stachl¹

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³Charlotte Fresenius Hochschule, University of Psychology, Munich, Germany. ⁴Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Smartphone data provide a unique lens into daily behaviors, offering an objective and ecologically valid way to predict life outcomes. This study examines the predictive power of smartphone behavioral data compared with self-reported Big Five personality traits, which are currently often used as a standard in personality psychology to predict life outcomes, across 42 life outcomes spanning individual, interpersonal, and societal domains. Using machine-learning prediction models and data from a sample recruited according to quotas representing the German population, we found that smartphone behavioral data outperformed Big Five traits in some life outcomes and achieved comparable performance for most life outcomes. Smartphone models excelled at predicting life outcomes strongly tied to observable behaviors, such as depressive symptoms, income, and self-monitoring. However, they were less effective for highly subjective or work-related life outcomes such as positive and negative affect or flourishing, where personality traits provided greater accuracies. Feature importance analysis indicated consistent contributions across smartphone features, with certain categories standing out for specific life outcomes but lacking an overall pattern. Our findings highlight the complementary strengths of smartphone behavioral data and personality traits, demonstrating the potential of both approaches to advance research on life outcome predictions.

51 On the inner workings of person-culture match effects on well-being

Vera Vogel¹, Sabrina Hegner²

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Individuals experience an especially high well-being, when their personal characteristics match to the characteristics of their culture. Previous research has almost exclusively focused on demonstrating these "person-culture match effects" on well-being on a variety of match characteristics like political orientation, religious beliefs, or human values. For example, a person who values security is especially happy and healthy if security is also an important part in that person's culture. The inner workings of the person-culture match effect on well-being, however, has remained elusive. In the present research, we seek to elucidate these inner workings. Across three complementary experiments ($N = 1014$), our results consistently showed that person-culture match effects on well-being are a function of three central parameters: (1) the match (vs. mismatch), (2) the specific cultural group, and (3) the strength of personal relevance of the cultural group. As such, the match to one's own cultural group increased individuals' well-being. The mismatch to a competing cultural group, however, also resulted in higher well-being. And both effects on well-being were driven by the personal relevance of a cultural group. As such, our research provides first, but promising evidence that shared values with a personal relevant cultural group improves people's well-being and might even act as a social glue that binds people together.

Symposium: Exploring Norm Conformity, Deviance, and Their Impact on Collective Action

08:40 - 10:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 2b

In this young scientists' panel, we bring together four talks that present innovative work on social norms, addressing how conformity with and deviance from perceived ingroup norms shape intergroup attitudes and behavior. Understanding these phenomena as group-based mechanisms, we also highlight the connection between norm perception and attribution of collective agency in self-identified group members. First, Laura Schäfer presents findings based on data from twelve European countries ($N = 12,041$), examining the association between inclusivity norm perceptions and intergroup behavior in polarized contexts. Across all countries studied, perceiving inclusivity norms is linked to higher tolerance, cooperation, and reduced avoidance. Next, Fabian Hess discusses threat to control as a reinforcer of norm conformity, increasing adherence even to pro-social norms. Evidence from four experiments and surveys ($N = 4,106$) reveals that salient threat to control can intensify both hostile and friendly responses towards religious outgroups, depending on the salient (or perceived) ingroup norm content. Then, Helena Pauen elaborates the effect of efficacy on loyal deviance as deviance against harmful norms. Special focus lies on formative efficacy (the perception that one can influence the ingroup's behavior and opinion) as the strongest efficacy predictor of loyal deviance across four studies ($N = 1,144$). Finally, Johannes Lautenbacher introduces a novel theoretical framework for the emergence of collective agency beliefs. Findings from three studies ($N = 2,021$) demonstrate how consensus and unanimity regarding group norms play a key role in initiating and motivating collective action.

33 Exploring Norm Conformity, Deviance, and Their Impact on Collective Action

Chair(s)

Fabian Hess

Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Jena, Germany

Laura Schäfer

304 Inclusivity norms counter the negative societal effects of opinion polarization across 12 European countries

Laura Frederica Schäfer¹, Nicole Tausch², Marcin Bukowski³, Eva Jaspers⁴, Miranda J. Lubbers⁵, Maarten van Zalk⁶, Alejandro Cioridia^{7,5}, Anna Potoczek⁸, Lucía Estevan-Reina^{3,9}, Maor Shani⁶, Jan-Willem Simons⁴, Maria-Therese Friebs¹, Dominika Gurbisz³, Wilma M. Middendorf⁶, Sarina J. Schäfer¹, Jil Ullenboom¹, Sylvie Graf¹⁰, Mikael Hjerm¹¹, Chloé Lavest⁴, Inga Jasinskaja-Lahti¹², Anna Kende¹³, Katerina Petkanopoulou¹⁴, Francesca Prati¹⁵, Oliver Christ¹

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Sharp disagreements about social issues have raised concerns about increasing societal polarization in democracies worldwide. While diversity of opinion is vital for democratic engagement and can promote innovative solutions, social science research shows that such disagreements can undermine social cohesion and erode social trust if they turn into identity-based conflicts. The present research examines the potential of inclusivity norms (norms that promote equality-based respect, dialogue, and unity) in mitigating these negative outcomes. In a pre-registered representative survey of 12,041 individuals in 12 European countries, we find that perceived inclusivity norms are associated with increased tolerance, greater willingness to collaborate, and lower tendencies to avoid people who hold opposing opinions. In most countries studied, this pattern holds for respondents with high levels of disapproval of the opposing viewpoint and stronger identification with their opinion-based group relative to society. These findings support the potential of inclusivity norms to preserve social trust and cohesion amid opinion diversity.

249 Conflict-Related Ingroup Norms Shape Threat Effects on Muslims' and non-Muslims' Intergroup Behavior

Fabian Hess¹, Torsten Masson², Immo Fritzsche²

¹Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Jena, Germany. ²Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Does salient loss of control inevitably exacerbate intergroup conflict? Group-based control theory (Fritzsche, 2022) suggests that individuals restore a threatened sense of control by

conforming to ingroup norms. This implies threat determines increase *and* decrease in hostile responses, depending on whether salient norms of one's social identity promote conflict or positive intergroup relations. We tested this assumption in a series of four survey and experimental studies (total $N = 4,106$) on intergroup conflict between Muslims and non-Muslims in Germany. Survey analyses of non-Muslim and Muslim samples ($N = 2,809$) provided evidence that threat increases support for radical conflict actions, moderated by perceived ingroup conflict norms. Study 2 ($N = 264$ Christians) manipulated the salience of threat (high, low) to personal control and of Christian values (support of vs. indifference to benevolence). Salient threat to personal control did not increase conformity to salient Christian values. However, salient threat (vs. no threat salient) reduced contact intentions towards Muslims, but only when "love thy neighbor" (ingroup norm perception) was *not* central to Christians. In Study 3 ($N = 268$ Muslims), salient (vs. not salient) ingroup norms of inter-religious harmony fostered friendlier intentions towards non-Muslims under threat. In the final Study 4 ($N = 765$ non-Muslims), salient threat to personal control (vs. no threat salient) increased radical anti-Muslim protest intentions when ingroup norms of conflict (vs. respectfulness) were salient; though only for high identifiers. Together, these findings corroborate that threat effects do not inevitably fuel intergroup conflict but are shaped by self-relevant ingroup norms.

307 Social change from within - The effect of formative efficacy on loyal deviance

Helena Pauen, Torsten Masson, Immo Fritsche

Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Social-psychological research has often traced social change back to norm-adherence (e.g. turning towards a subgroup that shares your values). In contrast, dissent as the noncompliance with an ingroup-norm has barely been investigated, even though it is essential for social change, especially in times of crisis (Jetten et al. 2014). By connecting research on loyal deviance (i.e. social behavior motivated to initiate normative change within one's group, Packer 2008) with research on efficacy, we want to investigate this kind of group-based behavior. We hypothesized, that efficacy plays an important role within the cognitive process proceeding loyal deviance, as behavior directed against norms is often sanctioned by other group-members – and should thus only be executed when deemed to be successful. In four studies (total $N = 1144$) we tested whether different types of efficacy are associated with more loyal deviance. The results indicated, that there was a significant correlation between perceived collective as well as formative efficacy and loyal deviance. Especially formative efficacy, the perception that one can have an impact on the behavior and opinion of other group-members, seems to predict loyal deviance compared to other efficacy constructs. We

were also able to manipulate formative efficacy, which in turn had a significant effect on loyal deviance in study 4. In summary, these results give first support for the assumption, that efficacy-beliefs play a central role within loyal deviance and that especially formative efficacy is predictive when it comes to this type of behavior.

255 How Social Norms Foster Collective Action According to the Agency-Indicator-Model (AIM)

Johannes Lautenbacher, Immo Fritsche

Universität Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Collective agency beliefs are pivotal in initiating and maintaining collective action. However, the underlying factors that determine their emergence are not well understood. Previous research primarily focused on the efficacy aspect of collective agency (i.e., the belief that a group can achieve its goals). We propose a broader construct of collective agency. Drawing on theories of personal control, we identify three central aspects constituting agency beliefs: agents that mobilize means to achieve desired ends. In the context of collective agency, this requires a group to perceive itself as a single agent, with a consensus on central group norms and goals. Moreover, the group must feel capable of coordinated action (means) to achieve these norms and goals. Only with these two aspects can the group's impact on its environment (ends) truly reflect collective agency. This new perspective emphasizes the importance of intragroup processes, such as the formation of group norms, rather than merely intergroup processes. We present three studies (N = 2021) conducted in Germany and the United Kingdom, aiming to validate a new three-factorial measure of collective agency beliefs. These studies provide empirical support for our theoretical reasoning and offer novel insights into the antecedents and consequences of collective agency beliefs and, consequently, collective action.

Session: Prosociality and Civic Engagement

08:40 - 10:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 3

30 Wahrscheinlichkeit des Engagements in zivilcouragiertem Verhalten

Lena Miketta, Finn Rathgeber, Rainer Banse

University of Bonn, Department of Psychology, Bonn, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Mithilfe einer experimentellen Laborstudie wurde die Wahrscheinlichkeit des Engagements in zivilcouragiertem Verhalten untersucht. Bei zwei der drei Experimentalbedingungen konnten die Probanden entweder direktes zivilcouragiertes Verhalten bei Anwesenheit des die Konventionen verletzenden Täters zeigen oder hatten die Möglichkeit, jenes zivilcouragierte Verhalten zu zeigen, welches sie rückblickend bei Anwesenheit des Täters gezeigt hätten. In der dritten Bedingung konnte hingegen einzig ein retrospektiver Selbstbericht über die Bereitschaft zu zivilcouragiertem Verhalten abgegeben werden. Dieser Manipulation liegt die Idee zugrunde, dass eine intervenierende Person bei Nichtanwesenheit des Täters weniger Nachteile (negative soziale Konsequenzen wie Ausgrenzungen, üble Nachrede) befürchtet als bei Anwesenheit desselben. Eine zivilcouragierte Handlung sollte somit leichter fallen und damit auch eher auftreten, wenn kein Täter anwesend ist. Da ein Selbstbericht über die Bereitschaft zu zivilcouragiertem Verhalten stark durch soziale Erwünschtheit konfundiert ist und mit erwarteten negativen sozialen Konsequenzen nahe null einhergeht, wird vermutet, dass die Interventionsrate in der Selbstberichts-Bedingung nochmals höher ausfällt als in den Bedingungen, wo zivilcouragiertes Verhalten gezeigt werden kann. Diese Annahmen konnten insofern bestätigt werden, als dass die Interventionsrate in den Bedingungen, in denen zivilcouragiertes Handeln möglich war, geringer ausfiel als in der Selbstberichts-Bedingung. Die (Nicht-)Anwesenheit des Täters wirkte sich jedoch entgegen der Hypothese nicht bedeutsam auf die Interventionsrate derjenigen Probanden aus, die zivilcouragiertes Verhalten zeigen konnten. Erwartungsgemäß war für das Zeigen einer zivilcouragierten Handlung bei Anwesenheit des Täters eine stärkere Normverletzung durch den Täter erforderlich, als für eine zivilcouragierte Intervention bei Abwesenheit desselben, was wiederum auf die stärkere Hemmung bei Zeigen ersterer Form von Zivilcourage hindeutet.

Axel Burger, Joss Roßmann, Julia Weiß, Jan Eric Meuer

GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Mannheim, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

How do dispositional and situational factors interact in shaping the emotions citizens experience during election campaigns? How do the emotions they experience affect their search for political information, their desire or avoidance to discuss politics with others, and their inclination to become politically active? Non-experimental empirical research on the role of emotions in politics very often relies on cross-sectional survey data. Consequently, it usually focuses more on inter-individual differences in emotional reactions to politics than on the dynamic and context-sensitive nature of emotional experience. This contribution presents findings of a pioneering research project in which approximately 700 participants reported their emotional reactions to daily encounters with politics repeatedly during the three weeks before and one week after the German Federal Election 2025. In addition to reporting on their emotional reactions to politics, participants rated their general current mood, the subjective relevance of political matters on that day, their motivation to obtain information on politics and their inclination to exert political influence. These daily diary questionnaires were complemented with (a) weekly questionnaires aimed at tracking the development of political attitudes and behavioral intentions over the period of the study, (b) questionnaires on stable dispositions, (c) questionnaires on reactions to specific media content and campaign material, and (d) questionnaires on specific events during the election campaign. The data structure allows to disentangle the inter- and intra-individual variability of emotions and to investigate the research questions outlined initially with a special focus on the interplay of time-constant and time-varying predictors.

299 Does it matter if people believe in free will?

Oliver Genschow

Leuphana University Lüneburg, Lüneburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Free will is a cornerstone of our society and most people believe that they have free will. Since not only prominent scholars but also the public media publishes articles claiming that that free will is nothing more than an illusion, the question arises what would happen, if people would stop believing in free will. Social psychological research over the last two decades aimed at answering this question by experimentally manipulating participants' free will belief. Such research produced a variety of seminal findings suggesting that reducing people's belief in free will impacts crucial social-cognitive processes (e.g., perceived agency, self-control, etc.) and socially relevant behaviors (e.g., punishment, pro- and anti-social behaviors, etc.). Drawing on a recently conducted meta-analysis, in this talk, I will firstly argue that previously applied experimental manipulations are not suited to reliably influence social cognitive processes and socially relevant behaviors. Afterwards, I will present research that investigates the relation of free will beliefs with a variety of social cognitive processes (e.g., attribution processes, self-control, etc.) and socially relevant behaviors (e.g., punishment, rewarding behavior, victim blaming, pro-and anti-social behavior, etc.) on an interpersonal level. Based on the findings of these studies, I will argue that believing in free will does matter, as it relates to relevant social cognitive processes and predicts socially relevant behaviors. The talk will be wrapped up by proposing potential avenues for future research and improved experimental methods that are better suited to detect downstream consequences of belief in free will.

96 Between being equal and feeling equal: Social determinants and consequences of equal entitlement beliefs

Daniela Renger

Kiel University, Kiel, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Although in a country like Germany everyone has equal rights before the law, people differ in terms of whether they perceive themselves as possessing equal rights and being equally entitled. Previous research has focused almost exclusively on a sense of over-entitlement, i.e., to have more rights than others, or on a sense of under-entitlement, i.e., to have fewer rights than others. In this presentation, I argue that it is worthwhile to focus on a sense of equal entitlement (also known as self-respect) as well. I present findings on how experiences from different sources form self-respect. On the consequences side, I provide an overview of the literature relating to the consequences of self-respect for mental health, the empowerment of the individual, social responsibility, prosocial behavior, and tolerant attitudes towards those who think differently. Overall, it shows that people who have internalized their own equality take care of themselves and others and stand up for themselves and others. I delineate the potential of self-respect for a balance between egoism and altruism and between rights and duties.

33 The Role of the Disintegration Trait in Situation Perception in Everyday Life

Michael Barthelmäs¹, Goran Knežević², Johannes Keller¹

¹Ulm University, Ulm, Germany. ²Belgrade University, Belgrade, Serbia

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

In this talk, we provide additional evidence that a comprehensive taxonomy of individual differences in personality is incomplete without considering a *Disintegration* trait. This

trait reflects a susceptibility to *psychotic-like experiences and behaviors*, carrying significant implications for various areas of psychological research. We tested how the Disintegration trait and the HEXACO traits were associated with situation perceptions on the Situational Eight DIAMONDS characteristics in everyday life. In a 6-day experience sampling method study, and a 31-day diary study ($N_{\text{total}} = 1.350$ participants, $n_{\text{total}} = 28.114$ episodic measures; convenience samples from the German population), we found that considering the Disintegration trait, in conjunction with the HEXACO traits, provides a better understanding of episodic situation perception in everyday life. Higher scores on Disintegration were associated with more intense perceptions of situations across all DIAMONDS characteristics (except Positivity), indicating a tendency to perceive more in situations. This applied in particular to situations that were perceived as unpleasant (i.e., Adversity, Negativity, and Deception) and stimulating (i.e., Intellect and Mating). These findings are well in line with the conceptualization of Disintegration as a tendency towards illusory perception or seeing, cognizing, and feeling connections among factually unrelated phenomena (i.e., a tendency to commit false-positive detection errors). In summary, this underscores the importance of considering psychotic like aspects in the general population if we are to better understand and explain human functioning. Specifically, we discuss the implications of these findings for social psychological research in the areas of cooperative behavior, prejudice, and conspiracy theories.

Session: Gender Stereotypes and Discrimination

08:40 - 10:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 4

146 Differences in Conceptualizations and Operationalizations of Perceived Gender-Based Discrimination: Does It Matter?

[Anja Munder](#)¹, Antonia Jakobi²

¹FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ²Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Conceptual clarity and the avoidance of concept proliferation are crucial for advancing research in social psychology. This project examines the current conceptualizations and operationalizations of perceived gender-based

discrimination. We extracted and analyzed 55 measures of perceived gender-based discrimination from the literature. The analysis identified two main groups of measures: abstract measures assessing overall impressions and concrete measures listing specific discriminatory events. Most measures assess discrimination retrospectively but differ in the timeframe (e.g., past year, lifetime) and response format (e.g., yes/no, broad categories, specific scales). Nearly half of the measures focus on specific contexts, most commonly the workplace. After further analysis of the item content, we identified five types of measures, selecting one representative measure for each type. We then empirically tested the unique contribution of each measure to predicting known consequences of discrimination in a study with 500 English-speaking women via Prolific. Using hierarchical regression models, we found that abstract measures of personal discrimination robustly predicted all outcomes (psychological distress, well-being, collective action tendencies), while only some medium-concrete measures uniquely predicted certain outcomes. The most detailed measure (microaggressions) did not uniquely predict any measured outcomes. These findings highlight inconsistencies and potential inaccuracies in the measurement of perceived discrimination, which may affect the comparability of findings across studies.

111 Effects of Gender Stereotypes on Health Behavior: Experimentally Investigating the Role of Reactance

Sven Kachel^{1,2}, Zerevan Bindal^{3,2}, Jenny Roth⁴

¹University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany. ²University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany. ³University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. ⁴University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Health behavior is gendered, with women tending to eat healthier and drink less alcohol than men. Correspondingly, gender differences are closely aligned to gender stereotypical expectations of society. Yet recent studies found that instead of aligning with gender stereotypes, people may show reactance toward traditional gender-role expectations to challenge power dynamics.

In this project, we tested if gender stereotype reactance effects generalize to health behaviors, an area that is traditionally underexplored. Two preregistered experiments investigated if women and men who are blatantly confronted with traditional gender stereotypes (e.g. asking female participants to name three instances when they felt like a “real woman”) behave more reactant than people in a control condition.

When blatantly confronted with gender stereotypes, women decreased preference for healthy food, while men decreased preference for alcoholic drinks in Experiment 1 ($N = 145$). In Experiment 2 ($N = 189$), women (but not men) showed increased state-reactance along with increased preferences for alcoholic drinks when blatantly vs. implicitly (e.g. naming situations linked to feminine personality traits) confronted with gender stereotypes, suggesting reactance as the driving factor behind our result patterns. Our findings highlight potential downsides of blatant gender stereotypes for women, resulting in reactance, and less healthy behaviors.

39 Gender Gaps in Ecofriendliness: Are they mostly in our head?

Olena Vitkovska, Veronika Job, Christina Bauer

Vienna University, Vienna, Austria

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Are women more ecofriendly than men? Popular media content sometimes suggests so, but it is unclear to what extent such portrayals represent actual gender gaps or gender stereotypes. To address this question, we simultaneously assessed and compared evidence for actual gender gaps in ecofriendliness as well as gender stereotypes about ecofriendliness in two studies – Study 1 using a convenience sample ($N = 274$) and Study 2 using a large US census-representative sample ($N = 615$), analyzing data with frequentist and Bayesian analyses.

Overall, we found strong and consistent evidence for stereotypes, but relatively weak evidence for actual gender gaps.

Regarding stereotypes, both samples revealed strong evidence for stereotypes associating ecofriendliness more with women rather than men (average Cohen's $d = .75$ across two measures of stereotypes for Study 1 and average Cohen's $d = 1.04$ for Study 2). Means indicate that gender stereotypes are driven by perceptions of women being highly compatible with ecofriendliness, (men were perceived as moderately compatible).

The evidence for gender gaps in ecofriendliness was more limited. While Study 1 found no evidence for a gender gap across our four measures, Study 2 using a large sample found small effects on some measures (environmental concern, $d = .30$; intention to act, $d = .21$) and no effects on others (environmental prioritization; policy support). Taken together, this research highlights that perceptions of women being more ecofriendly than men may be shaped more by gender stereotypes than by actual differences in ecofriendliness.

239 Relation between mindfulness and job success: Does gender matter?

Alina S. Hernandez Bark¹, Dorian Hartlaub², Stephan Braun²

¹RH Cologne, Cologne, Germany. ²Goethe University Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Mindfulness is linked to various positive outcomes like increased job satisfaction and subjective well-being (Lomas et al., 2017). However, the relationship between mindfulness and career success shows with mixed results (Lomas et al., 2017). We hypothesize gender being a crucial

factor in this relationship. Traditional gender roles often assign men the agentic role of breadwinner, implying a strong career orientation, while women are associated with communal caretaking roles. Therefore, gender might influence the mindfulness-job-success relationship in two ways: either by mindfulness shifting the focus away from job success towards personal well-being, particularly noticeable in men (Study 2), or by mindful men violating gender role expectations and experiencing backlash effects (Study 3).

We conducted three complementary studies. Study 1 (cross-sectional, $N=125$) found a negative relationship between mindfulness and objective job success for men, but not for women. Study 2 (cross-sectional, $N=102$) found a significant negative relationship between mindfulness and career orientation. Moderation analysis showed this negative relationship was significant for men, but not for women. In Study 3 ($N=229$), both gender and mindfulness were manipulated in a scenario, and perceived job success was measured as the outcome. We found no main effects of either mindfulness or gender on job success, but a significant interaction between gender and mindfulness on ascribed job success.

As hypothesized, we found gender to be a consistent moderator in all three studies. The practical implications of these results and their potential for future research will be discussed.

58 Sensitivity and Response Bias in Detecting Gender Discrimination – Effects of Discrimination Prototypes

Marie Jakob, Anat Shechter, Karl Christoph Klauer

University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Discrimination prototypes are culturally shared cognitive representations of the usual characteristics of discrimination. They include, amongst other aspects, the notion that (potential) perpetrators and victims of discrimination belong to different social groups, with the perpetrator's group having a higher status. When a situation matches discrimination prototypes, decision-makers are more likely to judge it as discriminatory. Such judgments about discrimination are often made in a context of considerable uncertainty, and thus comprise two central components, formalized by signal detection theory (SDT): sensitivity (i.e., a decision-maker's ability to accurately differentiate between situations with and without cues to discrimination) and response bias (i.e., a relative tendency to make liberal rather than conservative judgments about the presence of discrimination). Crucially, both a higher sensitivity and a more liberal response bias increase the likelihood that a situation is judged as discriminatory and could therefore explain the effect of prototypes on discrimination judgments. To disentangle these possibilities empirically, we presented $N = 720$ participants with a series of potentially discriminatory decisions about pay raises in a fictional company. We manipulated the type of decision (pay raise granted vs. denied), the perceived gender of the evaluated employees (male vs. female), and the gender of the panel members making the decisions (all-male panel vs. all-female panel vs. mixed panel), allowing us to contrast cases that are consistent and inconsistent with discrimination prototypes. Our results carry implications for the cognitive mechanisms underlying the effect of prototypes on discrimination judgments.

Symposium: Procedural Influences on Evaluative Conditioning: From Fluency to Frequency

08:40 - 10:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Seminarraum 2 Oben (Karthago)

Evaluative Conditioning (EC) is a mechanism of attitude acquisition and attitude change (Vogel & Wänke, 2016). EC is commonly defined as the change in the liking of a conditioned stimulus (CS) after its pairing with a positive or negative unconditioned stimulus (US; De Houwer, 2007). In this symposium, we aim to deepen our understanding of how characteristics of the EC procedure influence EC effects. Specifically, we will examine how CS fluency, number of USs, US revaluation, counter-conditioning, and US frequency shape stimulus evaluations and attitudes in EC experiments.

The first talk will explore how CS fluency affects EC, showing that more fluent stimuli lead to stronger conditioning. The second talk will investigate ease-of-retrieval, showing that while the number of USs to be recalled does not influence EC strength, the perceived ease-of-retrieval is associated with stronger EC effects. The third talk will examine how multiple USs influence CS evaluations, using a US revaluation procedure to reveal that US valence information is integrated during judgment and follows an averaging pattern. The fourth talk will address valence asymmetries, demonstrating that counter-conditioning is more effective when positively conditioned CSs are paired with negative USs, than when negatively conditioned CSs are paired with positive USs. The fifth talk will examine the role of US frequency, showing that rare negative USs lead to a negativity bias, while rare positive USs lead to a positivity bias.

Together, these talks highlight how procedural factors of EC shape its effects, offering deeper insight into the mechanisms involved in evaluative learning.

21 Procedural Influences on Evaluative Conditioning: From Fluency to Frequency

Chair(s)

Lea Sperlich

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Anne Gast

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

128 The Role of Frequency for Valence Asymmetries in Evaluative Conditioning

Lea Sperlich, Christian Unkelbach

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Submission Type

Abstract

Evaluative Conditioning (EC) refers to a change in the evaluation of a conditioned stimulus (CS) due to its pairing with a positive or negative unconditioned stimulus (US; De Houwer, 2007). EC experiments typically use picture-picture designs, where CSs are paired with USs, such as positive or negative images. The negativity bias in learning predicts that negative stimuli should exert a stronger influence than positive ones. However, a re-analysis of meta-analytic EC data (Hofmann et al., 2010) found no evidence for this bias. We propose that the absence of a negativity bias stems from the distribution of valent information in EC experiments. In real-world environments, positive stimuli occur more frequently than negative stimuli (Unkelbach et al., 2019, 2020). However, EC experiments often use balanced distributions of USs, such as equal numbers of positive and negative USs paired with neutral CSs. This symmetrical design likely obscures ecological valence asymmetries. To test this hypothesis, we conducted two sets of pre-registered studies. In the first set ($N = 785$), we examined evaluations of individual CSs. We manipulated the frequency of USs. Results revealed symmetrical valence effects: rare negative USs produced a negativity bias, while rare positive USs resulted in a positivity bias. In the second set ($N = 1200$), we examined group evaluations. When participants rated CS groups, pairing one group member with a US was as effective as pairing four members. Notably, rare pairings did not produce a valence asymmetry. We will discuss potential explanations and propose directions for future research.

133 Larger Evaluative Conditioning Effects for Fluent Stimuli

Claudine Pulm, Anne Gast

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Processing fluency, the ease or difficulty with which information is processed, affects how we evaluate a stimulus. However, there are inconsistent findings on whether the influence of fluency is always positive or whether it amplifies judgmental tendencies. We were interested in how the fluency of the conditioned stimulus (CS) influences evaluative conditioning (EC) outcomes. Across three studies ($N = 855$), we found a larger influence of the unconditioned stimulus's (US) valence on the liking of the CS when the CS was fluent (compared to disfluent). This effect persisted when controlling for memory, which was better for fluent compared to disfluent CS-US pairings. Depending on the CS type, we also found more positive evaluations of fluent stimuli.

136 Evaluative Conditioning with Multiple Unconditioned Stimuli – Is Information Integrated at Learning or at Judgment?

Florian Weber¹, Hans Alves¹, Tobias Vogel², Moritz Ingendahl¹

¹Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ²Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Darmstadt, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Evaluative conditioning (EC), the change in a person's attitude towards a conditioned stimulus (CS) due to its pairing with a positive or negative unconditioned stimulus (US), is a central mechanism of attitude formation. Recent studies have explored how simultaneous pairings of a CS with multiple USs impact changes in CS attitudes. First results indicate that conditioned attitudes emerge from a weighted averaging of the affective information from the USs. The current study builds on this prior work by examining the cognitive processes involved, specifically whether the information from the USs is combined during the learning or judgment stage of the EC process. We employed a study design that simultaneously paired a CS with a positive/negative US and a second neutral or no US. Following this conditioning phase, we changed the valence of the neutral US via a revaluation procedure. The findings reveal that the attitude towards the CS shifted in line with the valence change of the initially neutral US. Furthermore, the observed CS rating pattern indicates that the valence information of the simultaneous presented USs was averaged. This leads to the conclusion that the integration of US valence information occurs at the judgment stage of the EC process and follows an averaging pattern.

129 Ease of Retrieval in Evaluative Conditioning

Moritz Ingendahl¹, Johanna Marie Höhs², Claudine Pulm³

¹Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ²University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany. ³University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Evaluative conditioning (EC), the change in the liking of a conditioned stimulus due to its pairing with a positive or negative stimulus, is a key effect in attitude formation. Current theories on EC emphasize the role of memory in EC, assuming that explicit memory on the stimulus pairings strengthens the EC effect. In this paper, we extend the scope of memory's role in EC by focusing on whether the metacognitive experience of ease during memory retrieval influences EC effects beyond the effects of the retrieved memory content. In two preregistered experiments (total $N = 392$), we tested for ease-of-retrieval effects in EC by letting participants recall few vs. many unconditioned stimuli before giving an evaluative judgment. Although the manipulation was successful in manipulating ease-of-retrieval, we found no evidence for ease-of-retrieval effects resulting from the experimental manipulation. However, the subjectively perceived ease of retrieval was indeed associated with stronger EC effects. Overall, these findings show no evidence that ease resulting from an instruction to recollect more/less US information contributes to EC effects but leave open whether ease-of-retrieval from other sources contributes to EC effects.

247 A negativity bias in evaluative counter-conditioning

Taylor Benedict, Jean Sparks, Anne Gast

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Many research areas have identified a negativity bias, a tendency for negative information to have greater influence than positive information. In evaluative conditioning research, however, there is so far little evidence of a negativity bias. Based on work on the sequential framing effect, we hypothesized that a negativity bias might occur in evaluative counter-conditioning. We thus tested this by pairing a CS sequentially with both negative and positive stimuli. In three experiments ($N = 100$, $N = 362$, $N = 120$), conditioned stimuli (CSs) were paired with positive or negative stimuli in an evaluative conditioning phase; then in an evaluative counter-conditioning phase, the same CSs were paired with stimuli of the opposite valence. We tested whether counter-conditioning is more effective when positively conditioned CSs are negatively counter-conditioned than when negatively conditioned CSs are positively counter-conditioned. We found this to be the case. There was no evidence that this negativity bias was driven by differences in memory. Furthermore, we found no evidence that a negativity bias nor a positivity bias occurs in a typical (initial) evaluative conditioning procedure. We discuss implications for understanding evaluative conditioning and negativity biases.

Session: Self and Identity

08:40 - 10:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Seminarraum 4 Oben (Krakau)

144 Studying self-concept change after discrepant feedback

Franziska Brotzeller, Mario Gollwitzer

Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, Munich, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

People adapt their self-perceptions (i.e., self-concept) to self-relevant feedback they receive – especially when that feedback deviates from their initial self-concept. More specifically, research has shown that the more the feedback deviates from the initial self-concept, the larger the changes in one's self-concept (immediately after receiving the feedback). It is unclear, though, whether and to what extent these short-term changes (a) are sustainable (i.e., persist across time and situations), and (b) may be infected by demand characteristics (and, thus, reflect methodological artifacts rather than “true” changes). To address the latter issue, we conducted two studies (combined $N = 957$) in which we manipulated demand characteristics by varying which researcher hypothesis was communicated to participants (no change after feedback, change after feedback, control). Participants then indicated their self-perceptions before and after receiving feedback on a task measuring an aspect of the self-concept. Results showed consistent effects of feedback on self-concept change regardless of which researcher hypothesis was communicated. To address the former issue, we conducted a third study ($N = 203$) in which we again measured participants' self-perceptions before and after they received feedback on a task. Furthermore, we measured their self-perceptions at a two-week follow-up. Results indicate that the feedback was associated with changes in self-perceptions both directly after the feedback and at the follow-up. Implications for studying self-concept change are discussed.

90 Identity leadership and health: The role of team identification and social support as mediators

Rolf van Dick

Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Identity leadership helps employees to identify more strongly with their teams, which can, in turn, serve as a foundation for health and well-being. Recently, Frenzel et al. (2023) demonstrated that emotional and instrumental support mediate these relationships in different ways. In this presentation, dysfunctional support is considered as an additional facet of social support, and three studies are used to show how identity leadership, team identification, the three forms of support, and various well-being parameters (e.g., stress, burnout, self-efficacy) are related. In an initial survey (N=240), the assumed relationships between identity leadership, team identification, dysfunctional support, and stress or job satisfaction, as well as between instrumental/emotional support as a mediator for the connection between identification and collective self-efficacy, are confirmed. In a second survey conducted at two measurement points (N=218), the results are corroborated, and an ongoing third survey aims to replicate these relationships and also for additional outcomes. Overall, the studies demonstrate that it is crucial to understand that identity leadership can serve as a starting point for improving well-being, but different mechanisms mediate the connection for different well-being parameters.

325 Norm Conflict for female leaders increases disidentification from women and leaders

Anna Maria Becker¹, Sarah Buhl², Torsten Masson¹, Immo Fritzsche¹

¹Universität Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany. ²Technische Universität Chemnitz, Chemnitz, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Women in leadership positions often face diverging norms between the group of women and the group of leaders. For example, they may be expected to be assertive but also warm and caring. Norm conflict between ingroups can lead to dissonance within the social self (psychological discomfort) and coping responses to relieve the conflict. Building on a social identity model of norm conflict between ingroups we examined these aversive effects and downstream consequences for female leaders. To cope with salient norm conflict, women may distance themselves from the group of women, leading to responses described as the queen bee phenomenon (masculine self-description, distancing from women, denial of discrimination). Alternatively, they may distance themselves from the group of leaders, leading to intense doubts about their accomplishments and competence and feelings previously described as the imposter phenomenon. In a correlational study ($N = 517$ female leaders) we found that perceived norm conflict between women and leaders was associated with higher levels of psychological discomfort, higher levels of some queen bee responses, and higher levels of the imposter phenomenon. In an experimental study ($N = 278$) salient norm conflict between women and leaders (vs. salient similarities) increased psychological discomfort and disidentification from women and had an indirect effect on the imposter phenomenon, mediated by psychological discomfort. This research tests the concept of dissonance within the social self and offers a novel explanation of the queen bee phenomenon as well as the imposter phenomenon as a coping response to internalized norm conflicts.

199 Intersectional Inequalities and Social Change

Simone Sebben, Johannes Ullrich

Universität Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Society can be clustered in all sorts of ways, resulting in potentially interdependent inequalities between groups. We show how fundamental inequalities (inequalities between individuals at the top and the bottom of a resource distribution) can be used to contextualize and better understand identity-based inequalities (inequalities defined by their social identities, e.g., race, gender). In two empirical studies using public opinion data from Switzerland (N Study 1 = 979, N Study 2 = 994; quota samples), we focused on wealth inequalities between men and women and the fundamental inequality in wealth between the richer and the poorer half. We discuss people's perceptions of wealth inequalities, the changes they desire, and how they think efforts and resources should be allocated to realize these changes. We emphasize the importance of not considering social inequalities in isolation, being explicit about which resources are distributed unequally, and untangling the complexities that unfold when facing intersectional inequalities in a systematic way.

81 What Makes People Refuse a Feminist Identity and the Consequences of This for Collective Action

Lukas Braun

Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Despite widespread support for feminist values, many people hesitate to identify as feminists. This study explores why this reluctance exists and its impact on collective action, using an online survey (N=709). I developed a scale to measure meta-beliefs, a relatively neglected concept in identity research. Our analyses, using linear models, revealed that meta-beliefs significantly moderated the relationship between feminist attitudes and feminist identification. Furthermore, feminist identification was found to predict collective action more strongly than feminist attitudes alone. These findings highlight the critical role of social identity in driving collective action and inform the literature about the crucial impact of meta-beliefs on (feminist) social identity. They thereby offer valuable insights for feminist movements aiming to increase feminist identification and promote gender equality advocacy.

Coffee Break

10:00 - 10:20 Monday, 15th September, 2025

Position Talk: How theory formalization may help improve your life as a psychology researcher

10:20 - 11:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025

Saal 1

Daniel Leising, TU Dresden, Dresden, Germany

In this talk, I will argue that greater efforts at theory formalization will be a necessary and important next step for many branches of psychology. Among the many advantages of theory formalization are (a) greater precision (e.g., of predictions), (b) better progress tracking, and (c) greater parsimony. Notably, the latter also extends across different subfields of (e.g., personality and social) psychology, which often have their own terminology while studying closely related or even the same phenomena. Here, formalization has the potential to foster the overall level of integration and efficiency in the field. I will recapitulate some of my own journey toward becoming a formalization enthusiast, highlighting some of the major insights I gained along the way. I will also address the significant challenges and obstacles that still hamper a more wide-spread adoption of theory formalization in our field (e.g., lack of training; lack of outlets; the complexity of the phenomena that we study; an incentive structure that seems to punish rather than reward work this effortful and risky). My talk will conclude with an attempt at outlining what can be done to overcome these obstacles.

25 How theory formalization may help improve your life as a psychology researcher

Daniel Leising

TU Dresden, Dresden, Germany

Submission Type

Position Talk

Abstract

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Position Talk: Disadvantaged = Weak? How inequality research can contribute to stigma and how to improve it

10:20 - 11:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 2a

Christina Bauer, University of Vienna, Wien, Austria
Greg Walton, Stanford University, Stanford, USA
Dana Miller-Cotto, Berkeley, San Francisco, USA
David Silverman, Northwestern University, Evanston, USA
Willem Frankenhuis, University of Maastricht, Maastricht, Netherlands

In understanding the psychology of social inequalities, research has often portrayed groups of individuals in disadvantaged positions as lacking in agency, skills, or motivation – portrayals that can stigmatize these groups. Countering this stigma, recent developments have been made in so-called ‘strength-based’ research to better understand and acknowledge the agency, skills, and motivation people in disadvantaged positions often show. Yet, this research is not focused on understanding how inequalities emerge. My talk will present ways to study inequalities without risking to stigmatize people. For example, how can we address disparities in certain motivational factors (e.g., belonging, or confidence) without stigmatizing groups as lacking motivation? And how can we study the way people experience disadvantage, without reducing them to the role of weak, passive victims? To answer such questions, I integrate traditional social-inequality research with recent advances in strength-based research in what I call a ‘holistic approach’ to studying inequality. At the core of this approach is a simultaneous recognition of context-level

disadvantage (a focus of traditional inequality research) and individual-level agency (a focus of strength-based research). This approach allows for a broader – holistic – perspective on existing inequality-research, and points to underexplored research questions within social psychology (e.g., how do people actively respond to disadvantage?). In addition to outlining this approach conceptually, I will present 10 practical guidelines illustrating how to apply this approach for an accurate and non-stigmatizing study of inequalities.

182 Disadvantaged = Weak? How inequality research can contribute to stigma and how to improve it

Christina Bauer¹, Greg Walton², Dana Miller-Cotto³, David Silverman⁴, Willem Frankenhuis⁵

¹University of Vienna, Wien, Austria. ²Stanford University, Stanford, USA. ³Berkeley, San Francisco, USA.

⁴Northwestern University, Evanston, USA. ⁵University of Maastricht, Maastricht, Netherlands

Submission Type

Position Talk

Abstract

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Position Talk: Beyond circular reasoning and "schmeasurement" in conspiracy research

10:20 - 11:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 2b

Conspiracy theories and their endorsement are a hot topic in psychology and neighboring disciplines, as indicated by an exponential increase in the number of scholarly articles after the Covid pandemic. Despite this increased attention and the indisputable social relevance of the issue, both theorizing and measurement aspects remain in their infancy. A large chunk of the available literature rests on ad-hoc measures tapping into hand-selected conspiracy theories. As I will illustrate, many of these do not even constitute actual conspiracy theories, while others suffer from content contamination: their endorsement systematically taps into other issues than just conspiracy beliefs (e.g., political ideology, false beliefs). Measures of generalized conspiracy beliefs that do not mention specific conspiracies are less plagued by such content contamination but have been criticized for tautological reasoning: explaining conspiracy beliefs with a tendency to believe in conspiracies. Empirically, they are also associated with suboptimal cognitive processes, questioning their independence of the acceptance of false beliefs. In the present talk, I aim to propose a way forward by proposing a modular approach to the core constituents of conspiracy worldviews: pattern perception, intentionality bias, randomness aversion, secrecy bias, heterodoxy, anti-elitism. As a radically new approach, these scales measure conspiracy belief proneness without ever mentioning a single conspiracy. The theoretical argument will be supported by preliminary data from Germany, the USA, Poland, as well as a sample of Syrian refugees in Germany (N ~1000). The discussion will focus on how this approach substantiates the actual psychology in the psychology of conspiracy beliefs.

36 Beyond circular reasoning and "schmeasurement" in conspiracy research

Roland Imhoff

Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

Submission Type

Position Talk

Abstract

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beliefs with a tendency to believe in conspiracies. Empirically, they are also associated with suboptimal cognitive processes, questioning their independence of the acceptance of false beliefs. In the present talk, I aim to propose a way forward by proposing a modular approach to the core constituents of conspiracy worldviews: pattern perception, intentionality bias, randomness aversion, secrecy bias, heterodoxy, anti-elitism. As a radically new approach, these scales measure conspiracy belief proneness without ever mentioning a single conspiracy. The theoretical argument will be supported by preliminary data from Germany, the USA, Poland, as well as a sample of Syrian refugees in Germany (N ~1000). The discussion will focus on how this approach substantiates the actual *psychology* in the psychology of conspiracy beliefs.

Position Talk: Estimating the climate change mitigation potential of behavior change interventions

10:20 - 11:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 3

Malte Frieze, Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany

Maximilian Thiel, Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany

Behavioral interventions are an important means of addressing climate change. Interventions that are more effective as indicated by a standardized effect size are presumed to have greater potential to contribute to climate change mitigation. In this talk, we argue that current intervention design and reporting practices do not provide sufficiently robust evidence to inform public policy recommendations on the most promising behavioral interventions to tackle climate change. First, we explain why the effectiveness of interventions should be evaluated based on estimated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, rather than standardized effect sizes. Second, from a public policy perspective, it is important to estimate the extent to which different interventions can prospectively contribute to climate change mitigation. To this end, we present a theoretical framework that illustrates that in order to estimate the climate change mitigation potential of an intervention, researchers need to consider the effect of the intervention, its persistence over time, and its scalability to large and diverse populations. These determinants can interact in different ways, and we illustrate how these interactions affect the climate change mitigation potential of an intervention. Not considering one or more components of the framework hinders researchers' ability to identify the most promising behavioral interventions. We derive recommendations for the design and reporting of future behavioral interventions, which will allow public policy recommendations to be based on stronger evidence. Despite its focus on climate-relevant behaviors, the framework has broad implications for social psychological interventions aimed at changing behaviors in a variety of life domains.

135 Estimating the climate change mitigation potential of behavior change interventions

Malte Frieze, Maximilian Thiel

Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany

Submission Type

Abstract

Behavioral interventions are an important means of addressing climate change. Interventions that are more effective as indicated by a standardized effect size are presumed to have greater potential to contribute to climate change mitigation. In this talk, we argue that current intervention design and reporting practices do not provide sufficiently robust evidence to inform public policy recommendations on the most promising behavioral interventions to tackle climate change. First, we explain why the effectiveness of interventions should be evaluated based on estimated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, rather than standardized effect sizes. Second, from a public policy perspective, it is important to estimate the extent to which different interventions can prospectively contribute to climate change mitigation. To this end, we present a theoretical framework that illustrates that in order to estimate the climate change mitigation potential of an intervention, researchers need to consider the effect of the intervention, its persistence over time, and its scalability to large and diverse populations. These determinants can interact in different ways, and we illustrate how these interactions affect the climate change mitigation potential of an intervention. Not considering one or more components of the framework hinders researchers' ability to identify the most promising behavioral interventions. We derive recommendations for the design and reporting of future behavioral interventions, which will allow public policy recommendations to be based on stronger evidence. Despite its focus on climate-relevant behaviors, the framework has broad implications for social psychological interventions aimed at changing behaviors in a variety of life domains.

Position Talk: Realism in Moral Dilemmas

10:20 - 11:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 4

Anita Körner, University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

Moral dilemmas describe situations where an actor has to choose between optimizing consequences and adhering to norms. Frequently, the decision is between killing one person and letting multiple persons die. For example, in the trolley dilemma, the only option to save a group of people on a train track from being overrun by an oncoming train consists in redirecting the train so that it will kill one other person. Even though moral dilemmas do occur in real life, morality researchers usually use unrealistic thought experiments, like the trolley dilemma.

The talk will present research on why realism matters when examining moral judgments. First, I will show that participants typically do not suspend disbelief; as a result, realism affects dilemma judgments. Specifically, low plausibility leads to more norm-consistent judgments. Second, I will present a set of new moral dilemmas that are based on historic events. These historic dilemmas are perceived to be more realistic compared to typically used dilemmas and are taken more seriously by participants. Moreover, they provide the possibility to examine whether previous findings generalize to different types of realistic dilemmas.

Third, I will argue that the influence of realism on judgments is caused by the nature of dilemmas—conflicts where no good solution exists. In aversive conflicts, low realism is especially salient. Moreover, differences in perceived realism align with one's decisions, indicating either an influence of individual differences in realism perception influencing judgments or a post-decisional adaptation of realism judgments to justify one's decisions.

Anita Körner

University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

Submission Type

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Position Talk: A Unified Language for Studying Social and Temporal Perception

10:20 - 11:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Seminarraum 2 Oben (Karthago)

Johannes Ullrich, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
David Grüning, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany
GESIS, Mannheim, Germany
Joachim Krueger, Brown University, Providence, USA

The Inductive Reasoning Model (IRM; Krueger et al., 2024) offers an integrative framework for deriving baseline predictions for a host of phenomena in social perception which can be represented as within-subject correlations. In this position talk, Joachim Krueger will first provide historical context of the egocentric approach underlying the IRM and present its most recent statement of how social projection accounts for self-enhancement, ingroup favoritism, stereotype accuracy, and their interrelationships. David Grüning will elaborate on the IRM's ability to generate non-nil predictions, paying homage to Paul Meehl's admonitions to psychologists that significance testing should be better informed theoretically. Finally, Johannes Ullrich presents a recent extension of the IRM to diachronic self-perception, showing how the same basic assumptions (self-positivity, differential projection) lead to predictions about how people

construe their past, present and future selves and experience subjective growth. We end with an outlook on the possibilities that emerge when social perception researchers adopt a unified language to increase the coherence and integrity of their findings.

259 A Unified Language for Studying Social and Temporal Perception

Johannes Ullrich¹, David Grüning^{2,3}, Joachim Krueger⁴

¹University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland. ²University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany. ³GESIS, Mannheim, Germany. ⁴Brown University, Providence, USA

Submission Type

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Position Talk: How people utilize multiple advice: A new constellation-based approach

10:20 - 11:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Seminarraum 4 Oben (Krakau)

Stefan Schulz-Hardt, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany
Johannes Rollwage, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany
Julia Bengelsdorf, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany
Christian Treffenstädt, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany

For important judgments and decisions, people usually seek advice, and they often seek advice from more than one person. Unfortunately, the use and integration of multiple advice is poorly understood in advice-taking research so

far, as the few models that try to explain multiple advice taking have an insufficient fit with the data. For example, the fact that people very often refuse to make any adjustments to initial judgments after being faced with multiple advice is hardly accounted for by any of the current models.

Therefore, we propose a new model aimed at explaining how judges use advice from multiple sources. This model makes precise point predictions about the judges' post-advice judgments by differentiating between two essential constellations: If the judge's initial judgment is within the range of the advisors' judgments, our model predicts that the judge will make no adjustments at all. If, in contrast, the judge's initial judgment is outside of the range of the advisor judgments, we predict that the judge will revise the initial judgment and will instead choose the first advisor judgment inside the "advisor crowd".

By using data from 11 studies with more than 1.000 participants altogether, we show that our model has a better empirical fit with the data than any previous model of multiple advice taking. Furthermore, we demonstrate how our model can help explain important phenomena in multiple advice taking like, for example, the stronger utilization of dependent (as compared to independent) or aggregated (as compared to non-aggregated) advice.

276 How people utilize multiple advice: A new constellation-based approach

Stefan Schulz-Hardt¹, Johannes Rollwage¹, Julia Bengelsdorf¹, Christian Treffenstädt²

¹Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany. ²Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany

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Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:20 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

Blitz: Intergroup Relations and Stereotypes

11:20 - 12:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 1

234 A Meta-Analysis on Intergroup Contact Effects: Two Decades After Pettigrew and Tropp

Sarina J. Schäfer, Sybille Neji, Liva Serin, Alexandra Woltz, Oliver Christ

FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

The intergroup contact hypothesis is rooted in a long and productive research tradition. In a nutshell, it proposes that positive intergroup contact reduces prejudice, improves intergroup attitudes and emotions, and even intergroup behavior. The talk will revisit the contact hypothesis two decades after the large meta-analysis by Pettigrew and Tropp (2006). In addition to their original sample, we identified over 800 new studies examining the relationship of intergroup contact. We examine the original contact hypothesis in the combined sample of studies from 1940 until 2020. We will mainly focus on the question of if and how the field has addressed the call of Pettigrew and Tropp to improve and expand research on intergroup contact in several aspects. For instance, we will answer the question whether the number of experiments and longitudinal studies has increased since 2000, and whether the contact hypothesis still receives comparable supporting evidence as reported in Pettigrew & Tropp (2006). Moreover, building on separate analysis of the over 1500 independent samples newly coded for this meta-analysis, we will highlight the importance to consider the valence of intergroup contact, as positive contact shows higher correlations with decreased prejudice than general measures of contact, while negative contact reliably increases prejudice. Furthermore, we will explore differences in the effects of different types of contact (i.e. direct, vicarious, extended) and in different contexts (e.g. work, neighborhood). The discussion will highlight the importance of theoretical and methodological clarity for advancing research on intergroup contact.

237 The Role of Expectations in Intergroup Contact: Evidence from a Video Game Paradigm

Jil Ullenboom, Oliver Christ, Shania Stockbauer, Sarina J. Schäfer

FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Expectations could be a critical yet largely underexplored factor in shaping intergroup contact effects. Across two experimental studies (Study 1: $N = 289$, Study 2: $N = 281$), we examined how expectations would affect subsequent valenced intergroup contact effects on intergroup attitudes and anxiety in a video game paradigm.

In Study 1, participants were assigned to a 2(expectations: positive or negative) \times 3 (intergroup contact: positive, negative or no contact) experimental design, where expectations were manipulated through a brief introductory text. Results revealed no significant effects of expectations on key outcomes, including perceived interaction quality, trust, and intergroup anxiety. Still, a manipulation check confirmed that in principle, expectations differed between groups, but the short duration of the expectation manipulation compared to the contact experience may have diminished its impact. Additionally, higher dropout rates were observed in the no-contact condition, which used a video-only format.

To address these limitations, Study 2 employed a stronger expectation manipulation using brief newspaper articles framing the aliens as cooperative and friendly or competitive and unfriendly and replaced the no-contact condition with mixed contact. This refined 2 (expectations: positive or negative) \times 3 (intergroup contact: positive, negative, or mixed) design revealed significant interactions between expectations and intergroup experiences across key outcomes, like perceived interaction quality and intergroup anxiety, though no effects were found for trust. These findings highlight the potential of stronger expectations to shape intergroup experiences and the effects on intergroup relations. We will discuss the consequences of these findings for current challenges in intergroup relations.

201 Actions Speak Louder Than Words: The Impact of (Not) Keeping Diversity Commitments on Organizational Attractiveness

Franziska Stanke, Charlotte Wehling, Thorben Stoklas

University of Münster, Münster, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

While organizations frequently communicate their commitment to diversity, these messages do not always align with employees' experiences. When employees perceive a mismatch between stated commitments and actual practices, this can negatively impact organizational reputation. This study ($N = 354$) examined the effects of dishonesty in diversity commitments, focusing on a team leader's communication about family-friendly policies. Using case vignettes, we examined scenarios in which a leader - representing a company that had publicly communicated its commitment to family-friendliness - either suggested the possibility (or not) of scheduling team meetings to accommodate an employee's caregiving responsibilities and subsequently followed through (or not). Results indicate that unfulfilled commitments - where the leader failed to act on their stated support - were perceived as negatively as overt discrimination (i.e., explicitly denying the possibility of rescheduling the team meeting and not rescheduling it). However, when the leader demonstrated family-friendly behavior by rescheduling the meeting, their prior communication of commitment to family-friendliness further increased expected psychological safety, trust in leadership, and organizational attractiveness. These findings highlight the importance of aligning diversity-related communication with genuine action, particularly in promoting work-family balance, and underscore the consequences of inconsistent diversity practices.

215 Mainstreaming democratic backsliding: The role of gender stereotypes

Julia Elad-Strenger¹, Lihi Ben-Shitrit², Sivan Hirsch Hoefler³

¹Universität der Bundeswehr München, München, Germany. ²New York University, New York, USA. ³Reichman University, Herzliya, Israel

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Radical-right parties have gradually penetrated the political mainstream in many liberal democracies, marking a trend of ‘democratic backsliding’. We propose that women’s increasing visibility as representatives of radical-right agendas makes democratic backsliders, their policies and their parties seem more legitimate, and may help explain their growing public acceptance. Our studies provide the first systematic examination of this hypothesis in three countries – Israel, Germany and the United States (N = 7203). In Studies 1a-c, we show that voters perceive democracy-eroding policies through a gendered lens – they attribute gender stereotypes to the parties promoting these policies and to the public supporting these policies. In Studies 2a-c, we experimentally demonstrate the effect of politicians’ gender on public acceptance of democracy-eroding policies, politicians and parties, and demonstrate the role of gender stereotypes in mediating this effect. Finally, we show that the audiences susceptible to the mainstreaming effect of politicians’ gender are precisely those that are often particularly repelled by radical-right agendas and their perceived masculine image: Women and left-wing voters.

243 Going Against the Tide: Exploring the Perspectives of “Unlikely” Supporters of a Green Transformation

Adrian Rothers^{1,2}, Thomas Fickel³

¹Philipps Universität, Marburg, Germany. ²Leibniz Universität, Hannover, Germany. ³FU, Berlin, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Political support for measures reducing the economy’s negative impacts on the environment is too often lacking in Germany. Lack of support is especially pronounced and impactful among wealthy individuals. Here, we sought to a) examine social class gradients in support for a green transformation, and b) explore the motives of wealthy individuals who “go against the tide” – that is, display pro-transformation attitudes even when their social class position would predict otherwise. We used data from the “Environmental Awareness Study” (n = 1996).

We regressed an index of green transformation measures on two social class dimensions, namely, individuals’ *overall status* and the *basis* of their status, from education- to wealth-based. Results showed a significant interaction between both dimensions ($\beta = -.39$, 95%CI [-1.28, .50], $p = .007$), indicating that people with high wealth-based but

not education-based status show the most negative attitudes towards green transformation measures (although R^2 is only .03).

Next, based on the regression residuals, we identified “positive deviants” – a subsample of wealthy individuals with surprisingly positive transformation attitudes – and matched them on additional demographic variables with wealthy individuals with more negative attitudes (both $n = 94$). Exploratory analyses showed that positive deviants expected more positive *societal* consequences of a green transformation but were, in part, more pessimistic about their *personal* outcomes. They not only expected greater increases in costs of living but also more status loss as consequences of a green transformation. Future studies will examine personal narratives underlying such apparent willingness to sacrifice.

SLAM Blitz: Mind Your Menu, Mind Your Bias: Navigating AI, Power Trips, and Group Hugs

11:20 - 12:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 2a

19 From menus to misbeliefs: Illusory unhealthy=tasty beliefs in restaurants

Niklas Pivecka, [Sonja Kunz](#), Arnd Florack

University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

We examined whether overall frequencies of healthy and tasty food on restaurant menus predict people's beliefs about how healthiness and taste are related. Moreover, we demonstrate that these beliefs differ from the health-taste correlation calculated from people's own healthiness and taste ratings, thereby constituting misbeliefs. Participants ($N = 195$) rated the healthiness and taste of twelve dish descriptions collected from menus of two different restaurant types (American and vegetarian restaurants), estimated for each restaurant how many foods were healthy and tasty overall, and whether unhealthy or healthy foods tasted better. Results show that ratings of perceived healthiness and expected taste are uncorrelated in both restaurant types, but participants formed the misbelief that unhealthy dishes taste better than healthy dishes to a greater extent in American than in vegetarian restaurants. Regression analyses revealed that the estimated overall frequencies of healthy and tasty food options were significantly related to participants' health-taste beliefs while controlling for the correlation between healthiness and taste ratings in both restaurant types. Participants were more likely to believe that healthy food tastes better than unhealthy food when they perceived that healthy and tasty food were both frequent (or infrequent) in the respective restaurant type. Our results provide evidence that relying on absolute frequencies rather than covariation to infer the relationship between healthiness and taste may lead to misbeliefs that do not reflect the health-taste correlation between individual food items.

116 Bridging the Gap: Challenging the Underrepresentation of Women in Male-Dominated Disciplines through Communal Goal Interventions

Arian Leopold, Michaela Köller, Daniela Renger

Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Kiel, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

There has been an increasing discourse on the underrepresentation of women in science and the potential underlying causes. The lack-of-fit model posits a theoretical, socio-psychological framework to explain this phenomenon. Previous research in male-dominated disciplines (e.g., STEM, philosophy) has shown that a perceived communal misfit is particularly decisive in the assessment of the fit. Female students described themselves as more communal than their discipline, perceiving a communal overfit. This overfit was associated with a diminished sense of belonging and a weaker intention to persist. These findings give rise to the question of potential interventions that are designed to strengthen the communal aspects associated with a discipline. Communal Goal Interventions focus on the communal aspects of a discipline and are expected to result in the modification of existing stereotypes and the enhancement of the sense of belonging and the intention to persist.

This presentation will offer the findings of two experimental studies ($N = 479$ & $N = 260$) that examined the impact of Communal Goal Interventions in philosophy in a general and a philosophy students' sample. Results show, that the Communal Goal Intervention could change the assumed gender distribution, stereotypes, and goals associated with philosophy in a general sample. Philosophy students who completed the Communal Goal Intervention showed a higher sense of belonging and, mediated by this, a heightened intention to persist in philosophy. The implications of implementing Communal Goal Interventions in philosophy and the potential for transfer to other male-dominated disciplines will be discussed.

204 Generative AI in everyday life: what context, motivation, and emotions drive its daily use?

Ines Terrucha¹, Margarita Leib², Wilhelm Hofmann³, Nils Köbis^{1,4}

¹Research Center Trustworthy Data Science and Security of the University Alliance Ruhr, University of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg, Germany. ²Tilburg School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Tilburg University, Tilburg, Netherlands. ³Department of Psychology, Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ⁴Center for Humans and Machines, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

With the democratization of generative artificial intelligence (Generative AI), people increasingly use it to accomplish many daily tasks. While researchers are exploring its impact on learning and cognitive development, little is known about the human experience of Generative AI in daily life.

This research aims to fill this gap using an experience sampling method (ESM) to study Generative AI usage in naturalistic settings. Participants from a representative US-based sample (N=1000) will be prompted five times daily over seven days and asked whether they have used a large language model (LLM) in the past two hours. They will be asked to self-report the context in which they interacted with an LLM (Situational 8), what motivated them, how it made them feel (2-dimensional affect grid), and related social norms.

By capturing real-time data in participants' natural environments, this study seeks to uncover how Generative AI is embedded in daily life. Unlike laboratory experiments, this approach provides ecologically valid insights into how people perceive and experience this technology. However, the study's reliance on diverse real-world contexts may limit its internal validity, as the variability in usage scenarios makes it difficult to isolate the effects of specific factors.

Our data will be among the first to systematically examine how Generative AI influences human experiences, motivations, and social norms across everyday contexts. The data collection and analysis will be concluded by June so that our early results can be presented as a Blitz talk with a healthy dose of humor in this venue.

269 Macht & Ohnmacht in der Promotion - negative Führungserfahrungen und psychische Gesundheitsentwicklung

Hannah Schade

Leibniz-Institut für Arbeitsforschung an der TU Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Die mentale Gesundheit von NachwuchswissenschaftlerInnen ist auffallend schlecht (z.B. Satinsky et al., 2021): psychische Probleme sind prävalenter als in vergleichbaren (jungen, gebildeten) Gruppen und steigen über den Promotionsverlauf kontinuierlich (Keloharju et al, 2024) – auch in Deutschland (Olsthorn et al., 2020); Symptome von Angst und Depression korrelieren vor allem mit der Betreuung durch Doktorvater bzw. -mutter und der durch sie geprägten Arbeitsatmosphäre (Kafedjiska et al., 2022). das Führungsverhalten der vorgesetzten Person ist generell ein entscheidender Faktor für die mentale Gesundheit von Mitarbeitenden (Montano et al., 2016).

In leitfadengestützte Interviews berichten 26 ehemaligen Promovierenden mit besonders negativen Promotionserfahrungen, wie sie die Entwicklung ihrer psychischen Gesundheit während der Promotionszeit beschreiben und worauf sie diese zurückführen. In der deduktive und induktive Elemente kombinierenden thematischen Analyse (Proudfoot et al., 2008) konzentrieren wir uns darauf, welche Rolle dabei Doktorvater bzw. -mutter zugeschrieben wurde, welche konkreten Führungsverhaltensweisen berichtet wurden, und ob Untersuchungen unternommen wurden, sich Unterstützung zu holen.

Dabei wird deutlich, dass erste Erfahrungen missbräuchlichen Führungsverhaltens (auch gegenüber Dritten), gegen das sich nicht gewehrt werden konnte, zu einer immer drastischer wahrgenommenen Abhängigkeit von der Betreuungsperson führte, zu Verunsicherung und Angst, geringerem Selbstwert und Selbstwirksamkeit, und langfristig deutlich reduzierter Leistungs- und Funktionsfähigkeit.

Diese - sich stets weiter verschärfende Machtdistanz - ordnen wir ins „toxische Dreieck destruktiver Führung“ ein (Padilla et al., 2007). Wir diskutieren Kosten von Hierarchie und Machtmissbrauch für Individuum und Gesellschaft (van Kleef & Cheng, 2020) und mögliche Maßnahmen, um diese im Wissenschaftsbetrieb zu verringern (Bössel et al., 2023).

275 Der Effekt von multiplen Gruppenzugehörigkeiten auf Gesundheit und Wohlbefinden unter Berücksichtigung der durchschnittlichen Gruppenidentifikation

Stephan Braun, Louisa Theisges, Rolf van Dick

Goethe-Uni Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Bedeutsame soziale Gruppen machen einen wichtigen Teil der menschlichen Identität aus. Diese soziale Identität kann stark zwischen verschiedenen Menschen variieren, sowohl was die Anzahl der bedeutsamen Gruppen, als auch was die Identifikation mit diesen Gruppen angeht. Bisherige Forschung hat gezeigt, dass diese beiden Aspekte sozialer Identität einen großen Effekt auf Gesundheit und Wohlbefinden haben können, wobei mehr Gruppen und höhere Identifikation diese Outcomes positiv beeinflussen. Es ist aber noch unklar, wie sich diese beiden Aspekte gegenseitig beeinflussen. Es scheint nahe zu liegen, dass Menschen mit nur wenigen bedeutsamen Gruppen, sich stärker mit den einzelnen Gruppen verbunden fühlen, als Menschen mit vielen Gruppen, da pro Gruppe mehr Zeit und Aufmerksamkeit zur Verfügung steht. Es stellt sich daher die Frage, ob wenige sehr bedeutsame Gruppen ähnlich positiv für relevante Gesundheits- und Wohlbefindensmaße sein können, wie viele etwas weniger bedeutsame Gruppen. Um dies zu untersuchen wurden 280 Probanden gebeten, ihre bedeutsamen Gruppen zu nennen und die Identifikation mit diesen Gruppen anzugeben. Anschließend wurden abhängige Variablen wie Lebenszufriedenheit und depressive sowie somatische Symptome gemessen. Es zeigte sich, dass die Gruppenanzahl negativ mit der durchschnittlichen Identifikation mit diesen Gruppen korrelierte. Trotzdem hing beides jeweils positiv mit Gesundheit und Wohlbefinden zusammen. Ein Moderationseffekt von durchschnittlicher Identifikation auf die Gruppenanzahl lag dabei nicht vor. Ein weiterer spannender Befund war, dass der negative Effekt von wenigen Gruppen zum größten Teil auf Personen zurückging, die nur eine Gruppe angegeben hatten. Mögliche Erklärungsansätze für diese Befundlage werden diskutiert.

Blitz: Science, Media, and Technology

11:20 - 12:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025

Saal 2b

321 Competing Privacy Theories: From Verbal Assumptions to Formalized Models Describing the Role of Data Values

Nele Borgert, Ian Hussey, Luisa Jansen, Malte Elson

University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Users of smart home devices are often unaware of the extent and significant monetary worth of the data these technologies collect. While existing verbal theories describe privacy-related decision-making, few studies have systematically formalized their inherent assumptions. To advance this goal, we proposed and tested two causal and two extended models of privacy behavior, formalizing multiple competing theoretical perspectives on whether users consider privacy context information about the data value being collected when expressing their willingness to use smart home devices. Using a factorial within-between-subjects design ($N_a = 517$; $N_b = 420$), we varied device type, endogenous data value (severity of privacy risks), and exogenous data value (likelihood of privacy risks). Bayesian model comparisons provided strong evidence for the models assuming rational data valuation over those predicting deviations from rational assessment, such as biased equalization of privacy contexts. These findings refine theoretical models of privacy decision-making and highlight broader social implications, including the role of manipulative design practices and the need for focused consumer protection measures in the era of pervasive data collection.

60 Infocalypse - The Influence of Deepfakes in the US election campaign

Klara Steinmetz, Claas Pollmanns, Sarah Buhl

TU Chemnitz, Chemnitz, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Deepfakes are increasingly common on social media, and they are becoming a powerful force in shaping political information. Alarmingly, deepfakes are already eroding trust in democratic institutions, distorting political discourse, and undermining the legitimacy of

political decisions (Chesney & Citron, 2019; Pawelec, 2022). In this presentation, we share key findings from our preregistered longitudinal study (4 waves, NT1 = 900) conducted during the 2024 US election campaign, aiming to shed light onto the growing threat posed by deepfakes for democratic processes.

Based on two qualitative studies (N1= 55; N2 = 100) and building on intergroup threat theory (Stephan et al., 2009), we postulate two different ways in which deepfakes can convey threat and thus potentially influence democratic decision-making processes. On the one hand, people, particularly those who strongly identify with their political party, may be concerned that deepfakes could be used by political opponents to their advantage in political discourse (partisan threat hypothesis). On the other hand, people, especially those who are motivated to engage in political discussions, may be concerned that deepfakes contribute to the loss of a common ground essential for democratic debates (democratic threat hypothesis). We present the results of two dynamic panel models that test our assumptions and discuss their implications for political polarization within liberal democratic systems.

127 Villainous pictures? – How NS propaganda glorifying Adolf Hitler affects feelings of guilt among contemporary viewers

Lara Ditrich¹, Katharina Bernecker², Kai Sassenberg^{3,4}

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Eighty years ago, the Nazi's reign of terror ended with Germany's defeat in World War II. The atrocities committed during their reign, nonetheless, continue to shape Germany's image in the world and many Germans' feelings about their country's past. How specific historical artefacts from the NS era - propaganda images glorifying Adolf Hitler - influence these feelings, however, is poorly understood to date. Historians have raised concerns that such materials might communicate distorted images of the past to future generations. We are the first to provide empirical evidence substantiating these worries. Four experiments (N_{total} = 560) showed that Germans expressed (a) more mixed emotions related to propaganda images and (b) weaker guilt when pictorial reminders of the atrocities committed during the Nazis' reign were mixed with glorifying propaganda images. A fifth experiment (which will be completed by September) tests whether the guilt-mitigating effect is specific to glorifying propaganda or also emerges when content-neutral, positively valenced images are shown, thereby allowing us to identify the potential process underlying this effect. In sum, our findings have clear scientific and societal implications. On the scientific side, they will contribute to our understanding of the processes and factors fostering and mitigating the experience of collective guilt. On the societal side, they contribute to ongoing debates on German commemorative culture and how National Socialism should be publicly discussed for this discussion to promote the endorsement of the sentiment "Nie wieder ist jetzt!" (Never again is now).

167 Are psychologists sharing data FAIRly? Open data is findable but less accessible, interoperable, and reusable

Kai Sassenberg^{1,2}, André Bittermann¹, Tim Lauer¹, Mario Gollwitzer³

¹ZPID, Trier, Germany. ²Uni Trier, Trier, Germany. ³LMU, Munich, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

One of the cornerstones of open science is data sharing. To be functional, the FAIR principles need to be fulfilled- that is, data should be findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable. Data sharing following these principles will allow for effortless reproduction of the results and reuse of the data. The current study sought to assess the current data sharing practices in psychology. We automatically assessed the FAIRness of shared data regarding 16 criteria using the automated FAIR data assessment tool F-UJI (www.f-ujii.net). This analysis was applied to $N = 4891$ data sets linked to psychological publications in the database PSYINDEX. Results showed that findability was satisfactory, whereas the data fulfilled the other criteria to a lesser extent. These results did neither differ substantially between years (2017-2024) nor between subdisciplines of psychology. FAIRness differed, however, substantially between platforms. Data on OSF (75% of the sample) and GitHub (4%) scored on average lower than 36 on a scale from 0 to 100, whereas data on Figshare, Zenodo, and PsychArchives (together 6%) scored above 55. This difference was driven by findability, accessibility, and interoperability but less by reusability. In sum, data sharing in psychology does currently not follow the FAIR principles and is, thus, of limited value to other researchers. The causes of low FAIRness and the validity of the indicators will be discussed.

Blitz: Prosociality, Trust, and Flexibility

11:20 - 12:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025

Saal 3

45 Transcending Boredom in Daily Life: The Impact of Awe, Gratitude, Compassion, and Self-Compassion

Muireann O'Dea^{1,2}, Eric Igou², Wijnand van Tilburg³, Elaine Kinsella²

¹RPTU University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau in der Pfalz, Germany. ²University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland.

³University of Essex, Colchester, United Kingdom

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Boredom is a pervasive experience linked to various mental health and societal issues. However, little is known about how individuals can adaptively cope with boredom in their daily lives. To gain greater insights into psychological resources that counteract boredom, we examined the protective functions of positive self-transcendent emotions. The *existential-buffering hypothesis* suggests that sources of meaning in life buffer against boredom. We hypothesized that these emotions induce a sense of meaning in life that, in turn, limit boredom. We conducted a preregistered 14-day diary study ($N = 1,531$ daily reports from 114 participants) to test these predictions at the within-person level. We analyzed the data using multilevel modelling and multilevel mediation. Confirming our expectations, on days participants experienced more awe, gratitude, compassion, and self-compassion, they reported higher daily meaning and lower daily boredom. These patterns persisted even after controlling for other relevant emotions. Further analyses confirmed that daily perceptions of meaning mediated the relationship between daily self-transcendent emotions and daily boredom. Self-transcendent emotions predict less boredom by providing feelings of meaning in daily life. By using the daily diary method, we moved beyond traditional cross-sectional paradigms to observe these variations within individuals. Our results suggest that self-transcendent emotions provide a sense of meaning, thereby helping to counter boredom in everyday life with important implications for well-being.

263 Beyond Borders: How Perceived Global Interdependence Drives Prosocial Behavior

M. Onur Yasa, Johannes Ullrich

University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Positive interdependence is a fundamental mechanism in group dynamics, shaping prosocial attitudes and behaviours toward in-group members. Understanding interdependence across different group levels is crucial, as it helps explain why individuals tend to be less prosocial in larger, more abstract groups when they do not perceive themselves as interdependent. In this study ($N = 986$), we experimentally investigated how perceived positive interdependence differs across multiple group levels, including work teams, local communities, nations, and the global community. Our findings indicated that perceptions of interdependence decline as group size and abstraction increase, with the highest levels observed in work teams and the lowest at the global level. Notably, perceived interdependence predicts both prosocial intentions and hypothetical money allocation, with stronger effects for in-group members in dilemmas involving close friends. Furthermore, we demonstrated that global-level positive interdependence plays a key role in shaping support for redistributive policies, particularly in the willingness to contribute to a global tax aimed at addressing global challenges. These findings suggest that increasing perceived global interdependence, through education, media narratives, or policy framing, may enhance public support for cooperative global initiatives (e.g. in climate change).

316 The Benefits of Expressing Ambivalent Attitudes on Trustworthiness and Trust

Clara Hallmann Perez¹, Angela Dorrough², Celine Frank^{3,1}, Iris Schneider^{1,3}

¹Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany. ²Fernuniversität Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ³Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Many current socio-political issues are a source of controversy and ambivalence. Expressing these ambivalent attitudes has important social consequences, especially in zero-acquaintance situations. In two representative German samples and three U.S. samples, the current research ($N = 2468$) experimentally examines the influence of ambivalent attitudes on trust, one of the most essential social judgments. We show that compared to low ambivalent trustees, highly ambivalent trustees were rated higher in integrity- and benevolence-based trustworthiness (Study 1-3). In an incentive trust game with other participants, this translated into greater trust behaviors (Study 4). We tested whether issue-controversy and agreement in attitudinal side-taking between trustees and participants would moderate the effect of trustee ambivalence on trustworthiness. We only found a boundary of the effect for issues that were low in controversy. Agreement in attitudinal side-taking influenced the strength of the ambivalence effect on trustworthiness but not the direction. We discuss how these findings can be integrated in consistent and diverging prior evidence, enhancing a nuanced understanding of potential social benefits and costs of expressing ambivalence.

38 The impact of co-opetition on cognitive flexibility: A replication study

Claudia Araya¹, Kai Sassenberg^{1,2}

¹Leibniz Institute for Psychology (ZPID), Trier, Germany. ²Trier University, Department of Psychology, Trier, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Real-life situations often involve conflicting demands, where pursuing a goal hinders the achievement of another. One example is co-opetition which involves simultaneously competing and cooperating with the same social target. For instance, employees on a team must cooperate with their co-workers while competing for a promotion or recognition from superiors. Landkammer and Sassenberg (2016) found that compared to pure competition and cooperation, experiencing co-opetition – that is inducing a co-opetition vs. a competition, or cooperation mindset - increases an individual's cognitive flexibility, with participants showing reduced rigidity in decision-making and generating more diverse ideas in a brainstorming task. Our goal was to conceptually (Studies 1 and 2) and directly replicate (Study 3; Landkammer & Sassenberg, 2016, Study 4) these findings. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three conditions (i.e., cooperation, competition, co-opetition)—or four in Study 3, which included an added intergroup competition condition— and first completed a task with the purpose of setting a specific mindset, followed by a task to measure cognitive flexibility. All studies found no difference in cognitive flexibility between the groups, but Bayesian analysis suggested that they support H0. Our results failed to replicate previous findings, suggesting that the positive impact of conflicting demands on cognitive flexibility might be restricted to other types of intraindividual conflict, such as goal conflicts. We will discuss reasons for the failure of the direct replication.

Lunch

12:00 - 13:20 Monday, 15th September, 2025

Keynote 1: Making the Personal Political: The Role of Narcissism in Political Attitudes and Behaviours (Aleksandra Cichocka)

13:20 - 14:20 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 2a/2b

Aleksandra Cichocka, Professor of Political Psychology, University of Kent, UK

In order to make informed political decisions, it is important to understand the psychological factors that influence political convictions and behaviours. Given the prevalence of narcissistic tendencies among political leaders, it is key to examine the role narcissistic beliefs about oneself and one's social groups play in politics. In this talk, I will review survey and experimental research demonstrating that individual and collective narcissism can pose challenges to democratic functioning, social cohesion, as well as harmonious international relations. I will also present new studies which rely on LLMs to identify narcissistic identity rhetoric in text and examine whether such rhetoric resonates with the public and predicts electoral outcomes. I will discuss implications for understanding political leadership, social movements, and policy support.

Coffee Break

14:20 - 14:40 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

Session: Relationships in Context

14:40 - 16:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 1

18 But what if there is no village? - A structural equation approach to regretting motherhood.

Ricarda Wullenkord, Brüggeshemke Anna

Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Exhaustion in the maternal role and regret regarding motherhood are stigmatized feelings in western societies. Nonetheless, they are frequently experienced and can lead to health issues in mothers, which, in turn, is a risk factor for their children's healthy development. Thus, it is highly relevant to identify vulnerability factors and resources in relation to maternal burnout and feelings of regret regarding motherhood. Based on the theory of the balance between parental risks and resources, this study investigated whether maternal burnout mediates the relationship between maternal identity and regretting motherhood, and whether maternal self-efficacy moderates the relationship between maternal burnout and regretting motherhood. The cross-sectional data from 196 mothers indicate that the association between maternal identity and regretting motherhood can be partially explained by maternal burnout (partial mediation), although a significant part of regretting motherhood can be explained by diffuse maternal identity alone. Higher maternal self-efficacy is associated with lower maternal burnout but does not moderate the relationship between maternal burnout and regretting motherhood. Interventions should therefore focus on improving and consolidating maternal identity and promoting maternal self-efficacy to prevent maternal burnout.

21 Bindung, Materialismus und Phubbing - Warum unsicheres Bindungsverhalten mehr Phubbing durch Materialismus begünstigt

Phillip Ozimek¹, Elke Rohmann², Esther Battenfeld², Hans-Werner Bierhoff², Claire Hart³

¹Vinzenz Pallotti University, Vallendar, Germany. ²Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ³University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Phubbing ist ein Verhalten, bei dem der/die Partner/in ignoriert wird, um stattdessen das Smartphone zu benutzen. Obwohl Smartphones und soziale Medien entwickelt wurden, um Menschen miteinander zu verbinden, fühlen sich viele Menschen sozial isoliert. Erste Studienergebnisse und theoretische Überlegungen weisen daraufhin, dass Bindungsunsicherheit und Materialismus mit einem erhöhten Phubbing-Verhalten einhergehen. Dies sollte im Rahmen der vorgestellten Studie empirisch geprüft werden. In der vorgestellten Fragebogenstudie mit einem Messzeitpunkt (N = 213) wurden Zusammenhänge zwischen Bindungsangst und Bindungsvermeidung in der Partnerschaft und Phubbing-Verhalten sowie Materialismus untersucht. Bindungsvermeidung und Bindungsangst waren positiv mit Phubbing-Verhalten und Materialismus assoziiert. Serielle Mediationen bestätigten einen indirekten Effekt von Bindungsangst und Bindungsvermeidung über Materialismus auf Phubbing-Verhalten (d.h. sowohl ausgeübtes als auch wahrgenommenes Phubbing). Die Ergebnisse deuten darauf hin, dass Bindungsunsicherheit (in Form von Bindungsangst und Bindungsvermeidung) ein Risikofaktor für Phubbing-Verhalten und Materialismus sein kann und damit die Partnerschaft gefährdet. Weitere Ergebnisse und Implikationen werden diskutiert.

88 Das Bezugssystem von Phubbing: Vulnerabler Narzissmus, ängstliche Bindung und FoMO

Elke Rohmann¹, Phillip Ozimek², Hans-Werner Bierhoff¹

¹Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ²Vinzenz Pallotti University, Vallendar, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Ob bei einem Treffen mit Freund*innen, einem Gespräch mit Kolleg*innen oder bei Zusammenkünften in der Familie, häufig blicken Personen während der Interaktion auf ihr Handy. Dadurch können sich die anderen teilnehmenden Personen brüskiert fühlen, da sie weniger beachtet werden. Die Verwendung des Handys im sozialen Kontext wird Phubbing genannt. Phubbing = Neologismus, aus den Begriffen "phone" and "snubbing". Phubbing bedeutet eine Brüskierung in der Gesellschaft mit einer anderen Person, indem diese Person währenddessen ihr Handy nutzt. Bisherige Studien zeigen, dass Phubbing mit vulnerablen Narzissmus sowie mit ängstlicher partnerbezogener Bindung, Fear of Missing out (FoMO) und der problematischen Verwendung sozialer Medien verbunden ist. Zudem zeigen Studien, dass vulnerabler Narzissmus mit FoMO zusammenhängt. Ziel unserer Studie war die dem Phubbing zugrunde liegenden relevanten Mechanismen zu verstehen bzw. zu identifizieren. Hierzu haben wir untersucht, inwieweit der Zusammenhang zwischen vulnerablen Narzissmus und Phubbing durch die unsichere ängstliche partnerbezogene Bindung und Fear of Missing out (FoMo) vermittelt wird. Die Ergebnisse, die auf $N = 453$ Personen basieren, die eine Partnerschaft führten, zeigen signifikante Zusammenhänge zwischen Phubbing, vulnerablen Narzissmus, ängstlicher Bindung an den Partner und FoMO sowie den erwarteten indirekten Zusammenhang zwischen vulnerablen Narzissmus und Phubbing vermittelt über die ängstliche partnerbezogene Bindung und FoMO. Die Ergebnisse können dazu dienen, die Persönlichkeitsstruktur und die psychologischen Mechanismen, die beim Phubbing eine Rolle spielen, besser zu verstehen.

192 Examining the influence of sociosexual orientation on partner selection on the online dating app Tinder

Nina Reinhardt

University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

A preregistered field experiment using the dating app Tinder investigated differences in matches (i.e., mutual likes) and text messages received by male and female Tinder users who were presented with low versus high levels of sociosexual orientation (SO), defined as people's disposition to engage in uncommitted sexual relationships. Since online (vs. offline) dating offers new possibilities, testing gender-specific preferences derived from evolutionary theories in a context-specific manner is necessary to ensure valid theoretical and practical conclusions. Therefore, a total of 28,000 German Tinder users aged between 18 and 35 years who self-identified as heterosexual were contacted by fictitious profiles differing in SO expressions and resulting matches and text messages were counted. As predicted, binominal logistic regression analyses revealed that the probability of the female profiles receiving a match (a text message) is 76.88 (43.01) times higher than the male profiles, fitting to the evolutionary psychological approach of the female choice. Regarding the construct of SO, it was hypothesized that women should be more interested in men with a restricted SO (signalizing being a reliable provider), but men should be more interested in women with unrestricted SO (signalizing their willingness to reproduce), but the results revealed no significant interaction between gender and SO on matches and text messages. The discussion addresses the suitability of evolutionary psychological theories for predicting partner selection behavior in online dating and how this line of research can be advanced.

Panel Discussion: Geflüchtete in Deutschland: Was bewirken die aktuellen Debatten bei den Betroffenen psychologisch?

14:40 - 16:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 2a/2b

20 Geflüchtete in Deutschland: Was bewirken die aktuellen Debatten bei den Betroffenen psychologisch?

Chair(s)

Daniela Niesta Kayser

Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Jens Hellmann

Universität Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany

Symposium: Information Sampling as a two-way Bridge Connecting Minds and the Environment

14:40 - 16:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025

Saal 3

Social Psychology unfolds both in the perceiver's mind and the environment in which they live. It is based on a collection of individual decisions which shape people's behaviors. Judgments and decision errors can stem from biased processing in the mind of the decision-maker, as well as imbalances in the subset of information available when making a decision. The current symposium explores the interplay between these influences by considering how people's cognition and sampling choices affect the information available to them. Most previous research has focused on how judgment errors can stem from biases in the mind; this symposium highlights how processes are typically based on only a subset of all available information and how people's cognition and choices affect which subset they might encounter. We focus on what happens in the conjunction between the mind and the environment. In so doing, the sampling approach provides clear insights and parsimonious explanations of many social psychological phenomena. For example, we select who to trust by interacting with others and collecting experiences one after another. This sequential exploration process is not bias-free. Similarly, specific base-rate induced expectations shape how likeability impressions are inferred from behaviors. Both processes are shaped by the information ecology imposed by the environment which has far-reaching consequences. Additionally, sampling decisions not only affect what information we learn about but directly affect our evaluations of that information. We connect all these social phenomena by the common process they share.

18 Information Sampling as a two-way Bridge Connecting Minds and the Environment

Chair(s)

Biella Marco

University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Chris Harris

Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands

109 Navigating the Social Environment: Linking Trustworthiness and Trust Behaviors Via a Sampling Approach.

Marco Biella^{1,2}, Mandy Hütter²

¹University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland. ²University of Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Our understanding of impression formation comes from experiments constraining participants' control over information sampling. This limits our understanding of how people sample information when forming impressions as well as the effects of self-generated samples on impressions. Our paradigm allows participants to actively collect information samples. This work investigates how people explore the social environment and how sampled information informs resulting impressions. Four experiments tested theoretically-driven predictions regarding information sampling patterns under interested and disinterested information search. Under interested search, participants truncated the sampling of social targets showing early untrustworthy behavior. Under disinterested search, participants sampled extensively and systematically, avoiding small-sample biases. The sampled information, once obtained, accurately determines final impressions. Moreover, we documented a direct link between sampled information and subsequent behaviors (partner selection in trust games, trustworthiness expectations). By investigating sampling-based trustworthiness impressions, the present research informs the origins of trustworthiness and sampling accounts of judgment and decision-making.

273 How Diagnosticity in Person Impression Formation is Shaped by the Environment

Johannes Ziegler¹, Linda McCaughy¹, Klaus Fiedler²

¹LMU München, München, Germany. ²Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

The Big Two (agency vs. communion) in combination with valence (positivity vs. negativity) are typically assumed to determine the diagnosticity of behaviours on impressions of the respective target person (e.g., Skowronski & Calston, 1987). Typically, negative communal or positive agentic behaviours impact (e.g., shift) our impression on the respective agent more than positive communal or negative agentic behaviours. We rely on a likelihood-ratio (LR) conceptualisation of diagnosticity. While diagnosticity, as defined by the LR is perfectly compatible with the classical social cognitive approach for typical and representative environments, we predict deviations from known diagnosticity patterns as soon as we move to atypical environments. In common everyday contexts, positive communion is both expected normatively, and more frequent than negative communion, while low agency seems to be more common than high agency. In two experiments, we induced expectations about the big-two – valence combinations on target persons characterized as psychotherapy patients. Those either conformed to or countered the typical environment.

Typical versus atypical expectations clearly moderated diagnosticity effects on impression extremity, and the need for information. We were further able to distinguish actual and flexibly adjusted diagnosticity from pseudo-diagnostic generalisation of environmental expectations to individual targets. Implications of these findings for how group-level stereotypes might affect individual impression formation indirectly (via differential diagnosticity) rather than directly (via transferring the stereotypes to the individual) will be discussed.

214 How trade-offs in sample-based decisions can lead to persisting biases

Chris Harris

Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

While there are abundant reasons that might lead us to form wrong first impressions, further interaction opportunities (sampling) should allow us to attenuate any such initial biases. Sometimes, however, these biases (e.g., stereotypes or erroneous first impressions) can persist despite repeated sampling opportunities. I argue that a premature focus on reward pursuit (exploitation rather than exploration) is a cause of these biases. As long as positive outcomes are frequent enough, one might easily believe to have found the best choice alternative and engage in exploitation. But to what extent do such biases persist because the encountered sample is highly skewed due to people's choices? And, on the other hand, to what extent does the bias persist because people expect a specific outcome due to them actively making their choices and anticipating outcomes? I will present data from yoked-control experiments that investigate whether these initial biases persist more so in the environment or in the perceiver's mind.

238 Sampling's impact on evaluative learning from stimulus pairings and actions

Zachary Niese, Mandy Hütter

Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

In many attitude formation paradigms, participants are passively presented with stimulus pairings (evaluative conditioning, EC) or told which stimuli to approach and avoid (approach-avoidance learning, AA). In our research, we equip participants with the autonomy to sample the stimuli they want to learn about (EC) or approach and avoid (AA). We observe the evaluative consequences of this autonomy by comparing sampling participants to yoked, passive counterparts in a series of experiments (powered a-priori, most preregistered, total N = 1,632). Overall, we observe positive sampling biases in which participants become more likely to sample positively-paired (vs. negatively-paired) stimuli, as well stimuli to approach (vs. to avoid). Despite this imbalance, we document regular EC effects (people

shift their evaluations more positively for positively-paired than for negatively-paired stimuli) and AA effects (people shift their evaluations more positively for approached than for avoided stimuli). In addition, we document a new phenomenon: a positive main effect of (selection) frequency in the sampling condition, suggesting that choosing a stimulus has direct consequences for its evaluation, but only if its evaluative consequences are not explicitly-stated at the time of selection. Critically, this effect only arises for high autonomy participants who selected the stimuli themselves, and not their yoked counterparts, highlighting the importance of the sampling decision in producing this effect. As such, EC and AA effects generalize to situations where people sample stimuli themselves, but sampling decision effects may contribute or override the evaluative consequences of stimulus pairings or approach and avoidance behaviors.

Symposium: New Directions in Research about Dishonest Behavior, Lying, and Lie Detection

14:40 - 16:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 4

The question under which circumstances which people behave dishonestly or lie and how such lies may be identified has long fascinated people. For decades now, various prolific research areas have been dedicated to these questions. Still, as the first contribution (Shalvi et al.) argues, there are many questions left and research about dishonest behavior needs to take more realistic contexts into account. Beyond that, technological developments in recent years have added contexts that we do not know much about yet. Therefore, two contributions examine dishonest behavior in the online-context and when people interact with artificial intelligence (AI): Yaacoub and Suchotzki investigate to what extent more or less information about those who would be harmed by one's dishonest behavior affects cheating. Köbis and colleagues, on the other hand, examine dishonest behavior when interacting with large language model chatbots (e.g., ChatGPT4) and analyze whether delegation to AI increases dishonest behavior. The final contribution (Oeberst) tackles the area of forensic lie detection and for the first time takes into account what research on cheating has long realized, namely, that not all people opt for dishonest behavior. Thus, this contribution raises the question of whether the current forensic practice of lie detection remains valid if one only examines those, who would actually decide to lie. Altogether, this symposium does not only point to research gaps and novel directions but also aims to foster the exchange between research areas that rather exist in isolation from one another – despite their common core interests.

11 New directions in research about dishonest behavior, lying, and lie detection

Chair(s)

Aileen Oeberst

University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany

49 Self-selection to lies and their consequences for lie detection

Aileen Oeberst

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Contrary to cheating research, studies on forensic lie detection typically do not provide participants with the choice to lie. Instead, all participants, who are assigned to the lying condition, are instructed to fabricate a statement – regardless of whether they would have resorted to a (white) lie in the given situation or not. Motivational research, however, would suggest that self-selection could matter in this regard: Voluntary liars should be more motivated and should put more effort into the fabrication of a statement. Involuntary liars, in contrast, might even show reactance. Consequently, voluntary lies should show a higher quality than involuntary lies. This would be of utmost importance for forensic lie detection: Here, statement quality is of central interest as previous research has shown that fabricated statements are of lower quality than experience-based statements. If voluntary lies would show a higher quality, however, the question arises of whether they can still be reliably distinguished from experience-based statements. After all, it is voluntary lies that are most prevalent in the forensic context. Two studies address this question. In Study 1, we provided participants with a scenario that was previously used in lie detection research and openly asked them how they would react in this situation. Only about 20% of participants indicated that they would have fabricated a statement. In the preregistered Study 2, we analyzed the quality of voluntary and involuntary lies and compared them to the quality of experience-based statements. The implications for lie detection research and forensic practice will be discussed.

54 The science of honesty: A review and research agenda

Shaul Shalvi

University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Honesty, defined as freedom from fraud or deception, is widely valued in many aspects of life, from personal relationships to professional settings. Yet acts of dishonesty remain widespread, ranging from political and corporate scandals to misinformation and personal betrayal. Understanding honesty and the factors that influence it provides insights that are essential for fostering trust and combating corruption. In this review, we synthesize key findings from research on honesty, focusing on when people choose to be truthful or deceptive. We argue that while much is known about honesty in isolated, low-risk contexts, there is an urgent need to study honesty in more complex, realistic settings—such as those involving interpersonal relationships, potential sanctions, or group influences. Our proposed framework highlights understudied contexts and encourages future studies to explore settings where enforcement and social dynamics play a significant role in decision making. By integrating insights from multiple disciplines, we aim to advance the understanding of honesty and provide a roadmap for research that can inform policies and interventions to promote integrity in society.

70 Who is harmed? The effects of victim information on unethical behavior in an online setting

Felicia Yaacoub¹, Kristina Suchotzki²

¹Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany. ²Philipps-Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Despite it being an integral element of self-serving unethical behavior, only a few studies have explored the impact of the availability and quality of victim information on the perpetrator. Especially the effect within information-impooverished contexts like online settings remains unclear. In two preregistered studies we investigated the impact of amount and vividness of victim information on cheating behavior in an online context. Both studies offered the participants the opportunity to spin a wheel of fortune and self-report their results for financial gain. In Study 1 ($n = 1274$), the abstract victim condition had very basic information about the victim (the alleged lead researcher), while the vivid victim condition offered additional pictures of the victim. In Study 2 ($n = 1262$) we further increased the vividness of the victim information in the vivid victim condition by including more text-based information, emojis and more personalized pictures. Contrary to our hypothesis, participants of both studies did not cheat more in the abstract victim conditions. Bayesian analyses point towards genuine null-effects in our studies. Potential explanations can be found in our particular operationalization, but also point towards interesting moderating factors and an actually smaller effect of victim vividness than previously assumed.

173 Experimental evidence that delegating to intelligent machines can increase dishonest behaviour

Nils Köbis^{1,2}, Zoe Rahwan², Clara Bersch², Tamer Ajaj², Jean Francois Bonnefon³

¹University Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg, Germany. ²Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany.

³Toulouse School of Economics, Toulouse, France

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

While artificial intelligence (AI) enables significant productivity gains from delegating tasks to machines, it can also facilitate the delegation of unethical behaviour. Here, we demonstrate this risk by having human principals instruct machine agents to perform a task with an incentive to cheat. Principals' requests for cheating behaviour increased when the interface implicitly afforded unethical conduct: Machine agents programmed via supervised learning or goal specification evoked more cheating than those programmed with explicit rules. Cheating propensity was unaffected by whether delegation was mandatory or voluntary. Given the recent rise of large language model-based chatbots, we also explored delegation via natural language. Here, cheating requests did not vary between human and machine

agents, but compliance diverged: When principals intended agents to cheat to the fullest extent, the majority of human agents did not comply, despite incentives to do so. In contrast, GPT4, a state-of-the-art machine agent, nearly fully complied. Our results highlight ethical risks in delegating tasks to intelligent machines, and suggest design principles and policy responses to mitigate such risks.

Session: Morality

14:40 - 16:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Seminarraum 2 Oben (Karthago)

335 Compromising on Moral Issues: Individual versus Collective Moral Judgement

Markus Gernar¹, Thomas Schultze², Andreas Mojzisch¹

¹University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany. ²University of Bamberg, Bamberg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Although moral judgments often emerge from social interactions (e.g., ethic committees), past research rarely addressed two fundamental questions: 1.) Do individual moral judgements differ from collective judgments (i.e., moral judgments made by groups)? 2.) Does making moral judgments collectively change subsequent individual moral judgments?

In two preregistered study, we investigated these questions. Participants judged ten moral dilemmas. Specifically, they judged two choice options (deontological vs. utilitarian option) concerning two dimensions, namely the moral acceptability and the moral requiredness of each option. First, participants judged the dilemmas individually, then, in groups, and, finally, individually again. We tested two competing hypotheses. Past research suggests that collective judgments are more utilitarian than individual judgments (a phase × option – interaction; Hypothesis 1a). Specifically, participants' preference for the utilitarian (deontological) option will increase (decrease) from the first individual phase to the collective phase. However, past research also allows for the hypothesis that groups will agree on the least common denominator among members (a phase × dimension – interaction, Hypothesis 1b). Specifically, the acceptability (requiredness) of both options will increase (decrease) from the first individual phase to the collective phase. Our results reveal evidence against Hypothesis 1a and in support of Hypothesis 1b. Furthermore, our results show that collective moral judgments tend to polarize towards the majority opinion within the group and that collective moral judgments change subsequent individual moral judgments.

76 Does Knowledge Breed Bias? Investigating the Roots of Speciesism in Early Childhood

Teresa Schenk, Mario Gollwitzer

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Most people assign less moral worth to non-human animals than to humans, and use them for food, clothing and medical experiments with little regard for their suffering. While several psychological studies have examined the discrimination of non-human animals (i.e. speciesism), it is still unclear why humans are speciesist at all. Research has shown that speciesism increases with age (McGuire et al., 2023; Wilks et al., 2021), which raises the question which developmental processes are involved in it. Piazza et al. (2023) hypothesize that speciesism increases as children become aware of the origin of the meat on their plates. Speciesism could therefore be a moral disengagement strategy to resolve a moral conflict between wishing to eat meat and caring for animals (Bastian & Loughnan 2017). In this project, we are testing the hypothesis that children who are unaware of the origin of meat exhibit lower levels of speciesism (i.e., they assign more moral worth to animals and dehumanize them less) than children who understand that animals are killed for food. The data are collected via an online survey targeting parents of children between the ages of 4-6.

125 The effects of expectancy violations and moral convictions on collective action and mobilization attempts

Sarah Gina Febriana, Lara Ditrich

Leibniz-Institut für Wissensmedien, Tübingen, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

New policies or the societal status quo do not always align with individuals' expectations. Such expectancy violations can compel individuals to show opposition, ignite collective protests, and motivate individuals to mobilize others for protest participation. We propose that this is particularly likely when the violated expectations are rooted in individuals' deeply held values. Two studies (total N = 629) provide evidence in line with this assumption. Study 1 examined the relationship between moral convictions and both action and mobilization intentions correlationaly across seven topics (e.g., refugees, LGBTQ+ rights, and climate justice). We found a significant positive association between moral convictions and both collective action and mobilization intentions across all topics. Study 2, in turn, showed that strong (vs. weak) expectancy violations regarding abortion rights significantly predicted collective action and mobilization intentions. In line with our expectations, these effects were stronger the more pronounced respondents' moral convictions regarding abortion. To enhance the robustness of our conclusions, we are currently replicating this study with a larger sample in the context of ethnicity-based discrimination and with behavioral

measures of collective action and mobilization attempts. Our initial findings contribute meaningfully to current collective action research by demonstrating how protests against moral violations can gain momentum. They underscore the role of individuals with strong moral convictions who participate and act as mobilizers in shaping and sustaining social movements.

196 Repeated Exposure Makes Moral Judgments Less Intense

Max Hennig, Roland Deutsch

Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Recent research provides evidence for a repetition effect in moral judgments - previously presented moral transgressions are judged less negatively than novel transgressions (Effron, 2022). Although this effect was statistically mediated by reduced emotional responses, suggesting habituation as an underlying mechanism, it could also result from increased processing fluency, which is known to increase with repetition. We conducted two experiments replicating the effect, and testing predictions derived from habituation and fluency accounts. Experiment 1 (N = 505) replicates the Moral Repetition Effect (MRE) and shows that it applies equally to severe and mild moral transgressions. Experiment 2 (N = 500) examines whether the influence of repetition on moral judgments depends on valence, thereby testing predictions of habituation and fluency-as-positivity accounts against each other. Specifically, a habituation account predicts that judgments of both positive and negative behaviors decrease in intensity, as underlying emotional reactions habituate. In contrast, a fluency-as-positivity account predicts that judgments of positive and negative behaviors increase in positivity, resulting in negative judgments decreasing in intensity but positive judgments increasing in intensity. Results support the habituation account, as moral judgments for positive and negative behaviors both decreased in intensity, and both effects were statistically mediated by reduced emotional reactions. The experiments thus 1) replicate the MRE, 2) provide further support for emotional habituation as an underlying mechanism, 3) provide evidence against a fluency-as-positivity mechanism, and 4) suggest that the same mechanism applies regardless of valence, manifesting in intensity shifts rather than positivity shifts.

Session: Social Identity and Culture

14:40 - 16:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Seminarraum 4 Oben (Krakau)

147 Cult Euro 01- Test for measuring general intercultural competence and culture-specific competence

Petia Genkova, Henrik Schreiber

Hochschule Osnabrück, Osnabrück, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Advancing globalisation processes entail that businesses increasingly have to orient themselves internationally in order to remain competitive. Growing labour mobility and international economic networks imply a rise in intercultural contacts, and thus a rising demand for intercultural competence.

A qualitative study was conducted with 249 interviewees to identify aspects of both, general intercultural competence, and culture-specific competence in a German cultural environment. Eleven dimensions of general intercultural competence, relating to personality traits, relational attitudes, and skills, were identified in a content analysis of the interviews. Further, six culture-specific aspects were derived from the interviews, containing culture-specific knowledge, norms, and communication skills. Based on the responses, three scales were generated: two graded response scales for general intercultural competence and culture-specific competence, and a culture-specific situational judgement test.

The resulting measuring instruments were thereafter validated in a quantitative study with a total of 6338 participants, including students, professionals, and unemployed, each with German background, international background, refugee background, or emigrated. The scales' and subscales' reliability and validity were tested in the individual subsamples, using methods from both classical test theory and item response theory. The items were reviewed twice, based on the calculated item characteristics, as well as on results from a focus group with immigrants and expert discussions.

The present paper thus contributes to a differentiated understanding of cross-cultural and culture-specific aspects of intercultural competence in an increasingly culturally diverse global society.

300 Commemorating Reluctantly? How Descriptive Social Norms Shape Right-Wing Authoritarians' Attitudes Toward Remembrance of National Socialism

Leon Walter, Jonas Rees

Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence, Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Germany's culture of remembrance regarding the time of National Socialism (NS) has long been institutionalized to preserve democratic values. However, with the rise of right-wing populism and increasing temporal distance from the Holocaust, questions arise about the sustainability of NS remembrance in contemporary Germany. This pre-registered study examines how Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) interacts with

perceived descriptive norms of remembrance to shape attitudes toward NS remembrance. Across two cross-sectional surveys ($N_1 = 180$; $N_2 = 2754$) and one experimental study ($N_3 = 294$), we tested whether individuals higher in RWA were more likely to endorse NS remembrance when they perceive strong societal norms of remembrance. Findings from Studies 1 and 2 supported this hypothesis, revealing a significant interaction between RWA and perceived norms: the stronger Right-Wing Authoritarians perceived societal remembrance norms, the more favorable their attitudes toward remembrance were. However, Study 3 did not establish a causal effect of manipulated remembrance norms on attitudes, raising questions about the directionality of authoritarian conformity and individual attitudes. Implications for the study of descriptive social norms, RWA and collective memory of the time of in NS in Germany are discussed.

[Presentation can be held in English or German]

123 The influence of forgiveness and the acceptance of a Judeo-Christian tradition on attitudes toward Jews

Mustafa Barie Azizi, Mathias Kauff

Medical School Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

For many Germans, the culture of remembering the Shoah and the narrative of a common Judeo-Christian tradition are an important part of German identity. In two preregistered experimental online studies ($N = 541$), we investigated non-Jewish Germans' reaction when confronted with statements by Jews who deny a forgiving attitude as well as a common Judeo-Christian tradition. We asked participants for their evaluation of warmth of Jews who either support both concepts, deny one of these concepts, or deny both concepts. In addition, we measured participants' collective narcissism as a possible moderating variable. Results indicate that Jews' warmth was rated lower when they did not express forgiveness and denied a common Judeo-Christian tradition. In the first study, the relationship between forgiveness and low warmth-ratings was especially strong for participants high in collective narcissism. In a third study ($N = 483$), we investigated the influence of a non-forgiving attitude towards the Shoah by Jews on empathy, the readiness to donate for Jewish victims as well as anti-Semitism among non-Jewish German respondents. In one experimental condition we presented the participants a text describing the terror attacks on Israel on October 7th and in another condition, we presented the same text with the additional mention that most Jews cannot forgive the Germans for the Shoah. The results indicated no significant differences of empathy, the readiness to donate or anti-Semitism between the experimental conditions. Results and their implications are discussed against the background of debates about the German Culture of Remembrance.

85 Understanding the Impacts of On-going Violence in Origin Countries on Diaspora Members' Wellbeing and Identity.

Carmen Lienen¹, Emily LeRoux-Rutledge²

¹FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ²University of the West of England, Bristol, United Kingdom

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Mental health challenges among diaspora communities, particularly those from violent contexts, can be up to five times higher than in the general population. Previous research has sought to understand how past lived experiences of violence and inherited trauma affect diaspora wellbeing and identity. Research has also examined how present daily challenges, such as racism and discrimination, affect diaspora wellbeing and identity. However, to date, little research has examined how present violence, on-going in origin countries, continues to affect the identities and wellbeing of diaspora populations. Drawing on 25 narrative interviews with both first- and second-generation members of the South Sudanese diaspora in Canada and the UK, this research examines the impacts of on-going violence in South Sudan. Findings suggest that it has distinct, but interrelated impacts at the individual, interpersonal, and community levels. At the individual level, both first-generation and second-generation diaspora members spontaneously attribute anxiety and depression to vicarious exposure to violence, via word of mouth and social media. At the interpersonal level, both first-generation and second-generation diaspora members highlight how the disruption of close personal relationships, via displacement, separation and death, leads to a sense of social dislocation. At the community level, diaspora members highlight how new configurations of violence—for example, between previously allied ethnic groups—affect the cohesion of the diaspora community, disrupting community links that were once a source of support. The findings have important implications for the wellbeing challenges facing the South Sudanese diaspora, and potentially other diaspora communities affected by violent conflict.

82 Precarious Manhood and Right-Wing Political Views

Jacqueline Grabowski¹, Jolina Bilstein², Joachim Hüffmeier¹, Jens Mazei¹

¹TU Dortmund University, Dortmund, Germany. ²University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Considering the worldwide success of right-wing parties—especially among men—it is key to understand why and which men support those parties. Drawing upon precarious manhood theory, we investigated whether men who experience anxiety and stress due to perceived deficits in their masculinity are more likely to endorse right-wing/conservative political views, and, relatedly, how they evaluate gender equality issues. We conducted two online studies in which we measured German men's gender discrepancy stress ($n = 125$; $n = 443$).

The results confirmed all of our hypotheses: We found that the more men experienced gender role discrepancy stress, the more likely they were to endorse right-wing/conservative political views, the more negatively they evaluated support measures for women in top political positions, and the less did they perceive the gender pay gap as problematic. Altogether, our research revealed notable inter-individual differences within the social group of men, such that higher amounts of gender role discrepancy stress among men shape their endorsement of right-wing political views and anti-feminist attitudes.

Our insights contribute to the development of strategies to support democratic institutions and social cohesion in society. Still, future research is needed to examine the cross-cultural generalizability of our findings.

Coffee Break

16:00 - 16:20 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

Awards Ceremony

16:20 - 17:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 2a/2b

Fachgruppentreffen

17:00 - 18:30 Monday, 15th September, 2025
Saal 2a/2b

JuMi-Treffen

19:00 - 21:00 Monday, 15th September, 2025

Symposium: Current Views on Motivated Reasoning: Empirical Research and Theoretical Considerations

08:40 - 10:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 1

Motivated reasoning is all around us – not only guiding human judgments but also flourishing as a research topic. For decades, psychologists have been interested in understanding the phenomenon that people have a tendency to arrive at conclusions they want to arrive at (i.e., driven by a motivation to uphold their prior beliefs). Despite significant progress, many questions remain unanswered, and new contexts for application continue to emerge. In this symposium, we will bring together current perspectives on motivated reasoning from social psychology and related disciplines. First, demonstrating the diverse range of motivated reasoning research, we will hear recent insights from the contexts of sustainability transformation, health misinformation, and art reception. Then, we will delve deeper into possible interventions against motivated reasoning in the context of ideological bias. Finally, we will reflect on the current state of the field, highlighting key challenges and identifying open questions to guide future research.

12 Current Views on Motivated Reasoning: Empirical Research and Theoretical Considerations

Chair(s)

Marlene Altenmüller

Leibniz Institute for Psychology, Trier, Germany

Fabian Hutmacher

Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany

73 Conspiracy beliefs and motivated reception in the context of the sustainability transformation

Kevin Winter¹, Matthew Hornsey², Lotte Pummerer³, Kai Sassenberg⁴

¹University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany. ²University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. ³University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany. ⁴Leibniz-Institute for Psychology, Trier, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Misinformation and conspiracy theories about climate-friendly policy and renewable energy are increasingly spread on the internet and influence the societal discourse. This might become an obstacle to the necessary sustainability transformation. The current research project quantifies the agreement with misinformation and conspiracy theories about wind farms, investigates the psychological underpinnings of wind farm rejection and tests potential means to counteract it. Across ten studies conducted in Australia, Germany, the UK and the US with over 10,000 participants, this research provided the following key insights. First, agreement with misinformation about wind farms was widespread in the public (ranging from 20% to 40% depending on the statement). Second, the general propensity to believe conspiracy theories (i.e., conspiracy mentality) was the strongest predictor of agreement with misinformation and voting against a wind energy project in a local referendum, while education or science knowledge did not play a substantial role. Third, fact-based information campaigns were only partly successful in reducing opposition to a local wind energy project. Indeed, facts in favor of a planned wind farm were effective (even) among people with a strong conspiracy mentality, but less so for those who believed in a wind farm-specific conspiracy theory. Balanced (vs. one-sided positive) information had no considerable impact on people's intention to vote for or against the wind farm. These findings leave room for debate about the extent to which (different types of) conspiracy beliefs actually form the basis for motivated reception of facts or whether other processes are at play.

62 Impact of Exposure to Health Misinformation on Belief in Health Misinformation: A Meta-analysis of RCTs

Philipp Schmid¹, Hannah Bauer²

¹Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands. ²Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Health authorities have labelled health misinformation a major global health threat and academic scholars consider exposure to health misinformation a barrier to an individual's informed decision-making. Despite the relevance of the topic, quantitative evaluations of the persuasive impact of exposure to health misinformation are scarce. In this study we used a meta-analytic approach to address this gap. The analysis includes randomized controlled trials that compare the impact of exposure to health misinformation on individuals' belief in misinformation with a neutral control group. The meta-analysis examined 34 effect sizes ($N = 19,447$) that showed that exposure to health misinformation, on average, increases individuals' belief in misinformation, $g = 0.19$, 95% *Confidence Interval* [0.12, 0.27], $p < .001$. In line with established dual-process theories of persuasion, exposure to longer health misinformation was associated with stronger effects, $g = 0.32$, than exposure to shorter statements, $g = 0.08$. Other potential moderators related to audience characteristics (e.g., motivated reasoning) will be discussed. The effect size estimates can inform the design of future studies on the impact of health misinformation and countermeasures.

56 It's only art if I agree: Motivated art reception

Marlene Altenmüller¹, Fabian Hutmacher²

¹Leibniz-Institute for Psychology, Trier, Germany. ²Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Motivated reasoning shapes how we perceive and process the world around us. This has been shown numerous times across diverse contexts ranging from socio-political polarization to science reception. In three studies ($N = 1,314$), we now demonstrate that human judgment is not even spared from motivated reasoning in mostly idiosyncratic contexts such as art perception. Participants viewed art objects combined with experimentally varied messages (pro

vs. con) regarding societally relevant topics such as climate change, military, or cultural issues. Then they indicated their respective aesthetic judgment, whether they considered the object as art and whether they would include it in a hypothetical art exhibition. In line with motivated reasoning patterns, participants' prior attitudes towards the respective societal topics determined their aesthetic judgment as well as their art categorization and exhibition inclusion – dependent on the object's alleged message. That is, if their own attitudes and the artwork's message aligned, they perceived it more favorably than when they were incongruent. Still, these motivated reasoning effects in art reception were smaller than in other contexts (e.g., science reception) using the same methodological approach. Neither people's art affinity nor their beliefs about the function of art (outward, socio-political function; inward, aesthetic-emotional function) consistently moderated their tendency to receive art in a motivated manner. These findings shed further light on the ubiquitous nature of motivated reasoning.

65 Investigating Ideological Bias in Evaluating Scientific Evidence: Development and Validation of a Bias Expression Scale

Arne Stolp¹, Christine Finn¹, Carolin-Theresa Ziemer¹, Christian Thiel², Tobias Rothmund¹

¹Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Jena, Germany. ²Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt, Jena, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

In the realm of societal and scientific challenges, strong and divisive ideological convictions often coexist with scientific evidence crucial for assessing risks or potentials. This intricate interplay presents a specific hurdle for science communication—ideological bias. This bias involves selectively interpreting and evaluating scientific evidence based on political-ideological beliefs. It can lead to the acceptance of misinformation or conspiracy narratives aligning with these convictions, while conflicting scientific findings may be rejected, reinforcing entrenched attitudes and heightening polarization. Drawing on the framework of Politically Motivated Reasoning (Kahan et al., 2013), we aim to establish a valid measure of ideological bias expression, capturing how individuals' ideological beliefs shape their interpretation of evidence-based facts on polarizing socio-scientific topics such as climate change and internal security. In this contribution, we introduce the conceptual development and validation of a questionnaire designed to implicitly measure ideological bias expression in the evaluation of scientific evidence. Using a representative German Sample (N = 1.500), the data was analyzed utilizing a Signal Detection Theory (SDT) framework. This approach enables the separation of general knowledge (knowledge component) about the polarized issues from an ideologically distorted evaluation of the facts in participants' answer patterns (bias component). The competence and bias components showed the expected convergent correlational patterns with self-assessed ideological orientation, political knowledge and individual tendencies for ideologically shaped information processing. Further evidence supports the validity of the bias expression task in predicting behavioral indicators such as voting preference and (alternative) media use.

78 Understanding Motivated Reasoning: What Are We Actually Talking About?

Fabian Hutmacher¹, Regina Reichardt², Marlene Sophie Altenmüller³

¹Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany. ²University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany.

³Leibniz Institute for Psychology, Trier, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Motivated reasoning denotes the phenomenon that individuals are more likely to arrive at conclusions that they want to arrive at. Properly understanding this phenomenon requires at least three things: first, to pin down the drivers of motivated reasoning; second, to identify the cognitive processes that lead to biased judgments; and third, to identify whether a measured bias is the result of motivated reasoning or other processes. Although motivated reasoning has received continued attention from the research community over the last decades, there are considerable conceptual ambiguities regarding these three aspects. By focusing on key publications that have had a formative effect on the development of the field as well as recent publications that reflect the state-of-the-art, the talk will provide a concise overview of research on motivated reasoning and identify key issues for future research.

Session: Intergroup Contact and Conflict

08:40 - 10:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

Saal 2a/2b

227 Unemployment and Anti-Immigration Attitudes: Regional and Individual Effects in 13-Year German Panel Data

Ruben Laukenmann¹, Amelie Maulbetsch², Tobias Ebert¹

¹University of St. Gallen, Sankt Gallen, Switzerland. ²University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Group threat theory predicts and finds that in times of economic downturns (i.e., when unemployment levels rise), individuals report higher anti-immigration attitudes. This link is rooted in perceptions of increased competition for scarce economic resources, where immigrants are seen as a threat to job security and financial well-being. In this study, we expand previous research on the relationship between unemployment and anti-immigration attitudes in two ways. First, prior research has predominantly relied on (repeated) cross-sectional designs, limiting causal interpretations. Second, it remains unclear whether the observed link between economic downturns and anti-immigration attitudes reflects a structural effect (where worsening regional economic conditions broadly shape public sentiment) or a cumulative effect of individual unemployment (where personal experiences of job loss drive attitudinal shifts). To address these gaps, we integrate historical regional economic data with 13 years of individual longitudinal data from the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP; including annually recorded anti-immigration attitudes and detailed employment biographies). Using fixed-effects panel regressions, we provide evidence that rising regional unemployment levels predict increases in individual anti-immigration attitudes. Moreover, we find that this effect persists when controlling for individual unemployment experiences. This highlights a fundamental tenet of group threat theory: not only those directly affected by outgroup competition (i.e., those who become unemployed) develop negative attitudes towards an outgroup perceived as potential threat, but these attitudes seem to permeate throughout the entire ingroup.

212 Friends Without Benefits? Contact Does Not Predict Weaker Status Bias

Anne Speer

Universität Bremen, Bremen, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

The often-implicit definition of prejudice as outgroup prejudice has been criticized for its strong focus on group distinctions (e.g., intergroup or ingroup bias) while overlooking prejudices rooted in group-based hierarchies, which are often shared among both ingroup and outgroup members. The latter has been described as status bias, the tendency to prefer high-status groups over low-status groups. Research on intergroup contact has so far not distinguished between the two biases, a blind spot of the field. This study investigates the potential of intergroup contact to reduce ingroup bias and status bias. Throughout a cross-sectional (Study 1, N = 571), longitudinal (Study 2; N = 6,995), and a vignette experiment (Study 3; N = 3,007), contact with various social groups and their evaluations were assessed. Results reveal that the largest effects across all studies were the direct associations of contact with group evaluation, irrespective of group membership and group status. Moreover, contact predicted weaker ingroup bias but stronger status bias cross-sectionally and longitudinally, indicating that status bias is a form of prejudice that contact cannot reduce. The effects of contact were particularly pronounced for belief-indicative but not status-indicative groups. These patterns have previously been unobserved due to the lack of distinction between biases. This study suggests that distinguishing between biases can help determine which prejudice is at hand in a given situation and whether a certain intervention is capable of reducing it – different biases may demand different interventions.

314 Intergruppenkontakte im Service-Learning: zur Rolle positiver und negativer Erfahrungen für Empathie, Vorurteile und soziale Einstellungen

Hinna Wolf, Josef Nerb

University of education, Freiburg i. Breisgau, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Intergruppenkontakt (Allport, 1954) gilt als wichtiges Mittel zur Vorurteilsreduktion, besonders bei Umsetzung von Allports optimalen Bedingungen (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006). Die kognitive Liberalisierungshypothese (Hodson et al., 2018) geht weiter, indem sie Kontakte als Mittel betrachtet, das Kognitionen formt und ideologische Veränderungen bewirkt. Empathie spielt eine zentrale Rolle: Sie vermittelt in der Kontakthypothese positive Effekte auf Vorurteilsreduktion (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2008) und fördert in der Liberalisierungshypothese das Verständnis für andere Lebensrealitäten. Trotz der umfangreichen Kontaktforschung fehlt es an weiteren Analysen positiver und negativer Kontakterfahrungen, da wie Barlow et al. (2012) zeigen, negative Kontakterfahrungen stärker und länger anhaltend sein können. Zudem gibt es einen Mangel an Studien in real life Settings.

Anders als viele kontrollierte Intergruppenkontaktszenarien erfüllen Service-Learning-Settings häufig nicht Allports optimalen Bedingungen (z.B. gleicher Status), auch deshalb wird ihre Rolle zur Verbesserung von Intergruppeneinstellungen infrage gestellt (Sengupta et al. 2023). Im Patenschaftsprogramm Salam der PH Freiburg begleiten Studierende über 9 Monate bildungsbenachteiligte Grundschulkinder mit Migrationsgeschichte. In zwei quasi-experimentellen Studien wird die Rolle der positiven, aber auch herausfordernden oder negativen Kontakterfahrungen untersucht. Studie 1 (N=107, davon 40 Mentor:innen) verwendete ein Post-Only-Kontrollgruppendesign, während Studie 2 (laufend, N=140, davon 70 Mentor:innen) ein Prä-Post-Kontrollgruppendesign nutzt. Vorläufige Ergebnisse von Studie 1 zeigen, dass die Kontaktqualität stärker mit positiven Effekten assoziiert ist als Kontaktquantität und sich kaum Unterschiede in der Empathie von EG und KG zeigen. Die Längsschnittstudie wird klären, ob sich essentialistische Überzeugungen verändern. (Sengupta et al., 2023). Die Ergebnisse werden mit Blick auf praktische Implikationen für die Service-Learning-Programme, aber auch methodische Beschränkungen diskutiert.

67 What about empathy and conflict frequency?

Annette Schlien, Lerche Veronika

Christian-Albrechts-Universität, Kiel, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

In conflict resolution processes, one of the main objectives is to elicit mutual empathy between the conflict parties. Empathy, understood as the capacity to understand and share the feelings of another, plays a central role in motivating opponents to seek and embrace constructive solutions to disputes. With this foundational role of empathy in mind, we asked ourselves whether empathy could also be related to the likelihood of conflicts arising in the first place. We hypothesized that all components of empathy—particularly its cognitive dimension—would correlate with a reduced frequency of conflicts. To explore this hypothesis, we conducted surveys measuring empathy and conflict frequency across diverse participant samples.

Surprisingly, and contrary to our initial assumptions, one facet of empathy—personal distress—emerged as a more relevant factor than the cognitive dimension perspective-taking. Intriguingly, personal distress is associated with more frequent conflicts. This unexpected result prompted us to deepen our investigation through additional studies. In these follow-up surveys, we expanded our scope to include personality traits and sought to capture individual assessments of conflict situations. In my presentation, I will discuss results from these studies and share impressions from our further ongoing conflict research.

84 Exploring Intergroup Contact: Key Predictors, Barriers, and Variability Across Outgroups

Mathias Kauff¹, Calista Small², Daniel Yudkin³, Jordan Wylie², Linda R. Tropp⁴

¹Medical School Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany. ²More in Common, New York, USA. ³More in Common, New Orleans, USA. ⁴University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

While a plethora of studies has shown that intergroup contact can improve intergroup relations, less is known about predictors of intergroup contact. Recent work has demonstrated that individuals do not necessarily exploit available contact opportunities but instead tend to segregate from outgroup members. In two pre-registered, correlational studies (N = 5,500), we examine various potential factors contributing to intergroup contact seeking in the context of intergroup relations within the U.S.-American context. We not only explore facilitators and barriers proposed in previous reviews, but we also investigate whether the relevance of these variables differs across types of outgroups (i.e., ethno-racial, religious, political, and socio-economic outgroups). Past work has neglected potential differences across varying outgroups.

Our results reveal that individuals show the greatest willingness to engage with ethno-racial outgroups, while interest in contact with political outgroups is the lowest. Participants report having the most contact with ethno-racial and religious outgroups, while interactions with socio-economic outgroups are the least frequent. Generally, they seek more contact with outgroup members than they actually experience, with the exception of political outgroups.

Perceived contact opportunities emerge as the most important predictor of actual contact. In addition, perceptions of pro-contact norms in one's community and intergroup anxiety are related to actual contact. The most commonly reported barriers to contact include lack of opportunities and practical challenges. However, for political outgroups, the primary barrier appears to be the anticipation of conflict.

Results are discussed against the background of recent debates about the instrumentality of intergroup contact in prejudice reduction.

Symposium: Accuracy and Bias in Person Perception: Toward an Integration of Social and Personality Psychology

08:40 - 10:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 3

While social and personality psychology overlap in the questions they address, the two fields often operate independently, using different theories, terminology, and methodology. A key example is the topic of how we perceive and judge other people, with distinct traditions of social-cognition research on biases and personality-centric research on conditions of accuracy. Enhancing communication between these strands of research offers an opportunity to foster cumulative progress and achieve a more holistic understanding of person perception. The goal of this symposium is to promote interdisciplinary exchange on theoretical and empirical approaches to accuracy and bias. To this end, we feature talks from personality researchers who aim to engage with a social psychology audience and identify possibilities for integration in their work, starting with two empirical contributions: Christoph Heine investigates how individual differences such as cognitive and socio-emotional skills promote the ability to form accurate impressions of people's intelligence. Next, Anne Wiedenroth examines to what extent positivity in first impressions of personality reflects target effects when disentangled from perceiver biases. Subsequently, Nele Freyer presents a formal model of accuracy in person perception, highlighting the role of precise language for integrating conceptions of accuracy and bias. Then, Richard Rau considers barriers to integrative research on accuracy and bias and introduces tools to overcome them including an open data source. The symposium concludes with a discussion from the view of social psychology: Juliane Degner reflects on the previous talks, challenges of interdisciplinary collaboration, and possible ways forward.

22 Accuracy and Bias in Person Perception: Toward an Integration of Social and Personality Psychology

Chair(s)

Anne Wiedenroth

Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany

143 The Good Judge of Intelligence

Christoph Heine¹, Johannes Zimmermann², Daniel Leising³, Michael Dufner¹

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Accurately judging intelligence is an important skill, yet little is known about individual differences in this ability. This study investigated these differences and the attributes that are associated with greater accuracy in judging intelligence. Participants ($N = 198$) rated the intelligence of fifty target persons whom they saw in one minute video clips, while also completing measures of their own personality, motivation, intelligence, and socio-emotional abilities. Judgment accuracy was quantified as the intraindividual relationship between participants' intelligence ratings and targets' intelligence test results. The results suggest the existence of a good judge of intelligence, as judgment accuracy varied significantly across individuals. Higher accuracy was associated with greater intelligence, emotion perception abilities, and life satisfaction. Follow-up analyses revealed that individuals who achieved higher accuracy better utilized valid cues, such as cues related to verbal behavior. These findings underscore the importance of cognitive and socio-emotional skills in social evaluation and support the idea that being a good judge of intelligence is linked to psychological adjustment.

138 Positivity in First Impressions of Personality: Disentangling Target Effects and Bias

Aline Bartlick, [Anne Wiedenroth](#)

Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Personality judgments on different traits such as the Big Five tend to correlate despite these traits being theoretically assumed independent. Investigations into factors underlying these correlations showcase the role of positivity: People that are ascribed one positive trait tend to also be rated higher on other positive traits. Different strands of research have interpreted such factors as bias (positivity as a perceiver-based halo-effect) or substance (positivity as a reflection of target differences). This cannot be disentangled in models based on individual perceivers' judgments. To determine to what extent positivity in personality impressions may reflect a *target-based* halo-effect, we investigated the trait-specific and global structure of target effects. Perceivers ($N = 3,963$) observed and judged 200 targets across 20 standardized videotaped situations. Each target received ratings from about 200 perceivers total (ten per situation), which were averaged as a reliable operationalization of target effects. Models with different combinations of trait-specific and global factors were tested using confirmatory factor analysis. Both the Big Five and a positivity factor explained substantial target variance: Across situations and perceivers, targets conveyed differently positive impressions. Positivity scores

correlated with how much targets were liked, on average. We present further results on situational differences and the association of positivity factors scores with self- and informant-ratings of targets, and we discuss the meaning of positivity in personality impressions as a reflection of accuracy and bias.

185 A Novel Approach To Tackle Both Bias and Accuracy in First Impressions

Richard Rau

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

In the psychological literature, the question of how individuals form impressions of others has been approached from two fundamentally different perspectives. Whereas some researchers have focused exclusively on the *biases* that emerge in this context, others have focused on the *accuracy* of impressions. Unfortunately, these lines of work by and large seem to co-exist in isolation. The first aim of this talk is to identify potential barriers that may have hindered cross-talk in the past. The second goal is to sketch a path forward that overcomes these barriers. This involves an introduction into a conceptual framework, a set of statistical models, and a comprehensive open data source, the Who Knows project (<https://whoknows.uni-muenster.de>), with which research questions about both bias and accuracy in person perception may be studied. With this toolbox, person perception researchers can investigate the (in)accuracies of normative, stereotypical, self-based (i.e., projected), and distinctive judgments which perceivers make on both dichotomous and continuous outcomes about actual individuals viewed in short videos clips.

219 Two sides of the same coin: How can defining accuracy deepen our understanding of biases?

Nele Freyer¹, Anne Wiedenroth¹, Matthias Borgstede², Daniel Leising¹

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

The question of how accurately people perceive and judge each other lies right at the intersection of personality and social psychology, yet insights from these two fields remain largely unconnected. While the personality-centered research on moderators of accuracy and the social psychological research on biases basically target the same mechanisms, they use completely different, often ambiguous terms. We developed a formal model of accuracy in personality judgments to offer a clear definition to this fuzzy concept and identify the fundamental mechanisms that enhance or impair the accuracy of judgments. In doing so, our model not only provides a framework to classify and specify common biases in interpersonal perception but also reveals conceptual gaps in personality-centered accounts of interpersonal perception that call for an integration of social psychological knowledge. The talk illustrates the huge potential of integrating both perspectives and aims to initiate discussion on unresolved conceptual challenges.

150 Discussion of an Integrated Framework: Enhancing Understanding of Person Perception Across Social and Personality Psychology

Juliane Degner

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

The psychological foundations of person perception are explored across various subdomains within both personality and social psychology, yet there remains a surprising lack of dialogue between these communities. This discussion aims to outline the similarities and differences in different approaches to person perception and impression formation, focusing primarily on basic theorizing and research questions, while incorporating some methodological insights. For instance, I will examine the intriguing separation between research that focuses on biases versus accuracy in first impressions, highlighting the contrasting definitions of what constitutes accuracy and bias in both fields. Additionally, I will consider the perceived contrast between the dimensions of impression formation investigated in social psychology and dimensions of actual personality differences. I will also address similarities, such as positivity effects observed in both domains and the lack of process-oriented theories explaining the actual psychological mechanisms underlying impression formation.

By scrutinizing these themes, I emphasize the potential impact of future cross-disciplinary collaboration. Integrating insights from both personality psychology and social psychology can deepen our understanding of person perception and lead to more nuanced research questions and theorizing. This discussion invites participants to engage in a dialogue focused on bridging the gap between these two areas, ultimately fostering a more comprehensive view of how we form impressions of others and the psychological mechanisms underlying them.

Symposium: Polizeiarbeit im Spannungsfeld von Selektion, Sozialisation und professioneller Praxis

08:40 - 10:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 4

Polizeiarbeit und psychologische Erkenntnisse sind eng verknüpft. Die Beiträge des Symposiums thematisieren kompetenzbasierte, diskriminierungssensible Polizeiarbeit sowie den Einfluss von Vorurteilen, Stereotypen und organisationalen Strukturen auf polizeiliches Handeln.

Eine Untersuchung zur internationalen Polizeiarbeit zeigt, dass Austauschprogramme Fach- und Methodenkompetenzen fördern, während Missionen insbesondere sozial-kommunikative und interkulturelle Fähigkeiten stärken. Die strukturelle Verankerung dieser Erfahrungen bleibt jedoch eine Herausforderung für die Personal- und Organisationsentwicklung.

Ein Beitrag analysiert, wie stereotype Vorstellungen polizeiliches Handeln prägen und sich auf Opferschutz sowie den Ermittlungserfolg bei Sexualstraftaten auswirken. Ein evaluiertes Fortbildungsprogramm vermittelt Täterstrategien und opferzentrierte Herangehensweisen, um professionelle und diskriminierungsfreie Ermittlungsarbeit zu fördern.

Auch die Auswahl von Polizeibewerber*innen ist ein entscheidender Faktor für eine widerstandsfähige Polizei. Wiederholte Fälle polizeilichen Fehlverhaltens werfen Fragen nach Radikalisierungstendenzen und eignungsdiagnostischen Verfahren auf. Untersucht wird, inwiefern psychologische Diagnostik kontraproduktives Verhalten frühzeitig erkennen kann. Ergänzend wird in einem Beitrag der Einfluss von Selektion und Sozialisation geschlechts- und sexualitätsbezogener Einstellungen bei angehenden Polizeibeamt*innen betrachtet.

Polizeiliches Handeln wird oft durch Routinen bestimmt, die in stressreichen Situationen verstärkt zum Tragen kommen. Ein Projekt überprüft, welche psychologischen Mechanismen – darunter Handlungsergebniserwartungen, Selbstwirksamkeit und soziale Kontexte – das Verhalten in dynamischen Einsatzlagen beeinflussen und welche Rolle das Deeskalationsmodell KODIAK in der polizeilichen Aus- und Fortbildung spielt.

Das Symposium vereint Expert*innen aus Sozialpsychologie, Kriminalpsychologie und Polizeiwissenschaften und zeigt, wie interdisziplinäre sozialpsychologische Forschung zur Weiterentwicklung polizeiliche Handlungsfelder beitragen kann. Es lädt zur Reflexion darüber ein, wie Auswahlprozesse, Fortbildung und Organisationskultur professionalisiert werden können, um stereotype Denkmuster zu hinterfragen, Fehlverhalten zu minimieren und Deeskalationsstrategien nachhaltig zu verankern.

35 Polizeiarbeit im Spannungsfeld von Selektion, Sozialisation und professioneller Praxis

Chair(s)

Anja Berger

HWR, Berlin, Germany

Clemens Lorei

Hessische Hochschule für öffentliches Management und Sicherheit (HöMS), Gießen, Germany

290 Kompetenzerwerb und Karriereentwicklung deutscher Polizeibeamt:innen: Der Nutzen internationaler Einsatzerfahrungen

Janine Neuhaus, Anna Daun

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Ausgangspunkt dieses Beitrags ist die Annahme, dass individuelle Kompetenzen, die durch berufliche Auslandsaufenthalte erworben wurden, Polizeiorganisationen helfen, aktuellen Anforderungen besser gerecht zu werden. Eine Reihe von Studien zeigt, dass Rückkehrer:innen von Auslandsaufenthalten beruflich in vielerlei Hinsicht profitieren: Sie bauen sprachliche Fähigkeiten aus, erweitern das fachliche Wissen, stärken die Persönlichkeit und erwerben interkulturelle Kompetenzen, die in vielfältiger Hinsicht die Karriereentwicklung unterstützen. Während der Kompetenzerwerb von Teilnehmenden an Auslandsstudienprogrammen bereits intensiv untersucht wurde, gibt es noch immer einen Mangel an Wissen über die Vorteile, die mit internationaler Polizeiarbeit einhergehen. Daher zielt dieser Beitrag darauf ab, (a) die relative Bedeutung der kognitiven, affektiven und verhaltensbezogenen Kompetenzzuwächse von zurückgekehrten Polizeibeamt:innen in Abhängigkeit der Art der Auslandsverwendung (Auslandsmissionen vs. Austauschprogramme) zu analysieren und (b) den Zusammenhang zwischen erworbenen Kompetenzen und den Karrierechancen der Polizeibeamt:innen zu bestimmen. Zu diesem Zweck haben wir eine online-basierte Befragung mit 130 deutschen Polizeibeamt:innen durchgeführt, die in den letzten Jahren entweder von Polizeimissionen (N=53) oder von Austauschprogrammen (N=77) zurückgekehrt sind. Die Ergebnisse bestätigen, dass Polizeibeamt:innen beider Gruppen von internationaler Einsatzerfahrung profitieren: Polizeibeamt:innen, die an internationalen Austauschprogrammen teilgenommen haben, bauen vor allem ihre Fach- und Methodenkompetenz aus, während Polizeibeamt:innen, die auf Mission waren, vordergründig Zuwächse ihrer sozial-kommunikativen und interkulturellen Fähigkeiten verzeichnen. Einen Mangel an Anerkennung durch Vorgesetzte und der Polizeiorganisation als solches wird vor allem von Polizeibeamt:innen, die auf Mission waren, problematisiert. Die Ergebnisse werden im Hinblick auf den individuellen und organisatorischen Wert internationaler Polizeiarbeit diskutiert.

294 Diskriminierungsrisiken in der Polizei: Geschlecht, Gendern und sexuelle Identität

Anja Berger, Daniela Hunold

HWR, Berlin, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Polizeiliche Organisationen stehen im Fokus wissenschaftlicher und gesellschaftlicher Debatten über diskriminierende Strukturen und vergeschlechtlichte Machtverhältnisse. Dabei gilt die berufliche Sozialisation von Polizeibeamt*innen als zentraler Faktor für mögliche Entwicklungen und Verfestigungen von Einstellungen, die sich in der Organisationskultur und im polizeilichen Handeln widerspiegeln können.

Dabei stellt sich die Frage, inwiefern und wann Mechanismen wirken, die bestimmte Geschlechterbilder bzw. normative Vorstellungen über sexuelle Identität herausfordern (Panter, 2015). Der Beitrag beleuchtet die Selektion und Sozialisation angehender Polizeibeamtinnen (Ashlock, 2019) im Hinblick auf geschlechts- und sexualitätsbezogene Einstellungen und analysiert, inwiefern tradierte Geschlechterrollenbilder sowie sexistische und heteronormative Vorstellungen im polizeilichen Umfeld reproduziert oder infrage gestellt werden. Neben individuellen, institutionellen und strukturellen Faktoren wird auch die sprachliche Praxis betrachtet, insbesondere das Gendern als Verhaltenskomponente, die Rückschlüsse auf Normvorstellungen und deren Veränderungspotenzial erlaubt (Bailey et al., 2022; Gabriel & Gygax, 2008). Methodisch stützt sich die Untersuchung auf eine Kombination aus quantitativen und qualitativen Verfahren, darunter Selbstauskünfte von Polizeianwärt*innen und Einschätzungen erfahrener Polizeibeamt*innen.

Die vorläufigen Ergebnisse zeigen, dass geschlechtsbezogene Stereotype früh wirksam sind. Während jüngere Generationen weniger stark ausgeprägte geschlechtsstereotype Einstellungen und Verhaltensweisen zeigen, bleiben Zahlen und Berichte über geschlechtsbezogene Diskriminierungserfahrungen über verschiedene Kohorten hinweg auf ähnlichem Niveau (vgl. Megavo, 2024). Diese Ergebnisse werden mit dem gleichzeitig angestoßenen sprachlichen Wandel, etwa durch verstärkte Nutzung geschlechtersensibler Formulierungen in der Institution (Burnett & Pozniak, 2021), kontrastiert, um herauszuarbeiten, dass eine Veränderung tief verankerter Geschlechternormen eine große Herausforderung bleibt.

Die Befunde unterstreichen die Notwendigkeit einer kritischen Reflexion bestehender Einstellungsmuster sowie institutioneller Veränderungsprozesse zur Förderung von Geschlechtergerechtigkeit innerhalb der Polizei.

296 „Lass uns reden!“ versus „Lass uns! Reden?“ - Polizeiliche Deeskalation in alltäglichen Einsätzen

Clemens Lorei

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Alltägliches Verhalten wird oft durch Gewohnheiten bestimmt (Neal, Wood, Labrecque & Lally, 2012): Man macht, was man immer macht. Weicht der situative Kontext vom Normalen ab, kann ein angepasstes, aber eher minder routinisiertes Verhalten ausgewählt werden. Erfolgt diese Auswahl nach der Theorie des geplanten Verhaltens (Fishbein & Ajzen, 1975; Ajzen, 1991) oder der sozial-kognitiven Theorie (Bandura, 1991), so spielen dabei möglicherweise Einstellung, Handlungsergebniserwartung, Selbstwirksamkeit und der soziale Kontext eine Rolle. Präventionsprogramme aus der Gesundheitspsychologie berücksichtigen dies (Davis et al., 2015; Finne, Paul & Seibt, 2021; Lippke, & Renneberg, 2006; Scholz & Schwarzer, 2005). Was bedeutet das für das Deeskalieren in alltäglichen Einsätzen? Sowohl auf der Basis der Aus- und Fortbildungspraxis in Deutschland und Europa (Lorei et al. 2023a, b, c, e, f) sowie dem Thema Gewalt gegen Einsatzkräfte (Rau & Leuschner, 2018) erscheint eine Beschäftigung mit dem Thema Deeskalation erforderlich. Ausgehend vom Deeskalationsmodell KODIAK (Lorei et al., 2024) können Ziele, Methoden sowie weitere Aspekte von Bildungsmaßnahmen formuliert werden. Damit diese auch einen Transfer in die alltägliche Praxis erfahren, sind dabei aber verschiedene psychologische Aspekte zu beachten: Einstellungen, Handlungsergebniserwartungen, Selbstwirksamkeit, Einflüsse des sozialen Kontextes und verschiedener Moderatoren scheinen im Zusammenhang mit Deeskalation und dem polizeilichen Einsatz von Gewalt in alltäglichen Polizeieinsätzen von Bedeutung. Wie diese ausgeprägt sind, wie ihre Beziehung zueinander ist, welche Konsequenzen dies hat und welche Erfordernisse dies für Aus- und Fortbildung der Polizei nahelegen zeigt eine Studie bei Polizei-Rookies. Die Ergebnisse werden im Rahmen des Symposiums vorgestellt und Implikationen für Praxis sowie Aus- und Fortbildung geschlussfolgert.

298 Projekt CHARAKTER – Eignung im Polizeidienst: Vorhersage kontraproduktiven Verhaltens und Radikalisierungstendenzen in der polizeilichen Personalauswahl

Wim Nettelstroth, Henriette Binder

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Wiederholte Fälle polizeilichen Fehlverhaltens werfen Fragen nach Radikalisierungstendenzen und demokratischer Widerstandsfähigkeit unter Polizist:innen auf. In diesem Zusammenhang gewinnt die Personalauswahl besondere Bedeutung, da Polizeibeamt:innen in der Regel langfristig im Dienst verbleiben. Während eignungsdiagnostische Verfahren zur Identifikation geeigneter Bewerber:innen etabliert sind, wird bislang wenig untersucht, inwiefern diese Verfahren auch zur Vorhersage unerwünschten Verhaltens genutzt werden können. Das Projekt CHARAKTER widmet sich dieser Forschungslücke und untersucht, welche psychologischen Verfahren geeignet sind, um polizeilich relevante Formen kontraproduktiven Verhaltens vorherzusagen und ungeeignete Bewerber:innen frühzeitig zu identifizieren.

Das Projekt baut auf den Erkenntnissen des Forschungsprojekts POLNACH zur polizeilichen Nachwuchsgewinnung auf, das bereits ein evidenzbasiertes Anforderungsprofil für den Polizeiberuf entwickelte. Während POLNACH den Fokus auf die Prognose von Ausbildungs- und Berufserfolg legte, erweitert CHARAKTER die Diagnostik um die Vorhersage kontraproduktiven Verhaltens.

In einem ersten, qualitativen Forschungsteil werden aktuell Interviews mit Polizeibeamt:innen, Auszubildenden, Lehrkräften und Beschwerdestellenleiter:innen geführt sowie Bürgerbeschwerden analysiert. Ziel ist es, typische und relevante Formen schädigenden Verhaltens im Polizeidienst zu identifizieren. In der zweiten Phase wird untersucht, inwiefern charakterliche Eigenschaften mit dem Auftreten dieser Verhaltensweisen korrelieren. Die daraus abgeleiteten Befunde sollen praxisnahe Empfehlungen für die Personalauswahl liefern, um Bewerber:innen mit erhöhtem Risiko für schädigende Verhaltensweisen frühzeitig zu identifizieren und so eine nachhaltige Qualitätssicherung im Polizeidienst zu gewährleisten.

Der Beitrag präsentiert den aktuellen Stand des Projekts sowie erste Ergebnisse aus der qualitativen Erhebungsphase. CHARAKTER ist eine Kooperation der HWR Berlin mit der Akademie der Polizei Hamburg. Die Projektleitung an der HWR Berlin liegt bei Prof. Dr. Wim Nettelstroth.

317 Opferschutz bei Straftaten gegen die sexuelle Selbstbestimmung: Entwicklung & Evaluation einer Fortbildung für Polizei und Justiz

Diana Schühner¹, Janine Neuhaus², Bettina Hannover¹

¹Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany. ²HWR, Berlin, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Das Sexualstrafrecht in Deutschland wurde seit den 1970er Jahren mehrfach reformiert. Während es gesellschaftlichen Veränderungen angepasst wurde, erfolgte gleichzeitig eine verstärkte Berücksichtigung der sexuellen Selbstbestimmung (Albrecht, 2011). Zudem bemühen sich Legislative und Exekutive um besseren Opferschutz (Acker, 2021; Hartmann et al., 2016; Weber, 2023). Eine evaluierte Fortbildung für Berliner Polizei und Justiz existiert bisher nicht, um Fachkräfte hinsichtlich des psychologischen Schutzes von Betroffenen zu stärken. Diese Lücke soll das vorliegende Forschungsprojekt schließen.

Studien zeigen, dass Polizeibeamt_innen teils ungünstige Einstellungen zu Sexualstraftaten haben (Gekoski et al., 2024; Shaw et al., 2017; Sleath & Bull, 2015), was negative Folgen für Ermittlung und Opfer haben kann (Garza & Franklin, 2021; McQueen et al., 2021). Eine deliktsspezifische Fortbildung kann Einstellungen verbessern und Kompetenzen stärken (Lathan et al., 2019; Murphy & Hine, 2019; Tidmarsh et al., 2019).

Die Fortbildung umfasst zwei Schwerpunkte: "Täterfokus" und "Opferzentrierung". Der Täterfokus betont die tatverursachende Täterhandlung, während die Opferzentrierung psychosoziale Bedürfnisse Betroffener berücksichtigt (Tidmarsh et al., 2012). Inhalte wurden in Expert_innen-Interviews entwickelt und im Polizeistudium erprobt. Die zweitägige Fortbildung besteht aus acht Modulen, darunter "Täterstrategien", "Rapportaufbau" und "Gegenwehrverhalten".

Von April bis Juni 2023 wurde die Fortbildung mit 81 Teilnehmenden aus dem LKA 13 und fünf weiteren Ermittler_innen durchgeführt. Die Evaluation basiert auf einem Wartekontrollgruppendesign und umfasst Messungen zu Wissen, Einstellungen und Opferzentrierung. Perspektivisch soll sie in ein "Train-the-Trainer"-Konzept überführt werden, um eine langfristige Implementierung sicherzustellen. Vorgestellt werden Kernbestandteile des Trainings und erste Ergebnisse der Evaluation.

Symposium: Recent Findings in Intercultural Social Psychology

08:40 - 10:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

Seminarraum 2 Oben (Karthago)

In our globalized world, intercultural exchange is becoming increasingly important for individuals and societies alike. For example, global challenges such as climate change or misinformation require intercultural cooperation and necessitate understanding of intercultural psychological differences. Despite this, most prior research has focused on WEIRD samples (Henrich et al., 2010). In our symposium, we will present four research projects that shed light on how intercultural contexts influence social psychological questions.

First, Felix Speckmann will present data on how people spontaneously judge intercultural similarity, to what extent this overlaps with existing measures of intercultural differences, and what the underlying dimensions of intercultural similarity are.

Second, Christian Unkelbach will show data that finds the repetition-induced truth effect (i.e., repeated statements are rated as more true than novel ones) persists across different countries from across the globe and that comprehensibility of statements is a feature that persists across languages.

Third, Celine Frank will present research on intercultural prosocial behavior showing that people display national ingroup favoritism in a dictator game that leads to inner conflict depending on the nationality of the recipient.

Fourth, Bernhard Schubach will present data on prosocial and antisocial behavior; specifically, how they are influenced by the number of shared group memberships between people from different groups and how this influence varies in non-WEIRD contexts.

We will finish with a group discussion involving all previous presenters.

31 Recent findings in intercultural social psychology

Chair(s)

Felix Speckmann

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

211 What are the underlying dimensions of intercultural similarity?

Felix Speckmann

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Intercultural communication is increasingly important in our globalized societies, as both individuals and organizations rely on understanding other cultures to enable smooth interactions. Research on cultural similarities and differences often employs top-down measures, such as Hofstede's (2001) cultural dimensions. However, these may not align with how people spontaneously perceive cultural similarities. Inspired by the ABC model of stereotypes (Koch et al., 2016), which identifies dimensions people spontaneously use to classify social groups, our research explores the bottom-up dimensions people use when thinking about different cultures.

To investigate the underlying dimensions of spontaneous judgments of cultural similarity, we had 944 participants from nine different countries arrange multiple boxes containing the name of one country each by dragging and dropping them on the screen with their computer mouse. They arranged boxes based on similarity: More similar cultures closer together and less similar cultures further apart. Each box contained the words “A person from XXX” (with xxx replacing a country) to avoid participants think about countries (i.e., variables such as GDP) and to avoid similarity judgments based on geographical position. We found that participants’ similarity scores correlated most strongly with the Cultural Fixation Index (Muthukrishna et al, 2020), followed by the cultural dimensions by Hofstede (2010), but not with the cultural map by Inglehart and Welzel (2005).

We also discuss multidimensional scaling solutions of our data and implications for intercultural exchange.

221 Comprehensibility predicts subjective truth across languages and alphabets

Christian Unkelbach, Andreas Miculka

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Evaluating whether information is true or false is a central task, from interpersonal communication to social media content. Many models of truth judgments refer to the fluency construct (i.e., the experienced ease of ongoing mental processes; Unkelbach & Greifeneder, 2013). The assumption is that people use ease of processing as a cue for truth. A direct corollary is that people should judge easy-to-understand (i.e., more comprehensible) statements as truer than difficult-to-understand (i.e., less comprehensible) statements. However, evidence for such a comprehensibility effect is mixed (e.g., Schmidt & Heck, 2024). In a study involving 87 statements with first 600 participants from six countries with three alphabets (non-preregistered), and then an additional 100 participants from the UK (pre-registered), we found substantial correlations between rated truth (i.e., binary true-false decisions) and rated comprehensibility (from 1 to 5). The comprehensibility ratings from any given country substantially predicted truth in the other six countries. The correlation was strongest between the 4 to 5 range of comprehensibility, suggesting that experimental manipulations of comprehensibility delivered inconsistent results because the effect is located in a region that is usually not investigated in experimental studies. The data also suggests that similar rules for truth assessments apply across the globe.

240 National Group Membership, Cultural Similarity and Inner Conflict: A Cross-National Study on Prosocial Behavior

Celine Frank^{1,2}, Iris Schneider², Angela Dorrough³

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

As people with diverse national backgrounds increasingly interact, research on cross-national prosocial behavior becomes crucial. We examined the influence of national group membership and perceived cultural similarity on prosocial behavior and subsequent inner conflict in a cross-national dictator game study. Across samples from ten countries ($N = 2604$), participants made transfers to recipients from each country and reported their level of conflict afterward. Our findings replicate previous evidence of national in-group favoritism and demonstrate a positive effect of (perceived) cultural similarity on prosocial behavior. Moreover, the relationship between prosocial behavior and inner conflict varies depending on the recipient's nationality. These results highlight the critical role of national background in shaping social categorization, prosocial behavior, and the experience of inner conflict.

250 Navigating intergroup bias: Promoting prosociality and reducing antisociality through cross-categorization?

Bernhard Schubach¹, Angela Dorrough¹, Pinar Uğurlar²

¹University of Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ²Özyeğin University, Istanbul, Turkey

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Prosocial and antisocial behaviors significantly impact individuals, groups, and societies. Prosocial actions foster social cohesion and collective well-being, while antisocial behaviors harm societal harmony. Research consistently shows ingroup favoritism in both behaviors: people exhibit more prosocial and less antisocial behavior towards ingroup members than outgroup members. However, a simple distinction between ingroup and outgroup does often not correspond to reality as individuals belong to multiple social groups, sharing membership in one category (e.g., nationality) while differing in another (e.g., political orientation). Initial studies in WEIRD countries suggest that shared group membership increases prosocial behavior even when other group memberships differ. Since the extent of ingroup favoritism differs between countries, it is unclear whether this finding also holds in non-WEIRD countries. Therefore, we aim to test the effect of shared group membership on intergroup behavior in a non-WEIRD country (i.e., Brazil). We hypothesize that prosocial behavior increases and antisocial behavior decreases as the number of shared group memberships grows. We conduct an online study ($n = 300$) in which participants are randomly assigned to minimal groups based on three group categories. We use the Prisoner's Dilemma and the Take Game to measure differences in prosocial and antisocial behavior when participants interact with members of different groups. Additionally, we examine two potential mediating mechanisms: perceived closeness and expected behavior of interaction partners. Our research enhances the understanding of why and when people show prosocial and antisocial behavior and how shared group membership can mitigate intergroup biases beyond a WEIRD context.

Symposium: Women's Mindsets Revisted

08:40 - 10:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Seminarraum 4 Oben (Krakau)

Mindsets sind mentale Repräsentationen, die die menschliche Wahrnehmung und Interpretation beeinflussen und damit einen Effekt auf Verhalten haben können. Diese Mindsets können in Verbindung mit den anhaltenden Geschlechterungleichheiten zwischen Frauen und Männern in verschiedenen sozialen Bereichen bestehen. Forschung, die vor allem Frauen* und feministische Fragestellungen betrifft, sind in der empirischen Psychologie jedoch nach wie vor unterrepräsentiert. Besonders sichtbar wird dies bezogen auf die Themen Geburt und Sexualität von Frauen. Auf der Basis von fünf Vorträgen soll im Symposium dargestellt werden, dass Mindsets für diese Bereiche eine zentrale Rolle einnehmen: Sie hängen mit der Tendenz zur Selbststigmatisierung aufgrund benötigter medizinischer Interventionen unter Geburt zusammen (Vortrag 1) und damit wie und ob Gebärende Gewalt unter Geburt wahrnehmen (Vortrag 2). Außerdem beeinflussen Mindsets – wie die wahrgenommene Macht in Beziehungen (Vortrag 3) und die emotionale Arbeit in der Sexualität – den geschlechtsspezifischen ‚Pleasure Gap‘ und die damit verbundenen Machtstrukturen in intimen Beziehungen (Vortrag 4). Ebenso stehen Mindsets in Zusammenhang damit, ob Frauen nach induzierter sexueller Erregung Scham- und Ekel empfinden (Vortrag 5). Ziel des Symposiums ist es, einen Überblick über Mindsets von Frauen zu den ausgewählten Bereichen Geburt und Sexualität zu geben sowie zu mehr sozialpsychologischer Forschung anzuregen und eine Diskussion über mögliche Gründe für die vorhandene Reserviertheit diesen wichtigen Forschungsbereichen gegenüber anzustoßen.

14 Women’s Mindsets Revisted

Chair(s)

Lisa Hoffmann

University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany

Verena Klein

University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom

71 Happy birth-day? Wahrnehmung geburtsbezogener Gewalt und ihre Implikationen für das Wohlbefinden

Lisa Hoffmann¹, Elisa Berner¹, Roland Imhoff²

¹University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany. ²University of Mainz, Mainz, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

In den letzten Jahren häufen sich in den Medien die Darstellung drastischer Fälle von Gewalt während der Geburt. Weltweit stark variierende, aber oft hohe Prävalenzen zeigen die strukturelle und psychologische Bedeutung dieses selten erforschten Themas. Forschung aus dem Bereich der sexuellen Gewalt zeigt, dass die Erkennung von Gewalt nicht ausschließlich von objektiven Kriterien abhängt, sondern vielmehr von mentalen Repräsentationen (z.B. Skripte über Vergewaltigungen). Ziel der vorliegenden Studien war es ein ähnliches Phänomen im Kontext der geburtshilflichen Gewalt zu untersuchen. In zwei deutschen Stichproben ($N_{\text{Studie 1}} = 298$, $N_{\text{Studie 2}} = 298$) wurde die Wahrnehmung von Geburtswelt und die damit verbundene Gewalt untersucht. Die Ergebnisse zeigen, dass die Wahrnehmung von Geburtswelt und die damit verbundene Gewalt stark von mentalen Repräsentationen abhängt, die durch Skripte über Vergewaltigungen beeinflusst werden. Ziel der vorliegenden Studien war es ein ähnliches Phänomen im Kontext der geburtshilflichen Gewalt zu untersuchen. In zwei deutschen Stichproben ($N_{\text{Studie 1}} = 298$, $N_{\text{Studie 2}} = 298$) wurde die Wahrnehmung von Geburtswelt und die damit verbundene Gewalt untersucht. Die Ergebnisse zeigen, dass die Wahrnehmung von Geburtswelt und die damit verbundene Gewalt stark von mentalen Repräsentationen abhängt, die durch Skripte über Vergewaltigungen beeinflusst werden.

² = 542) explorierten wir Faktoren, die mit der Tendenz zusammenhängen, eigenen Geburtserfahrungen als gewalttätig oder nicht gewalttätig zu bezeichnen, sowie Faktoren, die mit dem Wohlbefinden nach erlebter Gewalt zusammenhängen. Die Ergebnisse zeigten, (1) dass in beiden Studien mehr als die Hälfte der Stichprobe angab, mindestens eines der Kriterien für geburtshilfliche Gewalt erlebt zu haben, (2) dass die Akzeptanz von Gewalt unter der Geburt (analog zur Akzeptanz von Vergewaltigungsmythen) die Interpretation von Gewalt als solche moderiert, und (3) dass für Frauen, die Kriterien für geburtshilfliche Gewalt erfüllen, das Wohlbefinden zunahm, wenn sie dazu neigten, Gewalt unter der Geburt zu legitimieren. Die beiden Studien liefern wichtige Daten für das unterrepräsentierte Thema der geburtshilflichen Gewalt und tragen allgemein zu einem besseren Verständnis von Gewalt gegen Frauen bei.

72 Geschlechtsspezifische sexuelle Skripte und deren Zusammenhang mit (aversiver) Erregung

Lilli Meißner¹, Natalie Kort², Elisa Berner¹, Tanja Oschatz³, Lisa Hoffmann¹

¹Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany. ²Universitätsklinikum Bonn, Bonn, Germany.

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Der Orgasm-Gap beschreibt den Befund, dass beim (vaginalen) Sex Männer häufiger einen Orgasmus haben als Frauen. Ein Erklärungsansatz für die Diskrepanz in der Häufigkeit männlicher und weiblicher Orgasmen sind geschlechtsspezifische sexuelle Skripte, die Männern und Frauen unterschiedliche sexuelle Eigenschaften und Rollen zuschreiben. Bei einer konservativen Ausprägung geschlechtsspezifischer sexueller Skripte wird Männern beispielsweise zugesprochen, mehr an Sex interessiert zu sein, Sex mehr zu brauchen sowie leichter zum Orgasmus zu kommen als Frauen. In der vorliegenden Studie ($N = 485$) sollte der Zusammenhang zwischen geschlechtsspezifischen sexuellen Skripten und sexueller Erregung nach Präsentation eines auditiven sexuellen Stimulus exploriert werden. Ein Zusammenhang der geschlechtsspezifischen sexuellen Skripte mit der Orgasmushäufigkeit konnte sowohl für Frauen und Männer gezeigt werden. Die Ergebnisse legten jedoch sowohl bei Männern als auch bei Frauen keinen Zusammenhang zwischen geschlechtsspezifischen sexuellen Skripten und affirmativer Erregung nach

Stimulusinduktion nahe. Es zeigte sich aber, dass Frauen mit konservativeren geschlechtsspezifischen sexuellen Skripten mehr aversive Erregung (Ekel und Scham) nach Präsentation des sexuellen Stimulus berichteten. Diese Korrelation zeigte sich in der männlichen Stichprobe nicht. Insgesamt verdeutlichen die Ergebnisse der Studie die Bedeutung geschlechtsspezifischer sexueller Skripte für das Verständnis von (weiblicher) Sexualität und generieren wichtige Ansatzpunkte für zukünftige Forschung.

74 Die intimen und sexuellen Kosten emotionaler Arbeit in der Sexualität

Tanja Oschatz¹, Jennifer Piemonte², Verena Klein³

¹Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, Germany. ²University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA. ³University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Emotionale Arbeit meint das Anpassen oder Unterdrücken eigener Gefühle, um das Wohlbefinden anderer Personen zu steigern. Diese Form der Arbeit wird disproportional häufig von Frauen geleistet – insbesondere in intimen Beziehungen. Sie spiegelt tief verankerte geschlechtsspezifische Mindsets wider, die Frauen häufig in eine Rolle drängen, in der sie bewusst oder unbewusst Verantwortung für das emotionale Wohl ihrer Partner übernehmen. Dennoch ist die Rolle emotionaler Arbeit in der Sexualität bislang wenig erforscht. Um diese Lücke zu schließen, haben wir die Women's Sexual Emotional Labor Assessment (WOSELA) entwickelt, eine 12-Item-Skala, die auf Leitmotiven früherer qualitativer Forschung basiert. In drei Studien mit Frauen in heterosexuellen Beziehungen und single heterosexuellen Frauen aus Großbritannien und den USA ($N = 831$) wurde die Skala auf psychometrische Qualitäten geprüft. Eine explorative Faktorenanalyse in Studie 1 identifizierte vier Subskalen: Orgasmus vortäuschen, performative Lust, Ertragen von Unwohlsein und Schmerz und partner-bezogene sexuelle Zufriedenheit. Studie 2 bestätigte die Struktur der Skala durch konfirmatorische Faktorenanalysen. In Studie 3 zeigte sich die Validität der WOSELA durch signifikant negative Korrelationen mit sexueller Selbstbestimmung, sexueller Kommunikation und sexuellem Vergnügen. Gleichzeitig bestand kein signifikanter Zusammenhang zwischen der WOSELA und positiv-partnerorientierter sexueller Responsivität. Die

WOSELA bietet ein neues Werkzeug, um die Rolle emotionaler Arbeit bei der Aufrechterhaltung der geschlechtsspezifischen „pleasure gap“ sowie ihre Auswirkungen auf die Machtverhältnisse in intimen Beziehungen und das Wohlbefinden von Frauen zu untersuchen.

75 „Too posh to push?“ – Selbststigmatisierung nach interventionsreichen Geburten

Lisa Hoffmann, Elisa Berner, Norbert Hilger

Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Selbststigmatisierung nach interventionsreichen Geburten, wie etwa einem Kaiserschnitt oder einer Periduralanästhesie, ist ein anekdotisch gut dokumentiertes Phänomen. Ziel dieser Studie war es, dieses Thema empirisch zu untersuchen. Dazu wurden 1.743 Mütter befragt, bei denen während der Geburt medizinische Eingriffe durchgeführt wurden. Die Ergebnisse bestätigten die Hypothese, dass geburtsbezogene Selbststigmatisierung mit einer negativeren Geburtserfahrung assoziiert ist. Unter den verschiedenen medizinischen Interventionen erwies sich insbesondere der Kaiserschnitt als starker, aber nicht als einziger Prädiktor für geburtsbezogene Selbststigmatisierung. Das geburtsbezogene Mindset der Teilnehmenden moderierte den Zusammenhang zwischen Selbststigmatisierung und der Geburtserfahrung dahingehend, dass bei Frauen, bei denen Geburt als eigentlich natürliches Ereignis mental repräsentiert ist (natürliches Mindset) der negative Zusammenhang verstärkt war. Die Ergebnisse verdeutlichen die enge Wechselwirkung zwischen Geburtseignissen und psychologischen Faktoren und zeigen, dass Frauen entgegen der medialen und gesellschaftlichen Auffassung nicht *too posh to push* sind, sondern vielmehr unter großem Druck stehen können, so zu gebären wie es die Gesellschaft für angemessen hält.

86 Wer macht den Abwasch? Geschlechtsbasierte Machtungleichheiten spiegeln sich im sexuellen Vergnügen heterosexueller Beziehungen wider

Verena Klein¹, Rotem Kahalon², Tanja Oschatz³, Dilan Kilic⁴, Terri Conley⁵

¹University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom. ²Bar Ilan University, Safed, Israel. ³Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Mainz, Germany. ⁴Manisa Celal Bayar Üniversitesi, Manisa, Turkey. ⁵University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Geschlechterungleichheiten zwischen Frauen und Männern zeigen sich auch in intimen Sphären wie der Sexualität – ein Beispiel hierfür ist die Orgasmus-Lücke. So erleben Männer vor allem in heterosexuellen Kontexten signifikant häufiger Orgasmen als Frauen. Theoretiker*innen haben schon lange diskutiert, dass geschlechtsbasierte Machtungleichgewichte in heterosexuellen Beziehungen (z.B. ungleiche Arbeitsverteilung im Haushalt, finanzielle Ungleichgewichte) mit Ungleichheiten in der Sexualität verknüpft sind. In fünf Studien ($N = 1.296$) testeten wir diese Annahme erstmals direkt. Die Ergebnisse zeigten, dass bei Frauen in heterosexuellen Partnerschaften die wahrgenommene Macht innerhalb der Beziehung positiv mit ihrer Orgasmushäufigkeit und negativ mit ihrer Neigung zur sexuellen Selbstaufopferung (z. B. Orgasmen vortäuschen oder Schmerzen tolerieren) korrelierte (Studie 1a und 1b). Eine experimentelle Manipulation von Macht zeigte einerseits, dass Frauen in Machtpositionen häufiger Orgasmen zugeschrieben wurden (Studie 2) und dass Frauen, wenn sie sich selbst mächtig fühlten, dass eigene sexuelle Vergnügen stärker fokussieren (Studie 3). Abschließend bestätigten dyadische Daten, dass die erlebte Macht von Frauen in Beziehungen eine höhere Orgasmushäufigkeit und geringere sexuelle Aufopferung vorhersagte (Studie 4). Unsere Ergebnisse liefern eine mechanistische Erklärung für die gut dokumentierte geschlechtsspezifische Diskrepanz im sexuellen Vergnügen und unterstreichen die entscheidende Rolle von Macht im Verständnis von Geschlechterungleichheiten, sowohl innerhalb als auch außerhalb des heterosexuellen Schlafzimmers.

Poster Session (all Sections A to F)

10:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

Poster Section A

10:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

22 Measuring Awareness of Racism: Validation of the Racism Version of the Discrimination Scenario Scale (DSS-R)

Franziska Ehrke, Jenny Dettmann, Steffens Melanie

Rheinland-Pfälzische Technische Universität (RPTU) Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany

Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Awareness of racial biases can foster empathy and solidarity with racially marginalized groups. However, the increasingly subtle nature of contemporary racism makes detecting racial discrimination challenging, particularly for White people who are typically less aware of racism. This underscores the need for validated, reliable instruments to measure awareness of everyday racism. We introduce the Racism Version of the Discrimination Scenario Scale (DSS-R), a novel instrument to assess people's awareness of racism across a wide range of everyday discrimination scenarios.

In three preregistered online studies conducted in Germany with representative samples ($N_1 = 245$, $N_{2a} = 628$, $N_{2b} = 513$), we examined the DSS-R's psychometric properties (factorial structure, reliability, and validity), focusing on awareness of discrimination against Turkish migrants (Studies 1-2a) and Black people (Study 2b). We consistently established the DSS-R's two-dimensional structure (awareness of blatant vs. subtle racism) with high reliabilities ($\omega \geq .91$) for the overall scale and both subdimensions. The DSS-R's high convergent, discriminant, known-groups, and criterion validity highlight its effectiveness in measuring awareness of racism. The DSS-R further explains independent variance in support for multiculturalism and political solidarity beyond established (awareness of) racism scales.

The DSS-R fills a critical gap in current measurement tools, offering a robust and nuanced assessment of both awareness of subtle and blatant racism. Its utility transcends academia, providing researchers and practitioners alike with an invaluable resource for developing and evaluating anti-racism interventions and programs. Its adaptability across various contexts positions the DSS-R as a potential standard tool in anti-prejudice research and practice.

176 Diversity, inclusion, and discrimination: A survey among members of the German Psychological Association (DGPs)

Robert Gaschler¹, Jana Bauer², Mathilde Niehaus², Karl-Heinz Renner³, Maria Thissen⁴, Jürgen Wegge⁴

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Based on a mandate of the board of the DGPs to the diversity board of the society we surveyed DGPs members to assess the status quo of (experienced) diversity, inclusion, and discrimination as a basis to discuss how to address challenges. A sample of $N = 576$ (365 female) members of the scientific society took part in late summer 2024. Frequency of person characteristics showed high similarity between the sample and the population of members. High levels of perceived inclusion (in daily work and also in the DGPs) contrasted with reduced reported specific experiences in the youngest and oldest group of members. 49.13% of the members reported they had been the target of discrimination within the last 24 months. They reported lower perceived inclusion ($d=0.41$) and well-being (WHO5; $d=0.31$), as well as higher irritation ($d=0.43$). Everyday working environments were the most frequent context for discrimination (60.97%) and gender was the most frequent (ascribed) characteristic mentioned: 36.7% of

the females and 14.4% of the males reported that experienced discrimination was based on this. Similarly of importance for further working on these challenges in the scientific society, there was a substantive age-divide with respect to gauging the level of attention that discrimination / diversity / inclusion is given. While the majority of members under 40 stated that in teaching and also in research these issues do not get enough attention, only a minority of the members aged 60 and older shared this view.

66 Einstellungen gegenüber Trans*Personen: Eine Analyse aus Perspektive der Terror Management Theorie (TMT)

Tuana Öztürk, Gisela Steins

Universität Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany

Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Das Bewusstwerden der eigenen Sterblichkeit, Mortalitätssalienz, löst in Menschen Angst aus. Um mit dieser Angst umzugehen, werden Weltbilder als kulturelle Puffer gegen die Angst, also als Verteidigungsmechanismen genutzt - ein im Rahmen der Terror Management vielfach untersuchter Prozess. Es ist anzunehmen, dass auch Einstellungen gegenüber Trans*Personen mit kulturellen und geschlechtsbasierten Weltbildern verknüpft sind. Jedoch ist bislang wenig über den Zusammenhang zwischen Mortalitätssalienz und Einstellungen gegenüber Trans*Personen bekannt. Die vorliegende Forschungsarbeit widmet sich diesem Zusammenhang. Es werden die Ergebnisse von zwei aufeinander aufbauenden Laborexperimenten berichtet. Im Fokus der ersten Untersuchung lag die Worldview Defense Hypothese (N = 21). Die Ergebnisse konnten die Worldview Defense Hypothese nicht verifizieren: Auch wenn Personen mit einer bereits transfeindlichen Voreinstellung nach der Induktion von Mortalitätssalienz eine signifikant feindlichere Einstellung hatten, hatten ebenfalls Personen mit einer freundlichen Voreinstellung durch die Induktion von Mortalitätssalienz eine, wenn auch nicht signifikant, feindlichere Einstellung gegenüber Trans*Personen: Hier wurde die Conservative Shift Hypothese bestätigt. Mit der Replikation durch ein zweites Experiment (N = 34) und der Aufnahme von Religiosität wurde ein anderes Datenmuster gefunden. Somit wird die Diskussion der Brüchigkeit toleranter Einstellungen gegenüber Trans*Personen eröffnet.

Schlüsselwörter: Terror Management Theory, Mortalitätssalienz, Transgender, Worldview Defense Hypothese

306 Predicting Support for Nonbinary Rights: A Validation of the Openness Towards Non-Binary Gender (ONBG) Scale

Lou Dörr, Claudia Niedlich, Franziska Ehrke, Melanie C. Steffens

RPTU University Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany

Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Gender is still often understood within a binary framework of men and women, marginalizing nonbinary identities that reject, expand, or go beyond this dichotomy. While earlier measures primarily focused on binary conceptions of gender beliefs or general attitudes towards trans people, assessing openness specifically towards nonbinary gender is essential for understanding societal attitudes which influence advocacy efforts, policy decisions and legal protections of nonbinary individuals.

The Openness towards Non-Binary Gender (ONBG) scale, originally developed by Molin et al. (2021), evaluates beliefs about (nonbinary) gender, including beliefs about the number of gender categories, gender fluidity, and how gender identities are defined or predetermined. In this preregistered study, we investigated the factorial structure, reliability, and validity of a German version of the ONBG measure in a predominantly German, left-leaning sample ($N = 288$). Criterion validity is assessed by examining how openness towards nonbinary gender relates to political solidarity with nonbinary individuals and support for the Self-Determination Act (SBGG).

Results suggest that the ONBG scale reliably measures openness towards nonbinary gender ($\omega = .95$ for the overall scale) and indicate high validity across convergent, discriminant, known-groups, and criterion assessments. The ONBG scale explains variance in political solidarity with nonbinary individuals and support for the SBGG beyond existing measures of gender beliefs and prejudice against nonbinary and trans individuals, demonstrating its value in predicting political support that influences the lived experiences of nonbinary people. However, questions regarding the ONBG scales factorial structure remain, warranting further investigation.

266 The influence of religiosity on the internalized stigma among queer people in Germany

Rabea Drexler

Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

This study examines the relationship between religiosity and internalized stigma among queer people in Germany. To this end, 306 religious and queer people took part in an online survey. First, it was examined whether the increase in religiosity leads to a linear increase in internalized stigma. Secondly, it was examined, how the interaction of religiosity and identity integration influence internalized stigma. Furthermore, possible differences in the internalized stigma of homosexual and bisexual participants were tested. The results show that religiosity had no significant effect on the internalized stigma of the participants. Identity integration was negatively correlated with internalized stigma and significantly reduced the effect of religiosity. On average, bisexual participants had more internalized stigma than homosexual participants, but this effect was not significant. Some results indicate that there are religious people in Germany who believe that a person's sexual orientation can be changed. Overall, the present results do not indicate that religiosity increases the internalized stigma among religious queer people in Germany.

Keywords: being queer, religiosity, internalized stigma, identity integration, conversion therapy

272 Variabilität der ostdeutschen Identifikation bei Bedrohung in Abhängigkeit der politischen Einstellung bei der Nachwendegeneration

Ayla Schaub, Frank Asbrock

Technische Universität Chemnitz, Chemnitz, Germany

Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

In den vergangenen 30 Jahren ist in Deutschland die Nachwendegeneration herangewachsen, die die Teilung Deutschlands nicht erlebt hat. In den wenigen bisherigen Studien konnte gezeigt werden, dass auch bei der Nachwendegeneration Identitätsunterschiede und Einstellungsunterschiede bezüglich Ost- und Westdeutschland vorliegen (Faus & Storks, 2019; Kubiak, 2020).

Basierend auf der Social Identity Theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979) testeten wir in zwei Studien, ob die Angehörigen dieser Nachwendegeneration weiterhin unterschiedliche soziale Identität als Ost- und Westdeutsche haben oder sich stärker mit Gesamtdeutschland identifizieren als vorhergehende Generationen. In Studie 1 (N = 341) identifizierten sich ostdeutsche Angehörige der Nachwendegeneration stärker mit Ostdeutschland als westdeutsche Personen mit Westdeutschland.

In Studie 2 wurde anschließend auf Basis der Terror Management Theory (Greenberg & Arndt, 2012) untersucht, ob die Identifikation mit Ostdeutschland von der politischen Einstellung abhängt. Es wurde angenommen, dass Bedrohung durch Kritik an Ostdeutschland (vs. Kontrollbedingung) bei jungen Ostdeutschen mit rechter politischer Orientierung zu stärkerer Identifikation mit Ostdeutschland, bei solchen mit linker Orientierung zu stärkerer Disidentifikation mit Ostdeutschland führt. Die Ergebnisse der experimentellen Studie mit 230 Personen aus Ostdeutschland zwischen 18 und 33 Jahren werden vor dem Hintergrund der SIT und der TMT diskutiert und zur Rolle der deutschen Teilung für die Nachwendegeneration in Beziehung gesetzt.

Poster Section B

10:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

24 Synthetic Relationships: Relationships Between Humans and AI Tools

Alfio Ventura^{1,2}, Christopher Starke³, Nils Köbis^{1,2,4}

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

With the rise of generative artificial intelligence, a new partner for interactive, reciprocal, long-term interactions has emerged. Now, it is possible to enter into a new type of relationship, synthetic relationships, i.e. “continuing associations between humans and AI tools that interact with one another wherein the AI tool(s) influence(s) humans’ thoughts, feelings and/or actions” (Starke et al., 2024). Last year, we introduced and defined the term “synthetic relationships” and discussed their opportunities and risks for individuals and society (Starke et al., 2024), particularly in a narrative review on synthetic relationships and social health (Ventura et al., in prep.). For practice, we provided initial policy recommendations (Starke et al., 2024) and proposed a methodological approach for comprehensive research of synthetic relationships (Ventura & Köbis, 2024). Following these initiatives, we are currently taking the first steps towards establishing a synthetic relationships research platform in cooperation with our dear colleagues from the University of Amsterdam.

Our poster provides comprehensive insights into the nascent research field of synthetic relationships - the construct, its relevance for individuals and society, and a proposal for research methodology. This insight will be enriched with current empirical evidence, evidence from our first empirical studies and the empirical studies of colleagues.

322 Diversity in Future Social Groups: Examining Perceived Entitativity of Human and Human-Robot Groups

Anna M. H. Abrams

iTec, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany

Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Entitativity describes the perception of a group's "groupness," indicating how much individuals are seen as an entity. Among other factors, similarity among members predicts high entitativity perception. As robotic systems may become part of social groups in the near future, this adds diversity to groups. Inclusion of robots should thus lead to a decrease in groupness perception. Consequently, in an online experiment, I plan to investigate whether groups including robots are perceived as less “groupy” than groups that are solely comprised of human individuals. Participants (n =160) will view graphical representations of 11 group constellations, such as families (intimacy groups), work teams (task group), Americans (social category) and individuals waiting at a bus stop (loose association). They rate each group constellation on 7 different dimensions as used in previous research on

groupness perceptions, e. g., interaction, permeability, similarity. In a mixed design, I will compare groupness perceptions of these 11 different group constellations and between images featuring only humans versus those with both robots and humans. Additionally, I will explore differences across clusters: intimacy groups, task groups, social category, and loose associations. Are groupness perceptions similar within these predefined clusters for human as well as for human-robot groups? I further hypothesize that the tendency to attribute humanness to robots influences the ratings of groupness. I will discuss how future integration of robots into groups and the effect on groupness perceptions might impact social dynamics among humans.

324 Are they “just” Delegating? A Cross-Sample Prediction on University Students' and Teachers' Use of AI.

Fabian Albers

Universität Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg, Germany

Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI), in particular generative large language models like ChatGPT, have entered higher education. Previous work documents that university students frequently integrate AI for academic tasks (Garrel et al. 2023; Gottschling et al. 2024). While the same likely applies to university teachers, involving AI in education offers immense benefits but also poses new risks, depending on *how* such tools are being used. One risk lies in blindly offloading tasks to AI and failing to scrutinize its output – a form of 'automation bias'. Importantly, *how* students and teachers use AI might depend on their (mis-) perceptions about the shared norms of the respective other group (Cialdini et al. 1990), possibly leading to a 'false consensus effect'. That is, if students (incorrectly) perceive teachers to widely offload tasks to AI, they might be more willing to do so themselves – and vice versa. Hence, understanding students' and teachers' a) own AI use and b) beliefs about the other groups' AI use bears immense relevance for research and policy. However, since such research is lacking, we fill that gap by conducting large online surveys with students and teachers across various disciplines and institutions from February to March 2025 (expected total N = 1000). By implementing this methodological novelty in the context of education, we will gain a better understanding and navigate the intersection of AI and academia, ultimately informing balanced and effective integration of AI in educational settings.

207 Assessment analytics: Determinants of students' willingness to donate their digital e-exam data for quality improvements

Sören Michallek¹, Hannes Schröter^{1,2}, Stefan Stürmer¹

¹FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ²German Institute for Adult Education, Bonn, Germany

Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

E-exams in higher education generate large amounts of data relevant to assessment analytics research, but little is known about the conditions under which students consent to their e-exam data being used. In this project, we hypothesized that the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) can be used to predict students' willingness to donate their e-exam data for research purposes. Additionally, we examined whether students' sociodemographic and e-exam related diversity characteristics influence their willingness to donate their data. In 2022, $n = 1071$ students of a public German distance university completed questionnaires regarding their data donation willingness, their sociodemographic and data donation related diversity, as well as their expectations regarding the data donation process. Data donation willingness was moderately high. A stepwise multiple regression analysis revealed that students' expectations regarding effort, social influence as well as facilitating conditions surrounding data donation significantly predicted their data donation willingness, whereas individual performance expectancy did not. However, collective performance expectancy (i.e., the expected benefit for the university) did prove to be a significant predictor of data donation willingness. Additionally, an exploratory path analysis showed that the effect of students' age, gender, and technology openness on data donation willingness is mediated by the UTAUTs expectancy variables. These findings indicate that the expected organizational (vs. individual) benefit of data donation in e-exams contributes to students' data donation willingness. Interventions directed at students' data donation willingness might benefit from targeting students' organizational identity while taking into account students' age, gender, and openness to technology.

Poster Section C

10:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

87 Belonging Beyond Borders: Contact with Locals as Key to Fostering Belonging Among Ukrainian Migrant Women

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

The desire to belong to a social group is a fundamental human need. Fostering the feeling of belonging can be especially beneficial for migrants for their psychosocial integration in a new culture. Since February 2022, eight million Ukrainians fled their country and started to integrate in a new culture, the majority of them were women. The present research investigated how relevant factors such as language proficiency, employment, and contact with local people contribute to the psychosocial integration of Ukrainian migrant women in the Netherlands, focusing on a sense of belonging. This correlational online study included 66 Ukrainian migrant women, who live in the Netherlands and had signed up for an informal Dutch language buddy program. As expected, the results indicate that the more contact Ukrainian women had with Dutch people, the stronger feelings of belonging they experienced. Furthermore, employed Ukrainian women experienced stronger feelings of belonging indirectly through more contact, mainly driven by contact at work. Those who spoke and understood Dutch on an average or higher level benefited even more from contact with Dutch people. Interestingly, Ukrainians who wanted to stay in the Netherlands showed a stronger sense of belonging and had more contact with Dutch people. Considering that Ukrainian women had overall little contact with local people and did not speak Dutch well yet, the current research suggests investing in language courses and socializing opportunities for Ukrainian women to stimulate belonging and overall psychosocial integration.

Keywords: integration, belonging, intergroup contact, migrant women, Ukraine

213 Loneliness and Trust in Daily Life: Associations with Socio-Political Attitudes

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Loneliness has been recognized as a pressing public concern. Beyond its well-documented health impact, its interactions with broader societal issues have become increasingly evident. For instance, loneliness has been linked to heightened dissatisfaction with democracy and greater susceptibility to populist ideologies. However, the mechanisms underlying these relationships remain underexplored. Interpersonal trust, a critical factor in socio-political behaviors, may play a key role: It has been theorized that loneliness fosters hypervigilance toward social threats, leading to negative evaluations of social interactions (ESI) and amplifying distrust, which, in turn, might erode democratic satisfaction and encourage populist tendencies. Yet, how loneliness, trust, and ESI fluctuate and interact in daily life remains unclear. To address this, we conducted a two-week experience sampling study, assessing momentary loneliness, trust, and ESI twice daily. Satisfaction with democracy and populism were evaluated at the study's beginning. Results revealed that loneliness and trust were negatively related, but this association exhibited a nuanced dependence on ESI. Individuals who evaluated their social interactions more positively showed the expected negative association between loneliness and trust, whereas those with negative evaluations showed the opposite pattern. Furthermore, higher average loneliness and lower average trust, respectively, were associated with lower satisfaction with democracy, but not populism. These findings suggest loneliness does not universally erode trust; in some cases, trust may even be maintained or strengthened—potentially as a coping mechanism. The complex interplay between loneliness, trust, and socio-political attitudes highlights the need for further research on their implications for societal cohesion and democratic resilience.

258 Being Excluded from Participation: Immediate Negative Effects of Physical Barriers and Ostracism

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, individuals living with disabilities are entitled to full participation in society. However, they continue to encounter daily barriers that prevent them from engaging in group activities and events. Immediate consequences of such barriers have received little attention in psychological research. Our preregistered study investigated whether social exclusion caused by a physical barrier is as aversive as being ignored by others (ostracism). We adapted the virtual ball-tossing-game "Cyberball" to a new experimental paradigm that involved a physical barrier in specific conditions. Based on the need-threat theory we implemented a 2 (social condition: exclusion vs. inclusion) × 2 (barrier condition: absent vs. present) between-participants design ($N = 92$) measuring mood and basic social needs as indicators for exclusion effects. Basic social needs — such as belonging, meaningful existence, self-esteem and control — were significantly less fulfilled after both socially induced ostracism ($d = 2.46$) and barrier-based exclusion ($d = 2.87$). Likewise, mood remained almost the same in the inclusion conditions compared to baseline but decreased in the exclusion conditions. Additionally, participants perceived the barrier more strongly as insurmountable after experiencing exclusion, compared to participants in the inclusion condition who perceived the barrier as less insurmountable after the game. Since barriers impact not only individuals living with disabilities but also other marginalized groups, these findings highlight the need for further research into the psychological consequences of barriers to participation.

59 Observing mimicry in social situations influences perceived relationship satisfaction

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

People tend to automatically imitate others in social situations. Social learning theories put forward that such mimicry behavior is associated with positive social antecedents and outcomes as it fosters positive social relationships by creating feelings of affiliation among interaction partners. Interestingly, previous research mainly focused on one-to-one interactions, thereby neglecting the fact that many social interactions are witnessed by third-party observers. To fill this gap, we investigated in a preregistered experiment ($N = 204$) whether third-party observers perceive mimicking dyads in line with predictions derived from social learning theories on mimicry. Specifically, we predicted that a dyad performing gestural mimicry during a social interaction is perceived as having a more satisfactory relationship by third-party observers than a dyad that does not. To test this hypothesis, we presented participants with two videos in random order. Whereas one video depicted two people mimicking each other, the other video depicted two people who did not engage in mimicry. After each video, participants rated the relationship between the two people. The

results demonstrate that the mimicking dyad is perceived as having a more satisfactory relationship than non-mimicking dyads. This result indicates that mimicry holds informative value about social relationships for outside observers in line with predictions derived from social learning theories.

172 Lay people's perceptions of emotional victims in non-judicial contexts

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Despite the well-established evidence that displaying emotions enhances victims' credibility in judicial contexts, it is less clear how emotionally expressive victims are perceived by common people in non-judicial contexts. We conducted a preregistered experimental vignette study examining how different emotional displays when disclosing victimization, as well as how different types of offense influence third-party's perceptions of and attitudes towards the victims. Participants recruited via Prolific (N = 538) were randomly assigned to read one of six vignettes that varied by emotional expression (anger, sadness, or neutrality) and offense type (sexual vs. non-sexual). Results showed main effects of emotional expressions on perceived power and harm: anger compared to sadness conveyed greater power and less perceived harm for the victim; emotional neutrality, though the least expected, was perceived to convey the highest level of power and the least harm among the three emotional expressions. In addition, there were main effects of offense type: disclosure of sexual harassment compared to bullying elicited perceptions of greater power, stronger moral awareness and more harm experienced by the victim. We also explored the mediating role of perceived emotions in the relationship between the manipulated emotion conditions and victim perceptions. These analyses found that perceived anger uniquely influenced perceptions of higher moral awareness, whereas perceived fear (controlling for anger) uniquely shaped lower perceptions of power.

256 Bystander anonymity, group size and behavioural intentions: a conceptual replication of You and Lee (2019)

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

A recent review (Levine et al., 2020) of real-world bystander behavior in violent and aggressive emergencies indicates that the likelihood of victims receiving help from bystanders does not decrease when the number of

bystanders increases, which is contrary to popular belief. Moreover, previous research examining the “bystander effect” in the context of cyberbullying has yielded mixed findings (e.g., Obermaier et al., 2016). The current experiment is a preregistered conceptual replication of You and Lee (2019), who also explored cyber-bystander anonymity: In a 2 (anonymity) × 3 (bystander number) between-subject online experiment, $N = 130$ participants read vignettes about witnessing a fictitious Instagram incident where a close friend was cyberbullied. Depending on conditions, anonymity of the cyber-bystander (= participant; anonymous vs. non-anonymous) and number of cyber-bystanders (8 vs. 170 vs. 1900) varied. As dependent variable, participants indicated their behavioural intentions of active and passive bystanding; additionally, they filled-in an empathy questionnaire. ANOVAs showed no significant main effects of cyber-bystander numbers on either active or passive bystanding (H1). Rather, as in You and Lee (2019), results seem to indicate a non-linear relationship between the number of cyber-bystanders and behavioural intention. Furthermore, ANOVAs showed that non-anonymous cyber-bystanders indicated significantly higher intentions of passive observation than anonymous ones (H2) and that high affective – but not cognitive – empathy together with 1900 cyber-bystanders significantly predicted higher intentions of passive observation in a multiple linear regression (H3). Thus, our results confirm that other variables than the number of cyber-bystanders seem more important to cyber-bystanding.

Poster Section D

10:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

77 Understanding the Role of Self-Awareness and Metacognitive Knowledge in Navigating Daily Self-Control Challenges

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Effective self-control is crucial for aligning actions with long-term goals, particularly when individuals face self-control conflicts arising from unwanted desires (e.g., for media use, spending). This research investigates whether self-awareness – defined as the tendency to pay attention to one’s own thoughts, feelings, and actions – and metacognitive knowledge – specifically knowledge of one’s own self-control strengths and weaknesses – enhance daily self-control.

We analyze data from 200 participants who completed both a baseline and a 7-day Experience Sampling Method (ESM) protocol. Participants responded to five daily prompts about unwanted desires across various life domains. Using multilevel modeling, we investigate the extent to which individual differences in self-awareness and self-reported metacognitive knowledge predict success in resolving daily self-control conflicts. As additional indicators of metacognitive knowledge, we examine the overlap between participants’ baseline self-concepts of their self-control capacity and their state self-control in daily life, as well as the degree of differentiation (within-person standard deviation) in their self-reported self-control strengths and weaknesses. We hypothesize that individuals with higher self-awareness and better or more differentiated metacognitive knowledge of their self-control will demonstrate more effective self-control across life domains.

This study contributes to self-control research by investigating the associations between self-awareness, metacognitive knowledge, and self-control behavior in daily life. Our findings aim to elucidate mechanisms underlying successful self-control and guide the development of interventions to enhance self-control capacity.

329 Justifications in self-control conflicts

Pooja Kulkarni¹, Johannes Koopmann², Marie Hennecke²

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Everyday self-control failures can often lead to adverse long term effects on health and well-being. It's important to study the cognitive and motivational processes that underlie such failures so that better interventions can be developed to improve health outcomes. The present study investigated the justifications used during a self-control conflict. It was hypothesized that when experiencing cravings participants will use various forms of justifications that make indulgence more acceptable. Participants were randomly assigned to two conditions, a craving and a control condition. A variety of justifications were measured using a questionnaire. Additionally, participants' trait self-control and motivation to eat healthy was measured. It was hypothesized that higher trait self-control and want-to motivation predict less use of justifications in both conditions. While the results did not reveal any significant differences in the use of justifications in the two conditions, it was found that trait self-control predicts use of certain justifications such that individuals with lower trait self-control scores endorsed certain justifications to a greater extent compared to individuals with higher trait self-control. Further exploratory analyses revealed that the strength of cravings predicted greater endorsement of certain justifications. Future research should explore the interplay between momentary fluctuations in cravings, trait self-control and motivation in predicting justifications and indulgence.

318 Die Psychologie des Aberglaubens: Zusammenhänge mit Selbstwirksamkeit, Gegenwartsfatalismus, Perfektionismus und Gewissenhaftigkeit

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Aberglaube ist ein vielschichtiges und komplexes Phänomen, das wissenschaftlich immer mehr in den Fokus rückt. Im Rahmen einer Studie mit einer repräsentativen Stichprobe (N = 1012) wurden Zusammenhänge zwischen verschiedenen Dimensionen des Aberglaubens (allgemeine Bewertung, positiver und negativer Aberglaube, Glaube an Astrologie) und unterschiedlichen Denk- und Handlungsmustern (Selbstwirksamkeit, Gegenwartsfatalismus, Perfektionismus, Gewissenhaftigkeit) untersucht. Die Ergebnisse zeigen einen signifikanten negativen Zusammenhang zwischen negativem Aberglauben, also dem Glauben, dass bestimmte Zeichen oder Rituale Unglück oder negative Konsequenzen mit sich bringen, und Eigenschaften, die aktives und kontrolliertes Handeln fördern können, wie Selbstwirksamkeit und Gewissenhaftigkeit. Gleichzeitig korrelieren verschiedene Dimensionen des Aberglaubens signifikant positiv mit Gegenwartsfatalismus und Perfektionismus, was auf einen Zusammenhang mit eher dysfunktionalen Mustern hindeuten könnte.

Interessanterweise korreliert Selbstwirksamkeit zudem signifikant positiv mit positivem Aberglauben, also dem Glauben, dass bestimmte abergläubische Praktiken oder Überzeugungen positive Effekte haben oder Glück bringen, was eine differenzierte Betrachtung dieser Dimension im Zusammenhang mit Aberglauben nahelegt. Somit bieten die Ergebnisse einen möglichen Erklärungsansatz für diesbezügliche widersprüchliche Ergebnisse in der bisherigen Forschung. Insgesamt liefern die Ergebnisse wertvolle Einsichten in die psychologischen Mechanismen, die Aberglauben mit unterschiedlichen Denk- und Handlungsmustern verbinden.

216 Kann Flow-Disposition das momentane motivationale Erleben über HEXACO hinaus erklären? Evidenz einer Experience Sampling Studie

Anne-Mayu Modler, Michael Barthelmäs, Dominik Stöckle, Johannes Keller

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Flow ist ein besonders intensiver Zustand intrinsischer Motivation, der durch die völlige Vertiefung, ein Gefühl von Kontrolle und Freude an der Tätigkeit gekennzeichnet ist. Die Neigung, Flow-Erfahrungen regelmäßig zu erleben – benannt als Flow-Disposition – wurde als weiterer Persönlichkeitseigenschaft neben den Faktoren des HEXACO Modells vorgeschlagen, um Varianz im momentanen Flow-Erleben aufzuklären. Obwohl Flow-Disposition in querschnittlichen Untersuchungen seit Jahren regelmäßig eingesetzt wird, ist bislang nicht überprüft worden, ob dieser Faktor inkrementell valide mit momentanem Flow-Erleben assoziiert ist.

Im Rahmen einer sechstägigen Experience Sampling Method Studie ($N = 662$ Versuchspersonen; $M_{Alter} = 35$, $SD_{Alter} = 13.4$, $Min_{Alter} = 18$, $Max_{Alter} = 79$; $n = 10805$ episodische Messungen; convenience sample aus Deutschland) wurden Persönlichkeitseigenschaften (HEXACO und Flow-Disposition) zu Beginn der Untersuchung und das momentane Flow-Erleben jeweils in den episodischen Messungen erfasst. Es zeigte sich, dass die Flow-Disposition sowohl über die Persönlichkeitseigenschaften des HEXACO Modells hinaus das momentane Flow-Erleben vorhersagen konnte, als auch die Vorhersagegüte des Modells signifikant verbesserte. Neben Flow-Disposition war Extraversion mit momentanem Flow-Erleben positiv assoziiert. Auch faktoranalytische Techniken deuteten an, dass sich Flow-Disposition von den HEXACO Faktoren abgrenzen lässt.

Vorherige Studien weisen auf einen Zusammenhang zwischen den Persönlichkeitsfaktoren des HEXACO Modells mit der Flow-Disposition hin. Die Frage, ob Flow-Disposition überhaupt inkrementell valide über die HEXACO-Faktoren mit momentanem Flow-Erleben assoziiert ist, wurde bislang nicht untersucht. Unsere Ergebnisse zeigen mittels längsschnittlichem Design, dass eine Berücksichtigung interindividueller Unterschiede hinsichtlich der Neigung Flow zu erleben (Flow-Disposition) relevant ist, wenn man Varianz im momentanen motivationalen Erleben verstehen möchte.

Poster Section E

10:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

42 Is there Longitudinal Causal Evidence for Intergroup Contact Effects? A Multi-Method Re-Analysis of 21 Studies

Maria-Therese Friehs, Sarina J. Schäfer, Oliver Christ

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Intergroup contact research relies on longitudinal data to estimate causal effects on outgroup attitudes. However, besides questions of study design, causal inference depends strongly on the chosen analytical model. One

commonly used model, the cross-lagged panel model, does not account for unobserved confounders, thereby potentially introducing bias. Recent alternative models – such as the full-forward cross-lagged panel model and random-intercept cross-lagged panel model - offer superior control for unobserved confounders. To systematically assess the robustness of the longitudinal evidence for causal contact-attitude effects depending on the extent of control for unobserved confounders, we re-analysed 31 datasets from 21 longitudinal contact studies ($N = 33,348$). Comparing results of the traditional cross-lagged panel model with the recent alternatives full-forward cross-lagged panel model and random-intercept cross-lagged panel model, we found substantial discrepancies between the results of the three models, with notably smaller contact-attitude effects in the recent models that control for unobserved confounders. We will present a comprehensive overview of these differences, which challenge the robustness of previously reported longitudinal contact-attitude effects. We will additionally discuss the theoretical and methodological requirements to design informative longitudinal contact studies to generate reliable unbiased estimates of the causal longitudinal contact-attitudes effect.

200 Does a high-level construal increase the audience-tuning effect and recall bias in the sharing-is-believing paradigm?

Sophie Katharina Doege¹, Gerald Echterhoff², Ullrich Wagner², Jochim Hansen¹

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Social connection and the experience of confident representations of the world are fundamental human needs. A key means of achieving both needs is creating a shared reality with others about targets. A high-level construal enables one to traverse initial social distance. Accordingly, it might also facilitate shared-reality creation. To test this idea, we applied the standard sharing-is-believing paradigm in a high-powered and preregistered online study. 359 participants were randomly assigned to one of the four conditions of a 2 (Construal Level: high vs. low) \times 2 (Audience's Attitude Toward the Target: positive vs. negative) between-participants design. After priming participants either with a high-level or a low-level construal, they interacted in a virtual communication setting with an audience by describing a target person based on neutral information about the target (who was ostensibly either liked or disliked by the audience). Valence of this description and of the recalled original information was measured to assess shared reality. We expected that a high- (vs. low-)level construal more strongly biases these two key indices of shared reality in the direction of the audience's attitude toward the target. Analyses indicated that construal level did neither affect the audience-tuning effect nor the recall bias. The reasons for this finding (e.g., the possibility of two simultaneous processes triggered by high-level construal—i.e., increased social distance and a common categorization of the audience and oneself) will be discussed.

195 Reducing Belief-Consistent Information Processing Through Intraindividual Conflicts

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

In polarized societal debates, such as on climate change actions, individuals tend to reject arguments inconsistent with their beliefs by devaluing them and counterarguing against them. Yet, few effective countermeasures exist. A potential strategy to reduce belief-consistent processing is to increase cognitive flexibility before receiving information, since the activation of so-called flexibility mindsets, e.g., via eliciting intraindividual conflicts, has been shown to depolarize attitudes. This study investigates whether priming a flexibility mindset via intraindividual conflicts can reduce the rejection of belief-inconsistent arguments. Participants ($N = 374$) were randomly assigned to one of two conditions (intraindividual conflict vs. control) in a between-subjects design. In the conflict condition, participants engaged in subtractive counterfactual thinking about a personal negative event. All participants then evaluated eight arguments (4 pro, 4 contra) regarding the ban of combustion engine cars, reported their thoughts after each argument, and completed attitude assessments at the beginning and end of the study. Our analyses yielded strong evidence for belief-consistent information processing: participants evaluated belief-consistent arguments more favorably than belief-inconsistent ones. This effect was, however, not influenced by the intraindividual conflict manipulation, nor did the manipulation affect the relationship between initial and posterior attitudes on the topic. At the time of abstract submission, the coding of participants' generated thoughts was still in progress, but the counterargument analysis will be finalized prior to the conference. These findings highlight the robustness of belief-consistent processing and the need for further research that explores the potential of interventions fostering open-mindedness.

293 Respectful Disagreement in Personalized Information Environments: The Role of Intellectual Humility

Solange Vega Yanez, Cornelia Sindermann

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Personalized information environments on online platforms have been proposed to contribute to political polarization. Previous research has, indeed, linked the personalization of content to outcomes detrimental to political discourse and constructive dialogue, such as difficulty seeing things from the perspective of the opposing group's view. This pre-registered study, therefore, investigates how the degree of personalization in political information affects attributions for why others hold opposing views, measured as Respectful Attributions for Disagreement (RAD). Additionally, we assess the relations of intellectual humility with RAD, and whether intellectual humility attenuates the negative impact of personalization on RAD. Based on previous research, we hypothesize that higher personalization reduces RAD, while intellectual

humility is positively associated with RAD and attenuates the negative effects of personalization on RAD.

This study focuses on attitudes towards the Unconditional basic Income (UBI) given its current political relevance. In an online experiment ($N = 331$), participants were exposed to 30 statements that were either congruent or incongruent with their pre-existing UBI attitudes. They were randomly assigned to one of 31 personalization levels (ranging from 100% attitude-incongruent to 100% attitude-congruent statements). Post-manipulation, RAD and intellectual humility were measured. We will analyze the effects of personalization, intellectual humility, and their interaction on RAD using (generalized) linear models. Data analysis is ongoing, with final results expected by the end of February 2025.

This research contributes to the understanding of how personalization of information may shape political discourse and highlights intellectual humility as a potential buffer against polarization.

228 How equal and unequal groups use endogenous rule changing to manage common resources

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

While collective choice mechanisms can foster sustainable resource management when exogenously enforced, we study the possibility to *endogenously* change maximum extraction levels (MEL) in a common resource dilemma. In two pre-registered studies (Study 1: $N=460$; Study 2: $N=580$), we examine how the possibility to collectively change rules while requiring individual initiative affects sustainable resource management in equal and unequal groups. Moreover, we explore *when* the actors involved will take action, *who* will be the first to act, and *what* they will suggest and agree on. Participants played a common resource game for ten rounds in groups of four and were randomly assigned to an Equal group (MEL = 25% for all players) or to an Unequal group to play as High-extraction (MEL = 33%) or Low-extraction (MEL = 17%) players. Groups were allocated to a Voting condition in which they could suggest new MELs and vote on them after each round or to a No voting condition without this possibility. Results show no effect of the voting possibility on sustainable resource management. Unequal (vs. Equal) groups used the voting possibility more with Low-extraction (vs. High-extraction) players taking action more likely and earlier across studies. Addressing inequality seemed to foster motivation to act and many suggestions entailed equal extraction rates for all group members. However, effects on actual resource management and profits were limited, thus questioning whether endogenous rule changing is sufficient to manage common resources.

Poster Section F

10:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

169 Clothing-Based Communication of Stereotypes: Consequences for the Willingness to Engage in Climate Action

Jana Baldes¹, Sven Kachel^{1,2}, Sofie Menke², Laura Loy²

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Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Person perception research has investigated various cues underlying social inferences but target clothing has yet to receive scientific attention. Across three preregistered studies, we show how group stereotypes (the group of climate activists as an example) manifest in clothing by examining attire as a self-stereotypization and a person perception marker. All studies employed within-participants designs. In Study 1 ($N = 40$), participants were photographed in self-selected prototypical and non-prototypical climate activist outfits. Conducting a visual content analysis, we captured vestimentary expressions of stereotypes towards climate activists. In Study 2 ($N = 62$), participants rated images from Study 1 for prototypicality, warmth, and competence: Prototypically (vs. non-prototypically) dressed targets were rated as more prototypical for climate activists, warmer but less competent; women were perceived as more prototypical than men. In Study 3 ($N = 123$), we tested outcomes of group stereotypes expressed via clothing: Participants identified more strongly with non-prototypically (vs. prototypically) dressed women; the opposite was found for men. We observed a higher willingness to engage in climate action with female than male targets, most pronounced when dressed non-prototypically. Currently, we are conducting another study to test the robustness of these effects using a more heterogeneous, gender-balanced sample (aiming for $N = 270$). Findings so far uncover the value of attire in person perception, extend the literature towards the communicative function of group stereotypes, and hold practical relevance for environmental psychology.

286 Cures That (Make You) Work: How a Treatment's Social Role Affects Health-Related Behavioral Intentions

Georg Halbeisen

OWL University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Lemgo, Germany

Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Successful treatment not only depends on adhering to taking medication and attending therapy but also on behavioral changes. In two experiments (total N = 256), we investigated the hypothesis that the perceived social role of a treatment as partner (co-producer of a health-benefits) or servant (sole provider of health benefits) could promote or prevent intentions to engage in health-related behaviors. Specifically, we used headache treatment as an everyday example and found that participants were more inclined to engage in headache-reducing behaviors when painkillers were described as partners as compared to servants. Implications of these findings for the importance of anthropomorphic social perception in the clinical application are discussed.

330 Urban stress, life satisfaction and mental health: Examining the cumulative burden of vulnerable communities

Anna Mikhof, Leonie Wieners

HS Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Submission Type

Poster

Abstract

Against the backdrop of a steady increase in urban population, cities are evolving into essential living spaces of the future. The urban environment and the specifics of urban lifestyles and behaviors can be directly and indirectly associated with different nuances of mental health and psychosocial well-being. Although urban mental health is increasingly gaining international relevance in science and practice, there is an enormous lack of research into the effects on different vulnerable groups.

In light of this, explorative studies were carried out: Data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (N > 17,000) was compared with objective environmental data. In this context, the characteristics of environmental factors (air quality, ambient noise, light pollution, green spaces, water areas) and their association with life satisfaction and affective well-being as well as the occurrence of anxiety, depression and loneliness among residents were examined.

There were significant differences between urban and rural living spaces in terms of environmental conditions, life satisfaction and psychological well-being. Specific prediction patterns of contextual, environmental factors were identified for the different mental health outcomes. Further analysis of these patterns showed that socioeconomically disadvantaged groups were disproportionately affected by multiple stressors simultaneously.

These findings highlight the significant impact of environmental factors on mental well-being of different population groups, emphasizing their importance for urban planning as

well as the need for targeted policies that address environmental inequalities in order to reduce mental health risks for the most disadvantaged. Future research potential and implications for practice are discussed.

Keynote 2: What do we talk about when we say “that is an interesting study”? (Paul Van Lange)

11:00 - 12:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 2a/2b

Paul Van Lange, Professor of Psychology, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Like many things in life, research comes in many flavors. In our roles as authors, reviewers, and editors, we evaluate things such as “magnitude of the contribution” or share a comment such as “this is an interesting study”. But what exactly makes a study interesting – or worthwhile? In this presentation, I evaluate a selection of collaborative studies that I continue to find interesting. And with a more objective look, I provide arguments for why exactly they are interesting. Clearly, studies can be interesting in a variety of ways (there are many roads to Rome), but sometimes they are *in advance* bound to be interesting and worthwhile. What are those studies that are *predictably* important? And what kind of theoretical paper is predictably important? In this presentation, I evaluate the various roads to Rome we can take, evaluating several paradigms that yield contributions that are interesting and worthwhile – to fellow scientists and (ideally) beyond.

Lunch

12:00 - 13:20 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

Symposium: Gender Dynamics: Perspectives on Discrimination, Norms, and Identity Threats

13:20 - 14:40 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 1

Contemporary gender dynamics are characterized by striking contradictions, including the simultaneous rise in societal endorsement of gender-egalitarian norms alongside the persistence of heteronormativity and inequality. This symposium examines how gender shapes interactions and social structures by integrating findings from experiments, mixed-method studies, and intercultural research on the formation of gender perceptions, gendered social evaluations, and their consequences for identity and self-regulation. Marie Isabelle Weißflog presents a survey experiment examining how information on pronouns and face gender influence gender categorization and stereotype ascription beyond the male-female binary. Adding on the role of social information in gender perceptions, Verena Heidrich investigates how the salience of another social category—age—affects gender categorization, face perception, and stereotypic attributions across five mixed-method studies. Her findings reveal that gender differences were perceptually and stereotypically amplified for the young and middle-aged adult category but diminish for children and the elderly. Fiona Kazarovytzka shifts the focus to the influence of gender norms in social evaluations, demonstrating in two experiments that norm violations in conflict situations—rejecting an offered apology—are judged more harshly when committed by men. Sarah Buhl extends this perspective to violations of gender-equality norms, showing through three experiments that such violations by the male ingroup provoke moral threats, particularly among egalitarian men. Finally, Marina C. Orifici provides an intercultural perspective, examining how perceived gender inequality and gender stereotypes shape self-regulation, social regulation, and risk-taking behavior across 26 countries. Together, this symposium offers a comprehensive understanding of gender dynamics across interpersonal, social, and cultural contexts.

8 Gender Dynamics: Perspectives on Discrimination, Norms, and Identity Threats

Chair(s)

Lea Lisa Lorenz

RPTU University Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany

Helena Wesnitzer

RPTU University Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany

32 Understanding Masculinity Threat: A Meta-Analysis

Lea L. Lorenz¹, Lorena Hüther¹, Melanie C. Steffens¹, Claudia Niedlich¹, Sven Kachel^{1,2}

¹RPTU University Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany. ²University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Masculinity threat, men's fear and insecurity regarding their masculine identity, shape their lives with far-reaching consequences. It contributes to individual challenges such as health issues and societal harms like sexual harassment and support for aggressive policies. To address these effects, we conducted a systematic review of 127 peer-reviewed experimental studies ($N = 16,887$ predominantly heterosexual men), systematizing triggers, outcomes, and moderators using thematic analysis. Then, we meta-analyzed 104 studies

where effect sizes were obtainable. Using three-level random-effects models, we found a small to medium overall masculinity threat effect. Self-induced threats, in which a man concludes on his own that his masculinity is threatened, elicited stronger responses than explicit threats, where the threat is directly communicated to him. These findings offer valuable insights for future study designs. Masculinity threats had the strongest impact on emotional reactions and perceived masculinity, resulting in heightened negative affect and a lower sense of masculinity. Notably, effects diminished after initial compensatory behaviors, highlighting the interdependency of threat reactions. These findings advance our understanding of masculinity threat's psychological mechanisms and offer practical directions for mitigating its harmful individual and societal impacts, such as enhancing men's self-esteem, and thus their resistance to threats, through self-affirmation.

41 Do I Look Like a Woman? The Psychological Impact of Physical Femininity Threats

Helena Wesnitzer¹, Melanie Steffens¹, Sven Kachel^{2,3}

¹University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany. ²University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany. ³University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

In gender threat research, femininity is often considered a stable, biologically grounded characteristic, contrasting with masculinity, which is constructed as fragile. However, the emphasis on looking feminine and pursuing beauty as central aspects of women's femininity challenges these assumptions. In the present online experiment, we investigated the impact of physical femininity threats on anxiety, self-esteem, and anger in German cisgender women ($N = 239$). We applied a 3 (femininity feedback) \times 3 (feedback method) between-groups design. Participants were told that their physical femininity was either below-average (Threat), above-average (Affirmation), or were given no femininity feedback (Control). The false feedback was provided based on one of three supposed methods: AI analysis of self-reported body assessments, AI analysis of a facial photo, or male evaluation of a facial photo. Participants were randomly assigned to one of nine conditions. Results indicated that physical femininity threats significantly increased anxiety and anger while also reducing self-esteem, depending on the specific feedback method used. These findings highlight the need for future research on women's experiences of gender threats and their consequences, such as increased self-objectification or interpersonal subordination.

94 Are We Only Telling Half the Story? Measuring Experiences with Disadvantaging and Advantaging Gender Discrimination

Leonie Ripper¹, Karl Christoph Klauer¹, Melanie C. Steffens², Marie Jakob¹

¹University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany. ²University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Gender discrimination has received sustained attention in social psychological research for decades, with numerous efforts to measure individuals' experiences with it. However, existing measures omit central aspects of the construct. Scholars have emphasized that inequity arises from both disadvantaging and advantaging mechanisms, yet the latter remains largely overlooked in current research. To bridge this gap, we developed and validated the Gender Discrimination Experiences Index (GENDEX), which measures experiences with both disadvantaging and advantaging gender discrimination among individuals perceived as female or male. In the present study ($N = 359$), we examined the associations of the GENDEX with related constructs, including the Everyday Discrimination Scale, psychological distress, and self-esteem. Support for all preregistered hypotheses demonstrated its convergent, discriminant, and criterion validity. In addition, results from a test-retest study ($N = 143$) indicated high reliability. Exploratory analyses offered preliminary insights into the associations between experiences with advantaging gender discrimination and psychological outcomes. The GENDEX enables future research on the prevalence, antecedents, and consequences of both disadvantaging and advantaging gender discrimination. Addressing both dimensions is essential to improve our understanding of the multifaceted nature of gender inequity.

140 Is Deviating from Traditional Masculine Norms Related to Young Men's Well-Being and Satisfaction with Life?

Sarah E. Martiny¹, Kine Bjørneby Olsen², Natasza Kosakowska-Berezecka³, Kjærsti Thorsteinsen⁴, Elizabeth Parks-Stamm⁵

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Despite pressure to adhere to traditional masculine norms, many young men perceive themselves as deviating from these norms. As deviating from ingroup norms can have negative consequences, we predicted that negatively deviating from masculine norms will be associated with lower well-being and satisfaction with life for young men. We conducted two cross-sectional, cross-national studies in Norway and Poland to test these hypotheses: an exploratory pilot study (Study 1) and a main study with preregistered hypotheses (Study 2). In Study 1, 245 young men (aged 16-25), 85 from Norway ($M_{\text{age}} = 20.9$ years, $SD = 2.7$) and 160 from Poland ($M_{\text{age}} = 20.8$, $SD = 2.0$), completed an online questionnaire about perceived gender norms and their own traits, self-esteem, well-being, and satisfaction with life. Study 2 consisted of teenage boys (aged 16-19) in their 1st and 2nd year of high school in Norway and Poland (211 Norwegian boys: $M_{\text{age}} = 17.1$, $SD = 0.4$; 553 Polish boys: $M_{\text{age}} = 16.4$, $SD = 0.6$). Results from both studies confirmed that the more young men negatively deviated from the perceived traditional masculine norms within their society, the lower their well-being and satisfaction with life, regardless of nationality. Exploratory analyses further showed that the relationship between norm deviation and well-being was mediated by self-esteem. These findings are discussed in terms of potential negative consequences of rigid traditional masculine norms for both individual young men as well as society.

145 Navigating Job Consequences of Sexual Harassment: The Roles of Self-Blame and Agency Over Time

Franziska Saxler¹, Sabine Sczesny¹, Barbara Krahé²

¹University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland. ²Universität Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Sexual harassment in the workplace is a pervasive issue with severe consequences for employees' well-being and career trajectories. Previous research has documented its detrimental effects, yet the underlying psychological mechanisms remain unclear. This study examines the longitudinal impact of workplace harassment on professional outcomes, focusing on the mediating roles of **self-blame and agency**.

Using a **three-wave longitudinal design**, we tracked employees over **16 months** to assess how experiences of sexual harassment influence work-related variables such as **turnover intentions, work engagement, performance motivation, and leadership motivation**. We hypothesized that harassment would decrease **self-ascribed agency** while increasing **self-blame**, ultimately leading to negative job outcomes. Cross-lagged panel models revealed that **self-blame mediates the relationship between harassment and turnover intentions**, whereas agency played a more limited role in buffering the effects, as it was related to the constructs but did not explain their relationships.

Our findings suggest that **harassment not only reduces workplace engagement but also fosters internalized blame, exacerbating career withdrawal**. Interventions should address self-blame by promoting external attribution styles and strengthening institutional support mechanisms. Furthermore, organizations must foster workplace environments that **mitigate the erosion of agency** and encourage employees to assert their professional autonomy.

This study advances research on workplace harassment by providing **longitudinal evidence of self-blame and agency as key components**. It underscores the **urgent need for policies and interventions** that protect employees from both the direct and indirect consequences of harassment, ultimately fostering safer and more inclusive work environments.

Symposium: Self-Regulation and Self-control (Part 1): Theoretical Foundations

13:20 - 14:40 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

Saal 2a

This two-part symposium delves into theoretical and empirical aspects of self-regulation and self-control. In this first part, we focus on theoretical aspects of self-regulation and self-control by addressing fundamental questions about these and related constructs. Anabel Büchner will dissect various components of self-control in daily life, offering a nuanced perspective beyond traditional willpower. Gayannée Kedia highlights the advantages of intertemporal choices as a robust method for measuring self-control, demonstrating their practical applications in social psychology. Katharina Bernecker challenges the conventional belief that pleasure is an opponent of self-control. Yael Ecker introduces a ternary framework of goal types, emphasizing the unique role of maintenance goals. Together, these talks will build the base for an extended discussion about our understanding of self-control, self-regulation, and goal pursuit.

29 Self-Regulation and self-control (Part 1): Theoretical Foundations

Chair(s)

Katja Corcoran

University of Graz, Graz, Austria

Johannes Klackl

University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria

186 ‘Pleasureful self-control’? A new perspective on old problems

Katharina Bernecker^{1,2}, Daniela Becker³, Aiste Guobyte¹, Daniel Ganama³

¹University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland. ²University of Teacher Education Berne, Berne, Switzerland. ³Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Many societal challenges, such as those related to health and sustainability, are often seen as issues of insufficient self-control. People's long-term goals, like maintaining a healthy weight or reducing their carbon footprint, are compromised because they cannot resist appealing alternatives like chocolate cake or a vacation in the sun. In this talk, we propose a different perspective: viewing these challenges as problems of 'too little pleasure.' We review empirical evidence showing that pleasure can enhance three key aspects of self-control: initiating long-term goal-oriented behavior, persisting in the pursuit of these goals, and resisting temptations. We conclude by urging the field to shift its perspective and consider incorporating pleasure into solutions for problems traditionally viewed as stemming from a lack of self-control and an excess of pleasure.

194 Exploring Conceptualizations of Self-Control in Everyday Life with Machine Learning

Anabel Büchner¹, Kai T. Horstmann², Marie Hennecke³

¹Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany. ²University of Siegen, Siegen, Germany. ³Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Self-control has typically been conceptualized in terms of willpower to resist current desires (e.g., craving a cookie) for the sake of long-term goals (e.g., maintaining a healthy weight). However, recent research pictures a more nuanced perspective on self-control, suggesting that willpower may not be the most crucial factor for daily self-control. Instead, self-control in everyday life appears to consist of different components (success, frequency and intensity of conflicts), and is required to resolve different types of self-control conflicts (inhibition, initiation, persistence). To date, this recent conceptualization of self-control is not well-understood, and it is unclear how these different aspects of self-control map onto established measures of self-control. To address this, we apply machine learning to experience sampling data ($N = 491, 9,639$ measurement occasions) and identify which items from various scales best predict different aspects of self-control in daily life. The results grant insight into similarities and differences among the aspects of self-control, and into which of these were captured by past research on self-control.

235 Measuring Self-Control in the Lab: The Case for Intertemporal Choices

Gayannée Kedia

University of Graz, Graz, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Classical measures of self-control in social psychology often face significant problems. Self-reports are prone to bias, while behavioral tasks like resisting tempting food are one-time measures that lack reproducibility and statistical power. In this talk, I will introduce a robust yet underutilized method for studying self-control in social psychology: intertemporal choices.

Intertemporal choices involve decisions between smaller, sooner rewards and larger, later ones (e.g., €10 today vs. €15 in three weeks). These tasks rely on the principle that rewards are discounted over time, and the steepness of this discounting can be calculated as a measure of self-control. Importantly, intertemporal choices show correlations with real-life behaviors, such as smoking, academic success, and socioeconomic status.

In this talk, I will begin by explaining the concept of intertemporal choices and their alignment with theoretical models of self-control. I will then highlight their key advantages: 1) they allow for multiple trials to increase statistical power, 2) their binary nature makes them compatible with drift diffusion modeling and eye-tracking, and 3) they are well-suited for integration with neuroimaging methods like fMRI.

By positioning intertemporal choices as a scalable, data-rich approach, this talk aims to demonstrate their potential as a practical solution to longstanding measurement challenges in self-control research within social psychology.

209 A Ternary Framework of Basic Goal Types: Changing, Protecting, and Maintaining What We Have

Yael Ecker¹, Agnes Moors²

¹Cologne University, Cologne, Germany. ²KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Maintenance goals are of ultimate importance. On the individual level, they are essential to mental and physical well-being, while on the societal level, they are vital for pro-social and pro-environmental behavior. Nevertheless, to date, there is no integrative framework for understanding peoples' efforts to maintain what they have. To shed light on this crucial psychological construct, we dive into predominant theory on approach-avoidance goals and return with a ternary model of goal types that distinguishes maintenance goals from both approach and avoidance goals based on underlying mechanistic differences. We discuss the interplay of these goals in the dynamics of daily life and make a case against an alternative account wherein maintenance is sorted as a subtype of avoidance goals. Finally, we discuss existing findings and future research directions, including ways to empirically test our propositions about the unique antecedents of maintenance, the implications of maintenance for well-being, and practical implications for behavioral interventions.

Symposium: The Social Psychology of Norm Violations and Victimization I (Coupled Symposia)

13:20 - 14:40 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 2b

Norm violations challenge the rules that maintain social order and regulate behavior, making them a central topic in social psychology. Across two symposia, we explore key aspects of how norm violations are perceived and responded to from the perspectives of third parties, victims, and offenders.

The first symposium consists of four presentations that examine how aspects of the situation and the people involved shape third-party and victim responses to norm violations.

The first presentation examines how acute stress influences third-party evaluations of norm violations. Specifically, it investigates whether stress amplifies perceptions of inappropriateness and highlights perceived threat as a key psychological mechanism underlying moral judgment in high-stakes contexts.

The second presentation explores how attributes of potential victims shape third-party perceptions of vulnerability and, ultimately, their tendency to blame the victim. In particular, it investigates whether minimal cues of gender non-conformity affect perceptions of vulnerability and victimization.

Shifting the focus to victims, the third presentation examines identity denial as a specific form of norm violation experienced by German Muslims. It investigates whether attributing such denial to prejudice against Muslims affects victims' willingness to confront it.

Building on this focus, the fourth presentation investigates how ethnic minority adolescents confront everyday discrimination. Using a diary study, it examines how different confrontation strategies and ethnic identification affect victims' well-being.

26 The Social Psychology of Norm Violations and Victimization I (Coupled Symposia)

Chair(s)

Slieman Halabi

University of Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany

Mathias Twardawski

LMU München, München, Germany

179 Confronting Daily Discrimination in Adolescence: The Role of Ethnic Identification and Well-Being

Ece Aleyna Demirgünes, Slieman Halabi, Hannah Matz, Aleksandra Kaurin, Anna Baumert

University of Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

This study investigates how confronting discriminatory acts, conceptualized as violations of societal norms of equality and inclusion, can mitigate the psychological impact of discrimination during adolescence. Specifically, it examines the relationship between confrontation, as opposed to avoidance, and outcomes such as self-esteem, empowerment, and subjective well-being among ethnic minority youth in Germany. Discrimination reflects deeply ingrained societal norms that marginalize certain groups, reinforcing exclusion and perpetuating power imbalances. For ethnic minority youth, these norm violations manifest in everyday acts of bias that undermine their well-being. While the harmful effects of discrimination are well-documented, the role of victim-initiated responses, particularly confrontation, remains underexplored. This study positions confrontation as a strategy to challenge discriminatory norms, fostering resilience and empowerment. Using an intensive longitudinal design, 300 ethnic minority youth (aged 14–21) in Germany are currently participating in a 28-day diary study, with data collection set to conclude in February, documenting daily experiences of discrimination, emotional and behavioral responses, and confrontational strategies. A multilevel analysis explores whether confrontation improves same-day well-being and self-esteem and examines how ethnic identification influences confrontation tendencies. Additionally, it analyzes variations in confrontational strategies—direct versus indirect, subtle versus explicit—and their differential impacts on psychological outcomes. By framing discriminatory acts as norm violations, this research highlights the active role of victims in challenging exclusionary norms. Findings will inform policies and practices that foster societal inclusion and support the well-being of ethnically minoritized youth.

193 Stress and the perception of social norm violations

Emma Halfmann^{1,2}, Jan A. Häusser¹

¹Social Psychology, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany. ²Political and Intercultural Psychology, Paris Lodron University, Salzburg, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

We assume that social norms serve as resource-saving heuristics guiding adequate behavior in social contexts. We argue that this function becomes particularly salient under conditions of psychological threat and hypothesize that acute stress leads to harsher evaluations (higher perceived inappropriateness) of norm violations. Moreover, we expect this effect to be more pronounced when personal threat is high compared to when it is low. In a preregistered quasi-experimental study (planned $N = 300$) we investigate the perceived inappropriateness of norm violations by students either immediately before an exam (acute stress) or during a regular lecture (no stress). As a within factor, personal threat (high vs. low) varies between the presented norm

violations. Additionally, we explore the potential mediators perceived threat and intuitive information processing (via reaction times). Findings will be presented and discussed at the conference.

225 Confronting identity denial among Muslims in Germany: the role of attributing denial to prejudice.

Slیمان Halabi¹, Ayanyan Arin², Gratzel Johanna Claudia³, Zick Andreas⁴, Reicher Stephen⁵

¹University of Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany. ²Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia. ³The New Institute, Hamburg, Germany. ⁴Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence, Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany. ⁵School of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, United Kingdom

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Identity denial, a form of norm violation in which group members are denied group membership by other members of the group, is a ubiquitous experience among minority groups. Denial is often manifested in subtle behavior in which ambiguity about the motivation of the denier can hinder confrontation by victims. Attributing denial to prejudice against the group offers clarity that guides the person to confront. In three experiments, we tested this hypothesis. In a bogus online chat, German Muslim participants were denied their German identity by a target who was presented as representative of a quality-check company that was ostensibly hired by the researchers. The identity denial manipulation was crossed with manipulating the prejudice-related cues that can inform targets about the motivation of the target: nationalist cues (Study 1, N = 356), group membership of the target (Study 2, N = 496) and whether or not the target represented an authority figure (Study 3, N = 400). Across all studies, participants in the denial condition reported higher negative affect and attribution of prejudice to the target than participants in the control condition. There was no significant interaction between denial and the manipulation of prejudice-related cues on the dependent variables. In line predictions, the attribution of prejudice to the target predicted a higher likelihood of confronting the target and this attribution also mediated the link between denial and negative affect. The present findings underscore the dual role of attribution in precipitating both negative affect and confrontations.

305 Vulnerable and – therefore – blameworthy: Perceived vulnerability from minimal cues of gender conformity and sexual orientation

Philipp Agostini¹, Morgana Lizzio-Wilson², Mario Gollwitzer¹, Fabio Fasoli³

¹Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Department of Psychology, München, Germany. ²University of Exeter, Department of Psychology, Exeter, United Kingdom. ³University of Surrey, School of Psychology, Guildford, United Kingdom

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

The way we react to victimizing situations largely depends on how we perceive the situation, and the people involved. The extent to which a (potential) victim is perceived as vulnerable may influence the susceptibility to victimization and victim blaming. What makes someone seem vulnerable to others? Research indicates that verbal and non-verbal cues (i.e., gait, gestures, voice pitch) are not only seen as indicators of dominance and power, but also as signals of vulnerability and susceptibility to victimization, with gender non-conforming cues in men particularly triggering perceptions of vulnerability and being susceptible to victimization. We hypothesized that gender non-conforming (vs. conforming) verbal and non-verbal cues trigger perceptions of vulnerability and victimization susceptibility in men.

In two pre-registered studies, we investigated how gender conformity signalled through voice and body language (N = 104) and voice alone (N = 144), influences perceptions of vulnerability and victimization susceptibility. As hypothesized, gender non-conforming cues triggered perceptions of vulnerability and susceptibility to victimization .

In ongoing studies, we examine how explicit information about a man's sexual orientation interacts with minimal cues of gender conformity to influence perceived vulnerability and victimization susceptibility. Consequently, this may affect individuals' victim blaming and helping intentions.

We will discuss our results in light of the perceptions of vulnerability and victimization susceptibility as a consequence of a person's characteristics and identity by disentangling effects of men's gender conformity and sexual orientation.

Symposium: Being Left Out: Psychological and Social Processes of Ostracism

13:20 - 14:40 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 3

Ostracism, the experience of being excluded and ignored, profoundly impacts mental health, emotions, and social behavior. This symposium presents five perspectives on its psychological mechanisms and consequences, spanning individual, group, and societal levels. Elianne Albath examines the reciprocal link between ostracism and mental health in young adults from South Africa, Namibia, and Kenya. Her findings reveal that exclusion both results from and predicts psychopathological symptoms such as anxiety and depression, highlighting the long-term psychological burden of social exclusion. Expanding on this, Larissa Damp investigates how attributions of ostracism shape emotional and behavioral responses. Her studies show that when individuals attribute exclusion to a specific reason, they experience more guilt. In contrast, unjustified exclusion leads to sadness, and the more individuals feel excluded, the more anger and punitive behaviors they display. Moving from emotional responses to group-level decision-making, Selma Rudert examines how behavioral expectations influence ostracism decisions. She finds that people are more likely to exclude those who repeatedly violate norms but are more lenient when targets show potential for change. Extending this to broader societal consequences, Michaela Pfundmair demonstrates that exclusion fosters group threat, loss of control, and increased susceptibility to extremist ideologies. Finally, Sarah Lutz

explores digital exclusion, showing that being “out of the loop” due to deleted messages in group chats threatens fundamental social needs similarly to direct ostracism. Together, these contributions provide a comprehensive understanding of ostracism’s impact across different contexts, highlighting its far-reaching psychological and behavioral consequences.

25 Being Left Out: Psychological and Social Processes of Ostracism

Chair(s)

Larissa Damp

RPTU University Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany

158 Was It Me? How Attributions Shape Emotional and Behavioral Reactions to Ostracism

Larissa Damp, Selma Rudert

RPTU University Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Ostracism, the experience of being excluded and ignored, is widely perceived as highly negative (Williams, 2009). While much research examines ostracism when the reasons for exclusion are unknown, less is understood about how different attributions for exclusion influence emotional and behavioral responses. Building on findings that social norm violations and perceived expendability often lead to ostracism (Rudert et al., 2023), we investigated whether knowing the reason for exclusion mitigates its negative effects.

Across three online experiments (N = 551), participants engaged in group activities before experiencing exclusion. In Study 1, ostracism due to norm violations increased guilt and shame, whereas norm adherence elicited anger and sadness. In Study 2, norm violations heightened guilt but did not influence other emotions. In Study 3, exclusion based on perceived expendability increased guilt but had no significant effects on other outcomes. Notably, participants who performed equally to their group reported greater feelings of exclusion than those who performed worse. Perceived exclusion correlated with heightened sadness, shame, anger, and punitive behaviors. Mediation analyses confirmed the hypothesized role of exclusion in shaping emotional responses.

These findings highlight the pivotal role of attribution in shaping emotions, particularly guilt, following ostracism. However, the lack of consistent effects on behavior suggests a more complex link between attribution and punitive actions. This research emphasizes the importance of understanding how perceived reasons for exclusion shape the emotional and psychological consequences of ostracism.

160 “This message was deleted”: Psychological consequences of being out of the loop during messenger use

Sarah Lutz¹, Christiane Büttner²

¹Chemnitz University of Technology, Chemnitz, Germany. ²University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Many messenger services, such as WhatsApp or Snapchat, allow users to delete messages after sending, leaving so-called delete notifications in the chat. Especially in group chats, users who have not read the message before its deletion cannot participate in the ongoing conversation and might feel out of the loop. Initially introduced in offline contexts, out-of-the-loop experiences describe situations where an individual is unaware of information that is mutually known by others. Drawing on the Temporal Need Threat Model, this study investigates the psychological consequences of this experience in a mediated context. In a pre-registered vignette experiment, 210 participants ($M_{\text{age}} = 37.46$, 51% female) were exposed to screen videos of a group chat displaying a situation of receiving either (1) delete notifications (i.e., out of the loop), (2) no responses at all (i.e., ostracism), or (3) messages (i.e., inclusion). Afterward, they reported their mood and threats to fundamental needs for belonging, self-esteem, meaningful existence, and control. Results revealed that, compared to being included, out-of-the-loop and ostracism experiences impaired users' mood and threatened their fundamental needs. Both exclusion episodes did not significantly differ in their detrimental effects, which were not moderated by users' fear of missing out. These findings challenge the notion, initially established in offline contexts, that out-of-the-loop experiences are less harmful than ostracism. Although the delete feature offers benefits for senders (e.g., withdrawing incorrect messages), its adverse psychological impact on those receiving these notifications should not be underestimated, emphasizing the importance of exploring effective coping strategies in future research.

166 Ostracism and Mental Health in Young Adults: Longitudinal Insights from South Africa, Namibia, and Kenya

Elianne Albath¹, Rainer Greifeneder¹, Amber Thalmayer²

¹University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland. ²University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Ostracism—being excluded or ignored by others—has profound implications for mental health. Research shows that ostracism predicts depression and anxiety, while these psychopathological symptoms reciprocally increase the likelihood of experiencing ostracism. However, most studies to date have focused on samples from predominantly Western cultures. The present study extends this work by investigating these temporal associations using data from the Africa Long Life Study, which follows young adults from South Africa, Namibia, and Kenya over multiple time points. Ostracism experiences were measured in Waves 2 and 4, while mental health problems—including

symptoms of depression, anxiety, and life stress—were assessed in Waves 1, 3, and 5 ($N = 3,970$). Using mixed-effects models, we examined whether ostracism predicts mental health symptoms over time and vice versa. Preliminary findings corroborate prior research, revealing that mental health symptoms significantly predict more frequent experiences of ostracism ($b = 0.347$, $p < .001$) and, conversely, that more frequent ostracism experiences significantly precede higher levels of mental health symptoms ($b = 0.168$, $p < .001$). These associations remain consistent across specific facets, including depression and anxiety, while accounting for participants (random effects), country (fixed effects), and wave (fixed effects). These findings underscore the need to address ostracism both as a consequence and as a driver of mental health, particularly in vulnerable populations. By highlighting these reciprocal dynamics, the study offers valuable insights for interventions aimed at reducing psychopathological symptoms and fostering psychological well-being among young adults in diverse cultural contexts.

189 Beyond redemption? How behavioral expectations affect ostracism decisions

Selma Rudert, Larissa Damp, Christoph Kenntemich

RPTU University Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Ostracism decisions within groups are often driven by perceived norm violations, such as rude or inappropriate behavior by a group member (Rudert et al., 2023). However, as groups often interact over a longer time span, group members may take into account that a norm-violating target's behavior may change in the future. We hypothesized that participants who believed a norm-violating target might improve their behavior would be less likely to ostracize them or more likely to reinclude them later. Across four studies (total $N = 1,482$), we examined how ostracism decisions were influenced by whether norm violations were recurring or isolated (Study 1), rooted in the target's personality (Studies 2a and 2b), or intentional versus accidental (Study 3). Participants, acting as group leaders, received varying information about group members and decided whether to ostracize one of the group members from a subsequent task. Results showed that after recurring and intentional norm violations, participants ostracized more often, were more motivated to correct the target and protect the group and were less prone to reinclude the target in the future. Whether norm violations were tied to personality (Studies 2a and 2b) did not moderate the effect of norm violations on ostracism decisions. Instead, norm violations and personality separately predicted ostracism decisions, with norm violations being the stronger determinant. Implications and future directions will be discussed.

Session: Social Information Processing

13:20 - 14:40 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 4

328 Implementation of an online imitation inhibition task

Mareike Westfal^{1,2}, Emiel Cracco³, Jan Crusius⁴, Oliver Genschow²

¹University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany. ²Leuphana University Lüneburg, Lüneburg, Germany. ³Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium. ⁴University of Greifswald, Greifswald, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Imitation is an important social construct. People imitate a wide range of different behaviors, including language, gestures and simple movements. One of the most commonly used measurement methods in this context is the imitation-inhibition task (Brass et al., 2000). Like all other measurements of imitation, this task has only been carried out in the laboratory so far; a time-consuming and costly procedure. To solve this issue, we validated a JavaScript-based imitation-inhibition task within three studies. In Study 1, ($N = 87$), we tested the functionality of the online task. In Study 2 ($N = 180$), we compared the effects and reliability of the online task with those of a laboratory study. In study 3 ($N = 106$), we controlled for spatial compatibility to show that imitative compatibility is not confounded with spatial compatibility in the task. In all studies, reaction times and error rates were recorded as dependent variables. Across all studies, we replicated the typical imitation-inhibition effects: congruency effect (individuals responded faster and with fewer errors to congruent than to incongruent trials), facilitation effect (individuals responded faster in congruent than neutral trials) and interference effect (individuals responded faster in neutral than incongruent trials). Compared to the laboratory sample the effects produced with the online measure were similar in size and reliability. In addition, we could show that imitative compatibility is independent of spatial compatibility in the online task as well. Thus, the online imitation-inhibition task provides a well-functioning alternative to its laboratory version.

197 To the left, to the right: Spatial orientation and the evaluation of social groups

Tina Glaser¹, Alina Welz¹, Jens Hellmann²

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

As a homonym, the term "right" can have different meanings: For example, individuals might refer to a spatial or a political orientation or to something that is correct. Based on previously published research (Glaser et al., 2023), demonstrating that politically right statements are evaluated more positively when presented on the right (vs. left) hand side of the screen, we investigated whether a rightward versus leftward spatial orientation influences evaluations of different social groups. This should be the case when membership in a social group is associated with a politically right or left position. In a pilot test ($N = 54$), we identified six social groups that are either strongly associated with the political left (e.g., LGBTQ+) or the political right (e.g., members of a gun club). In the pre-registered main study, we presented 208 German participants with photographs of 24 males belonging to these social groups. Presentation was either on the right or left side of the screen, resulting in a 2 (spatial position: right vs. left; between-subjects) \times 2 (political association: right vs. left; within-subjects) mixed-design. Participants evaluated each person with regard to their likeability. Results revealed an interaction between spatial position and political association. Group members associated with the political left were liked more when presented on the left (vs. right) side of the screen, while group members associated with the political right were liked more when presented on the right (vs. left) side of the screen. Handedness and political orientation did not moderate the effect.

23 Pitting Base-Rate Driven Heuristics against Conditional Reasoning in Multivariate Contingency Assessment

Klaus Fiedler¹, Florian Kutzner²

¹Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany. ²Universität Seeburg, Seeburg, Austria

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Contingency assessment is a major module of adaptive cognition and a prominent topic of ecological rationality. Virtually all influential theories assume that contingency estimates between Y and X are inferred from subjective conditional probabilities of focal Y levels given different X levels, $p(Y_{\text{focal}} | X_{\text{different levels}})$. Yet, conditional probabilities are cognitively demanding, as Y_{focal} must be assessed separately for all levels of $X_{\text{different level}}$. Pseudocontingencies (PCs) afford an alternative mechanism relying on base-rates. In a PC, the more frequent level on one attribute appears contingent on the more frequent level on another attribute. When PCs are manipulated orthogonally to conditional probabilities, the former dominate the latter (Fiedler, 2010). PC dominance is shown in Experiment 1 and 2 to be particularly striking when a multivariate task setting calls for the assessment of all $k \times (k-1)/2$ pairwise contingencies between k attributes. Experiment 2 shows that contingency judgments are dissociated from evaluative conditioning. At the normative level, closer examination shows that the PC algorithm offers an appropriate a normative measure of the "true contingency"

126 Audience attitude effects on communicators' memory: The role of the communicator's own initial judgment

Ullrich Wagner, Gerald Echterhoff

Department of Psychology, University of Münster, Münster, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

In the „saying-is-believing“ (SIB) effect (Higgins & Rholes, 1978; Echterhoff et al., 2005), episodic memory retrieval of a communicator is biased in the service of shared reality creation with his/her audience. Specifically, memory of behaviors of a target person is evaluatively biased in the direction of a communication partner (audience) who allegedly likes or dislikes the target person. The extent of this memory bias (audience attitude effect = SIB effect) depends on the degree of the communicator's epistemic trust in and perceived shared reality with the audience and is cognitively grounded in enhanced accessibility of audience-congruent target information (Wagner et al., 2024). Here, we present data from a series of new experiments investigating in how far the effect depends on the communicator's own initial judgment about the target person (OJ). Across studies, results indicate that the SIB effect does not essentially depend on OJ. Overall, recall valence was predominantly determined by OJ, but it was still additionally adjusted, depending on whether the audience's attitude was positive or negative. The extent of this adjustment (SIB effect) was comparable when the communicator's initial judgment was positive, negative, or neutral. Parallel results were obtained for accessibility measures (Wagner et al., 2024). In several studies, we additionally examined the role of participants' confidence in OJ. Communicators' self-reported confidence was overall remarkably high and difficult to be modified by experimental manipulations. However, audience attitude effects were attenuated with a manipulation encouraging participants in their own view by openly suggesting a norm of high confidence.

134 Beyond Mere Novelty: Differentiation as a Category Learning Mechanism

Patrick Rothermund, Roland Deutsch

University of Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Stereotypes of social groups are shaped by *differentiation*, i.e., the tendency to prioritize attributes that render a novel group distinct from comparison groups during learning. While differentiation is well documented, it remains unclear whether it arises from a top-down goal to represent novel groups as distinct, or whether it is a byproduct of a general processing advantage of novel stimuli. We present two preregistered experiments to disentangle these explanations. In both experiments, participants learned a set of social traits that were either assigned to a single group or distributed across two comparison groups. Crucially, novel traits presented in the second half of the stimulus set marked intergroup distinctiveness only in the two-groups condition while being equally novel in the single-group condition. In line with a top-down account of differentiation, recall for novel traits was enhanced in the two-groups condition compared to the single-group condition (Exp. 1). Moreover, novel traits were judged as more typical for their group than initially learned traits, but only in the two-groups condition (Exp. 2). These findings suggest differentiation is not a fixed response to novelty, but a goal-driven process specific to category learning.

Session: Sustainability II

13:20 - 14:40 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Seminarraum 2 Oben (Karthago)

210 Reducing errors in behavioral sustainability data: a total error framework for experimental field trials

Celina Kacperski^{1,2}, Mona Bielig^{1,2}, Melanie Vogel¹, Florian Kutzner¹

¹Seeburg Castle University, Seekirchen am Wallersee, Austria. ²Konstanz University, Konstanz, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Experimental field trials are a powerful means to advance behavioral research. This is especially urgent in the sustainability context, where causal conclusions are needed about the effects of real-world interventions on individual and collective responses such as energy or water consumption. Behavioral measurements can complement traditional survey-based approaches - however, unique challenges and sources of scientific error are posed by both collection procedures and the multidimensional nature of the data.

Drawing on insights from >10 experimental field trials conducted across three Horizon 2020 projects, we adapt the original Total Survey Error (TSE) framework developed for survey methodology to provide a comprehensive approach to systematically identify, categorize, and mitigate sources of error in (quasi-)experimental field trials. We illustrate how researchers can proactively design studies that balance internal and external validity while maintaining practical feasibility, examining each stage of the research process—from design and data collection to processing and interpretation. Our framework highlights key sources of scientific error in four main areas: measurement, sampling, experimental implementation, and data engagement. We underscore the importance of providing a standardized terminology, and suggest tailored strategies to address the defined errors based on experience from our previously conducted field trials. This roadmap for conducting high-quality experimental field trials will allow for more robust and actionable behavioral insight interventions.

338 „Here“ vs. „there“: Communicating geographically different consequences of the climate crisis to foster mitigation behavior

Lisbeth Weitensfelder¹, Regina Jucks²

¹Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria. ²University of Münster, Münster, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Feeling connected with humanity is associated with higher pro-environmental behavior (PEB; e.g. Duong and Pensini, 2023; Loy et al., 2022), while feeling connected with the own nation is connected with lower PEB (Duong and Pensini, 2023). Based on this, the question arises whether emphasizing different feelings of connectedness could be used for pro-environmental interventions. We investigated whether highlighting climate change consequences for humans globally vs. for the own nation might lead to a different acceptance of climate mitigation measures.

In an online experimental design, we confronted $n = 372$ participants (18-73 years, 64.2% male) with texts about the climate threat that either highlighted climate change consequences for German-speaking areas in Europe ($n = 182$ participants) or consequences on a global level ($n = 190$ participants).

Afterwards, we asked participants to rate their reactant feelings towards the text, their willingness for own mitigation behavior and their willingness to accept political measures. Additionally we gave them the opportunity to receive a bonus payment for their participation or to donate the bonus for environmental purposes.

Even though overall connections between several aspects of pro-environmentalism, connection with nature and connection with humans can be confirmed (mostly small to medium-sized correlations), highlighting different consequences showed no significant effect on reactance, own mitigation willingness or acceptance of political measures (median tests, generalized linear models). Also donation for environmental purposes was not significantly affected by the presentation of global vs. local consequences (binary logistic regression and Chi-square test). The implication of our results will be discussed.

61 The Role of Cognitive Conflict in Behavioral Transitions: The Case of Meat Consumption

Benjamin Buttlar

Universität Trier, Trier, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

In this talk, I shed light on cognitive conflict as a central psychological mechanism underlying behavior change, using meat consumption as a prime example. At the macro level, I will analyze how felt ambivalence—the feeling of being torn between the positive and negative sides of an issue—drives behavior change. Therefore, I will scrutinize how felt ambivalence is associated with dietary transitions from omnivorism to vegetarianism (and vice versa). At the micro level, I will then focus on individual decision making situations and discuss how people deal with felt ambivalence as pre-decisional conflict and cognitive dissonance as post-decisional conflict. Specifically, I outline that felt ambivalence arises from an inconsistency within an attitude before decisions, and dissonance arises from an inconsistency between one part of that attitude and a commitment after decisions. Therefore, both types of conflict affect each other in and across decision making situations. To illustrate this, I examine how and when people experience and resolve

felt ambivalence when deciding whether or not to eat meat and how and when they experience and resolve cognitive dissonance after committing in one way or another. I conclude that cognitive conflict helps to understand behavioral transitions on the macro level and that individual decisions on the micro level explain these behavioral transitions. Recognizing and addressing cognitive conflict is, therefore, essential for promoting sustainable behavior change.

80 Vindicating Reason's Relevance for Behavior: A Revisit of the Attitude-Behavior Gap

Florian G. Kaiser, Marie Brüggemann

Otto-von-Guericke-Universität, Magdeburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Explaining behavior—bike use—involves the presence of a reason—protecting the environment—with bike use (i.e., action). Simultaneously, proper explanation also requires the absence of the reason with not using the bike, with car use, for example (i.e., inaction). This thinking resonates in the statistic that behavioral scientists typically apply when assessing reasons' behavior relevance. However, low proportions of explained variance of behavior do not inevitably challenge the behavior relevance of reasons as the notorious attitude-behavior gap insinuates. The problem arises because different people have—not only quantitatively but qualitatively—different reasons why they engage in any specific behavior and even more reasons to not engage in it. With reanalyses of two prior studies, we corroborate people's environmental-protection reasons' *sensitivity for actions* and its *specificity for inactions*. Additionally, we confirm that both effects become rather convincing when *person-specific* rather than *behavior-specific* benchmarks for the presence and absence of a reason are employed.

91 Sacrificing for the Environment: The Role of Nonzero-Sum Beliefs

Lorenz Burgstaller, Arnd Florack

University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

In the face of anthropogenic climate change, it is important to understand what factors influence people's willingness to sacrifice personal convenience in order to contribute to climate change mitigation. Since the decision to make sacrifices is made in a social context, we argue in our research that social beliefs about how individuals find solutions for conflicts (e.g., nonzero-sum beliefs), how the social system is constituted (e.g., social dominance orientation, belief in a just world), and whether they can trust others (e.g., social trust) influence the willingness to sacrifice for the environment. We derived our hypotheses from the ego- / ecosystem theory and focused particularly on nonzero-sum beliefs as a central belief routed in an ecosystem perspective. We tested our hypotheses in a cross-sectional (Study 1) and a longitudinal study (Study 2). In Study 1 ($N = 257$), we found that nonzero-sum beliefs predicted the willingness to sacrifice for the environment beyond social trust, belief in a just world, and social dominance orientation. In Study 2 ($N = 345$), we found that nonzero-sum beliefs predicted willingness to sacrifice for the environment over six weeks and that positive outcome expectancies partially mediated this relationship. In a cross-lagged panel model, nonzero-sum beliefs ($t1$) significantly predicted an increase in willingness to sacrifice for the environment ($t2$), while willingness to sacrifice ($t1$) did not predict a change in nonzero-sum beliefs ($t2$). Our results indicate that aspects of the ecosystem, particularly beliefs about conflictual social interactions, are pivotal in predicting willingness to sacrifice for the environment.

Session: Justice and Fairness

13:20 - 14:40 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Seminarraum 4 Oben (Krakau)

246 Why Should I? How Sensitivity to Injustice Affects Pro-Environmental Engagement

Lucas Köhler^{1,2}, Konstantin Strieder², Marlene Altenmüller^{3,2}, Mario Gollwitzer²

¹HU Berlin, Berlin, Germany. ²LMU München, München, Germany. ³ZPID, Trier, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Perceiving injustice is a reliable predictor of pro-environmental engagement; however, research on the relation between justice-related personality facets and pro-environmental engagement is scarce. Based on theoretical considerations and prior research, we suggest that victim sensitivity – the sensitivity to self-related injustice – triggers two distinct psychological processes that can promote or impede pro-environmental engagement. Studies 1 ($N = 386$) and 2 ($N = 617$) tested the hypothesis that people high in victim sensitivity show increased pro-environmental engagement when they feel personally disadvantaged by climate change consequences. Study 3 ($N = 278$) tested the hypothesis that victim-sensitive individuals show decreased pro-environmental engagement due to a heightened fear of being exploited. The results of these three studies do, by and large, not support our theoretical reasoning. We

discuss challenges in experimentally scrutinizing the psychological processes, theoretical and methodological insights, and possible avenues for future research.

265 "Humankind first, my country second!" Does social identification explain opinions on global pandemic resource allocation?

Friedemann Trutzenberg¹, Minne Luise Hagel², Michael Eid¹

¹Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany. ²Humboldt University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Purpose

In the current study, we investigate whether global social identification predicts individuals' opinion on global distributive justice in pandemics.

Background

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the world failed to allocate scarce healthcare resources (e.g., vaccines) efficiently and ethics-based on the global level. Instead, some national governments hoarded resources while others had to wait far longer, exposing their citizens to a deadly threat.

In a multi-cohort questionnaire study that we conducted in England and Germany, representative adult samples reported to favour efficiency, equality and equity as guiding principles for the global distribution of scarce health resources in pandemics, both regarding COVID-19 and future emergencies. Citizens largely disapproved of national protectionism and meritocracy.

While this clear mean-level trend should inform public health and policymaking efforts to prepare for future health emergencies, the current study takes on a psychological perspective and analyses the responses' variance: What makes participants differ in their judgments? Who finds which distribution strategy just?

Based on Social Identity Theory and Parochial Altruism, we assume that variance can be explained by how strongly individuals socially identify with humanity as a whole.

Methods

Using an online panel provider, the aforementioned data was collected in England (n=1328) and Germany (n=1364) in summer 2021. A second German cohort was added in spring 2024 (n=1155).

We preregistered our hypotheses and are currently conducting data analyses using structural equation modelling.

Results and Conclusions

Data are currently analysed. We will present our findings and outline implications for research and practice.

159 Vicarious comparative victimhood: Social aides' perceptions of inequality toward different refugee groups

Jens Hellmann

Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

A recently developed theoretical framework introduces the phenomenon of vicarious comparative victimhood. The basic idea of this framework is that individuals who support others from specific disadvantaged victimized out-groups observe particular unjust treatment of those they support. When they perceive discriminatory treatment of the group they support compared to other victimized groups, they may vicariously experience comparative victimhood. Such experiences may have a strong impact on their own psychological well-being and even on their decision to stop or continue their support of disadvantaged groups. In a mixed-methods study, conducted in Germany, social aides were asked about their perceptions of and possible reasons for unequal treatment of different groups of refugees in Germany, depending on the refugee individuals' countries or global regions of origin. Results indicate that a substantial number of social aides presumed perceived cultural and phenomenological (dis)similarities, and geographic proximity versus distance between refugees' home and receiving countries as reasons for differences in the treatment of different refugee groups. Additionally, aspects of structural and institutional racism were named as potential reasons for this perceived unequal treatment. Implications for societal cohesion will be discussed.

Keywords: migration, acculturation, intergroup threat, cultural identity, helping

99 The Role of Harm in Judgments of and Reactions to Discrimination

Paul-Michael Heineck, Patricia Zwickel, Roland Deutsch

Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Discrimination is widely acknowledged as morally relevant. Consequently, its perception is often observed to be influenced by moral information (e.g., intent, justifications, norms). For instance, Swim et al. (2003) reported that discrimination perception increases with harm, particularly when intent is ambiguous, whereas Simon et al. (2019) found no difference between large and small harms.

In two experiments ($N_1=191$, $N_2=280$), we sought to replicate the harm effect conceptually. Consistent with previous attempts, harm had weak or negligible effects on perceived discrimination, regardless of factors such as intent or prototypicality. Yet, when participants rated how strongly they felt compelled to take action (i.e., social regulation aspirations, SRA), high harm elicited significantly stronger responses than low harm. We propose that previous discrimination perception measures focus on group-based inequality rather than moral evaluation. Consequently, harm may have minimal impact on the “statistical” perception of discrimination but strongly affects how wrong it seems and how urgently individuals feel compelled to intervene.

In a third experiment ($N=220$), we tested this idea. The results confirmed that harm exerted only a weak effect on perceived discrimination but substantially increased participants’ SRA. Mediation analyses revealed distinct pathways: the effect of harm on SRA was mediated by perceived moral wrongness, whereas participants’ likelihood evaluations mediated harm’s effect on perceived discrimination. These findings underscore the difference between recognizing unjust group-based inequality and reacting to it. Clarifying which aspect of discrimination perception is assessed may help reconcile conflicting results. Theoretical and practical implications for discrimination-perception research are discussed.

Coffe Break

14:40 - 15:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

Session: Meta-Science and Trust in Science

15:00 - 16:20 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 1

161 Assessing the quality of preregistrations in psychological research

Lena Hahn^{1,2}, Andreas Glöckner^{3,4}, Mario Gollwitzer⁵, Jens Hellmann⁶, Jens Lange⁷, Simon Schindler⁸, Kai Sassenberg^{2,1}

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Preregistrations can prevent questionable research practices by documenting the steps of the research process before data collection commences. Do preregistrations contain what is required for this purpose? Previous studies analyzed preregistrations from one or few high impact journals. Hence, the results might be biased – most likely overestimating the quality of preregistrations. To get a more representative picture of the quality of preregistrations, we coded all preregistrations mentioned in papers published by psychologists from institutions in German-speaking countries in 2020 as to whether they contain six procedural elements: (1) a timestamp, (2) the hypothesized pattern of results, (3) the measures, (4) planned analyses to test the hypothesis, (5) sample size considerations, and (6) exclusion criteria and additional transparency related elements. Given that this sample consisted of journals of different quality, we were able to explore whether preregistration quality is related to indicators of journal reputation. Preregistration quality was unrelated to the Impact Factor and the Transparency and Openness Promotion factor of the journal. Hence, the quality of preregistration was not associated with journal characteristics. However, consistent with previous research, we found evidence for a lack of important details in preregistrations. For example, 20% of preregistrations did not mention any data exclusion criteria. In sum, the findings indicate that there is room to improve preregistrations – independent of the quality of the journal the preregistered work was published in.

171 The Inclusion of Causality for Theorising in Social Psychology

Rainer Maderthaner

Faculty of Psychology, Vienna, Austria

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Objectives

This talk will explain how the idea of causality can be used to develop hypotheses and theoretical frameworks in the field of statistical science. Usually, hypotheses are tested based on correlations (regressions, structural equations, etc.), but there are known methodological weaknesses. On the other hand, causal hypotheses must thoroughly explain the cause-and-effect relationship in reality.

Method

The main aspects of scientific-theoretical concepts of causality are briefly reviewed (Lewis, 1973; Humphreys, 1989; Pearl, 1994; Brady, 2002). The approaches to causal-analytical structural analysis of empirical phenomena and their consequences for theory building are discussed in detail (Mackie, 1965; Novak, 1976; Westermann, 2000). Important presuppositions of causality are stated, multi-causality, conditional causality and mediated causality is demonstrated using examples from social psychology. Causal and conventional statistical analyses are compared using specialised software (RELAN; Maderthaner, 2022).

Results

Participants should gain a deeper insight into the theoretical problem of causality and learn how to make causal interpretations in empirical studies more justifiable by formulating hypotheses more precisely and by extending statistical analyses.

Conclusion

The theoretical concepts and statistical examples of causality are intended to demonstrate the importance of causal models for the correct evaluation of hypotheses, the replicability of studies, and the formation of stable theories in social psychology.

Keywords

Causal theories, modelling, causal inference, hypothesis testing, Relation Analysis

331 The effect of public participation on perceived legitimacy and trustworthiness of science and politics

Katharina Dürmeier¹, Mario Gollwitzer¹, Marlene Altenmüller²

¹Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, Germany. ²ZPID, Trier, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Societal institutions such as the police, the media, and science depend on being accepted by the public. Yet, populist narratives involve a fundamental attack on the legitimacy of institutions, which may ultimately lead to an erosion of their public acceptance. While political decision-making processes in democracies base their legitimacy on citizen participation, decision-making processes in science are typically more segregated from the public. Citizen science – that is, the inclusion of non-experts in the scientific process – aims to overcome this segregation and, thus, to increase the public's perception that the scientific system is legitimate. Empirical evidence for the notion that citizen participation increases legitimacy perceptions is sparse.

In two studies, we investigate the effect of citizen participation on the perceived legitimacy of working groups in science and politics. Study 1 (N = 373) showed no significant effect of citizen participation on the perceived legitimacy of a scientific project; however, perceptions of the research team's trustworthiness significantly decreased when non-experts were included. Study 2 (N = 496) also did not show any significant effect of citizen participation on the perceived legitimacy of a scientific or political project. Here, trustworthiness remained unaffected by citizen participation in both political and scientific projects.

These findings thus challenge the idea that citizen participation increases the perceived legitimacy of science. By contrast, loosening the expert boundaries of academic knowledge production might even be counterproductive for public trust.

162 Correlation or Causation? No Evidence for Causal Effects of Trust in Science on Protection Intentions

Tobias Wingen¹, Ann-Christin Posten², Simone Dohle³

¹FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ²University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland. ³University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Drawing the right lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic will be essential for effective future policy responses. One central finding from the past pandemic is that trust in science predicts health-related protection intentions and behaviors, such as social distancing and vaccination. Many researchers and policymakers thus believe that interventions targeting trust in science will be key for curbing the spread of future pandemics. Yet, it is unclear whether the observed correlation between trust in science and protection intentions does indeed imply causation. In a

series of studies (total $N = 5,311$), we replicated this correlation between trust in science and protection intentions (Studies 1, 3, and 4). At the same time, when experimentally manipulating trust in science, we found no evidence for causal effects on protection intentions (Studies 2 to 4). This absence of meaningful effects was further confirmed by equivalence tests and by an internal meta-analysis ($N = 3,761$). Finally, a machine learning algorithm likewise found no evidence that manipulating trust in science affects protection intentions. While it is inherently difficult to prove the absence of an effect, these results cast doubts on the causal importance of short-term changes in trust in science for protection intentions.

137 Do Perceptions of Injustice Relate to Trust in Science?

Whitney Agunyege¹, Daniel Toribio-Flórez², Marlene S. Altenmüller¹

¹ZPID - Leibniz-Institut für Psychologie, Trier, Germany. ²University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Different social groups might not perceive the same access or chance to contribute to knowledge production. These perceptions can be described as (distributive or contributive) *epistemic injustice*. Science philosophy has linked epistemic injustice to reduced trust, engagement with, or adherence to science. However, this notion has not yet been tested empirically. Taking a first step towards investigating the association of epistemic injustice with science reception, we created a self-report scale to measure perceived epistemic injustice and validated it in Germany ($n = 581$) and the UK ($n = 462$). The scale showed high internal consistency and the assumed two factor-structure structure (i.e., perceptions of contributive and distributive injustice). In terms of construct validity, the scale relates to but is separable from other injustice measures such as Justice Sensitivity, Belief in a Just World, and Social Dominance Orientation. However, item-total correlations and item difficulty in both samples suggest that the scale could be optimized for capturing more variance when evaluating people's perceptions of epistemic injustice. Item wording could more clearly reflect injustice of knowledge inequality and account for different perspectives (self- vs. other-oriented injustice). Nonetheless, our first insights suggest that participants perceive inequality regarding knowledge production and that these perceptions of injustice can be relevant for trust in science. We believe our study is an important step towards a better understanding of epistemic injustice. Further, it provides relevant insights into the correlates of trust in science and whether and how epistemic injustice may play a role in this context.

Symposium: Self-Regulation and self-control (Part 2): Empirical Insights

15:00 - 16:20 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

Saal 2a

This two-part symposium delves into theoretical and empirical aspects of self-regulation and self-control. In this second part, we will focus on empirical contributions to self-regulation and self-control. Christina Mühlberger examines the central role of self-regulation (but not self-control) in coaching, demonstrating its impact on coaching success and the importance of fostering self-regulation through strong coaching relationships and resource activation. Anna Schreiner showcases the crucial role of self-regulation and its relationship with social connectedness

in a mentoring program for first-year university students. Cathleen Kappes shows how different ways of setting goals affect vitality experiences and positive affect (yet not goal progress itself). Claudia Puttinger investigates the role of narrative in flexible goal pursuit, revealing how narrative goal representations can aid long-term goal pursuit. Mina Movahedi demonstrates how and under which circumstances people learn self-control from observation. Together, these two symposia aim to improve our understanding of self-regulation and self-control by providing novel theoretical and empirical insights.

28 Self-Regulation and self-control (Part 2): Empirical Insights

Chair(s)

Johannes Klackl

University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria

Katja Corcoran

University of Graz, Graz, Austria

187 Learning Self-Control Through Observing Role Models: A Drift Diffusion Model Analysis

Mina Movahedi, Katja Corcoran, Gayannee Kedia

University of Graz, Graz, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Prior research suggests that observational learning as an effortless method to enhance self-control. However, while observing a role model has shown large effect sizes in these studies, it remains unclear whether these changes reflect genuine cognitive adaptation or are influenced by biases such as experimenter demand or anchoring effects. To address these concerns, we carefully designed our study. Impatient participants observed a patient role model consistently choosing larger-later rewards in intertemporal choice tasks (e.g., choosing €27 now or €50 in 21 days). To mitigate the effects of experimenter demand, we conducted a pre-test to ensure that participants could not identify the study's purpose and included a distractor task. To investigate whether an anchoring effect takes place, we employed Drift Diffusion Modeling (DDM) to analyze decision-making processes. Finally, we examined whether the role model's influence extended to a far transfer task—a tedious activity requiring self-control but unrelated to intertemporal choices. The results showed that participants exposed to the patient role model significantly improved their self-control, consistently choosing larger-later rewards. DDM analysis confirmed genuine cognitive adaptation by ruling out anchoring biases. While we observed strong effects of the model's observation on the same task (near-transfer task), participants struggled to generalize these strategies to unrelated tasks requiring self-control (far-transfer tasks).

By addressing experimenter demand and anchoring effects, the findings reveal genuine cognitive changes resulting from role model observation, emphasizing the potential of role models to learn self-control.

181 Fostering Social Identity and Self-Regulation: The Impact of Mentoring on First-Year University Students' Academic Success

Anna Schreiner, Anna Moser, Eva Jonas, Janine Stollberg

University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Mentoring programs can influence key motivational processes that drive first-year university students' academic success by enhancing social connections, academic identity, and self-regulation. These factors are essential for maintaining motivation and engagement with academic goals during the challenging transition into university life.

Our study ($N = 356$) showed that mentoring for students (mentoring vs. control group, 2020–2024) fosters the development of social connections, which strengthens students' identification with their university and study program, as well as their self-regulation skills. Compared to the control group, students in the mentoring program experienced a significantly greater increase in social connections over the semester. This growth was directly linked to higher motivation, reduced feelings of helplessness, and better academic outcomes, underscoring the unique benefits of mentoring in supporting first-year students.

In addition to these findings, an ongoing study is investigating the differential effects of group mentoring and peer-to-peer mentoring. This research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying these mentoring formats, with results expected in mid-2025.

These insights emphasize the potential of mentoring programs to enhance students' academic and personal development, underscoring their value in fostering social identity, self-regulation, and successful transitions into university life.

188 The self in coaching: How the coaching relationship promotes self-regulation and leads to success

Christina Mühlberger¹, Eva Jonas¹, Georg Zerle¹, Peter Behrendt²

¹University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria. ²Freiburg Institut, Freiburg, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Research highlights the central role of the coachee's self in coaching. However, the roles that different self-related concepts play in coaching have been insufficiently studied. Notably, self-control and self-regulation are often conflated or treated as synonymous. Building on the theory of personality systems interactions, we explored the role of self-related concepts in coaching. We propose that self-regulation—an empowering, unconscious competence that drives the pursuit of goals aligned with one's core self—is the most central self-related concept in coaching. In three samples, we investigated how the coachee's self-regulation facilitates coaching success and how coaches can foster coachees' self-regulation. Study 1 ($N = 37$) employed a longitudinal design with a 5-month coaching program for caregivers. We found that the caregivers' self-regulation but not self-control predicted their goal attainment. In Study 2, we matched self-reported data of 298 coachees with self-reported data of their 75 respective coaches. A strong relationship reported by the coaches positively related to the coachees' self-regulation which further predicted goal attainment, satisfaction, and need fulfillment. Self-control did not have an effect. In the same study, using only the coachees' self-reported data ($N = 1,217$), we found that the coach's resource activation, as rated by the coachees, had the most significant positive impact on goal attainment. This effect was mediated by the coachee's self-regulation. Self-regulation plays a key role in coaching, significantly contributing to success. We explore its distinction from other self-related constructs and highlight the importance of fostering self-regulation through strong relationships and resource activation.

271 Moving forward: Examining the effects of goal setting and goal motivation on subjective goal progress

Cathleen Kappes, Tamara Hecht

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

How goals are set has been recognized as relevant in effectively pursuing goals. Interventions either concentrate on establishing specific, measurable, appealing, realistic, and time-defined goals (SMART; Locke & Latham, 2019), on enhancing a positive attitude towards the goal (motto; Storch, 2014), or on imagining the result along with possible hurdles and creating a strategy to tackle them (WOOP; Oettingen, 2014). Nonetheless, various methods of establishing goals have seldom been compared to one another and in relation to goal motivation (Sezer et al., 2023; Sheldon & Elliot, 1999).

In three studies, we examined how various types of goal setting (motto-goals, SMART-goals, WOOP-goals, and a control group; between-subjects) interacted with goal motivation (autonomous vs. control-motivated goals; within-subjects) to affect subjective goal progress for personal goals and mediators like experiences of vitality, affect, and self-efficacy.

Overall, goal-setting strategies did not affect perceived goal progress for both short and extended intervals. As preregistered, immediate vitality experiences and positive affect were generally greater for autonomous goals compared to controlled goals, and they were substantially higher in the motto-goals group in contrast to the other groups, particularly for control-motivated goals. Conversely, self-efficacy was reduced for motto-goals. Indirect effects via positive affect and self-efficacy indicate a counteracting effect of both mediators on goal progress when comparing the motto and control group.

The results are discussed regarding the necessity of experimental designs focused on goal setting and the differentiation of goal motivation pertaining to vitality, affect, self-efficacy, and goal progress.

327 The Role of Narrative in Flexible Goal Pursuit

Claudia Puttinger, Katja Corcoran

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Narrative, "a series of temporal events linked together by meaning", is the mode of forming intentions in goal pursuit in pragmatic prospection. To attach/detach from means/goals one needs to self-regulate. Forming implementations intentions (if-then plans) (II) is an efficient self-regulation strategy for very specific single goal pursuit. However, it lacks evidence in scenarios with a multiplicity of possible outcomes and unexpected events on the way to the goal which requires flexibility. Flexibility means people detach from their plan, find alternatives, or switch plans. II effects can be buffered by abstract (vs. concrete) mindsets and increase goal-consistent out-of-plan behavior after. In two studies, we manipulated narrative (vs no narrative) goal representation and Implementation Intention (vs Goal Intention) to test whether people with narrative goal representations show more flexibility in pursuing superordinate goals. In a first study with a convenience sample, we found a significant main effect for the narrative (over no narrative) manipulation. However, we could not find a significant main effect for Implementation Intention or a significant interaction effect. We were able to replicate our findings in a second study with a sample of the Austrian general public (N= 433, 55.4 % female). Our findings are in favor of our hypothesis. It might be interesting to further investigate this research question to find more detailed information for the underlying mechanisms of long-term goal pursuit and thereby help people to accomplish their long-term goals

Symposium: The Social Psychology of Norm Violations and Victimization II (Coupled Symposia)

15:00 - 16:20 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 2b

Norm violations challenge the rules that maintain social order and regulate behavior, making them a central topic in social psychology. Across two symposia, we explore key aspects of how norm violations are perceived and responded to. Building on the first symposium, this second session shifts the focus by examining different responses to norm violations, considering the relationships between the people involved (e.g., shared group membership), the role of emotions, and the social and interpersonal consequences of some of these responses to norm violations.

The first presentation focuses on punishment as a prominent response to norm violations, offering a theoretical framework on punishment goals based on a systematic review of interdisciplinary literature and expert interviews.

The second presentation expands on this by considering relational aspects and exploring the social necessity of punishing deviant ingroup members. Specifically, it investigates how punishment may serve as a signal in intergroup contexts.

The third presentation examines moral condemnation of norm violations within a very specific context—comparing norm violations committed by a romantic partner versus a stranger. Additionally, it explores key psychological mechanisms, including emotions.

The fourth presentation focuses on emotional reactions: It explores people's expectations regarding empathy trade-offs in situations where individuals must empathize with multiple close targets. It examines how empathizers are morally judged based on their empathic reactions and the valence of the emotion.

Finally, the fifth presentation focuses on guilt as a key emotional response to norm violations and further explores compensation behavior as a means of addressing harm.

27 The Social Psychology of Norm Violations and Victimization II (Coupled Symposia)

Chair(s)

Slieman Halabi

University of Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany

Mathias Twardawski

LMU München, München, Germany

168 Why Do People Punish? A Systematic Review of Punishment Goals

Mathias Twardawski

LMU München, München, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

The question of why people punish norm violators has attracted broad attention across various scientific disciplines, including criminology, economics, and psychology. However, this interdisciplinary attention comes at the cost of conceptual clarity and terminological consistency. Scholars may discuss the same phenomenon under different labels—or use the same labels while referring to distinct concepts. To bridge these disciplinary divides, we developed a framework that systematically maps the goals underlying punishment. We conducted a comprehensive review of the literature on laypeople's punishment goals, focusing on conceptual definitions rather than mere terminology (i.e., labels). This systematic review identified 1,622 definitions of punishment goals across 2,227 published articles. Using Qualitative Content Analysis, we categorized these definitions into 27 distinct punishment goal categories, capturing the breadth of perspectives found in interdisciplinary research. To further explore how experts conceptualize these goals, we conducted Repertory Grid interviews with 48 experts in punishment research and legal practice. The insights derived from these interviews form the basis of a theoretical framework that offers a comprehensive perspective on individuals' punishment goals.

170 Moral judgments of trade-offs when empathizing with multiple targets

Alexa Weiss¹, Pascal Burgmer², Matthias Forstmann³, Julia Schlagheck¹, Mathis Wüst¹

¹Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany. ²University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom. ³University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Daily life offers ample opportunities for empathy, but previous research has largely overlooked empathy with multiple targets. Two experimental studies therefore examine moral norms regarding empathy, in particular when circumstances require incongruent empathic reactions toward multiple close targets and hence potentially prioritization in terms of affective resource allocation. Participants learned about targets experiencing a trade-off (operationalized via temporal delay) when empathizing with a second target due to empathizing first target. For example, an initial target of empathy experienced a negative event, while a second target experienced a positive event. Participants' moral judgments and character perceptions of empathizers suggest that rather than appreciating empathy trade-offs, participants expect others to instantly empathize with their close others. Importantly, participants' reactions to trade-offs were consistent with a primacy of negative over positive empathy. These results are in line with a negativity bias and the psychological significance of preventing and addressing harm to close others.

177 Reactions to perpetrating harm: Who compensates a victim at the cost of a third person?

Anna Baumert, Leonie Petry

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

When individuals feel guilty over perpetrated harm, they tend to prosocially compensate the victim. Yet, as a side-effect, feelings of guilt can lead to unfair compensation at the expense of a third person (deHooge et al., 2012). We aimed to extend previous findings by considering interindividual differences. We hypothesized that perpetrator sensitivity involves the inclination to react with guilt when perpetrating harm, but also a reluctance to act unfairly, so that it should counteract compensation at the expense of a third person. In two experiments ($N_1=365$, $N_2=485$), participants imagined a friend being harmed, either by the participant's own or by somebody else's fault. We assessed guilt reactions and financial and material compensation. Within-subject, compensation could affect or did not affect any third person. Our results replicated previous findings with guilt reactions leading to compensation at the expense of a third person. Individuals with higher perpetrator sensitivity reacted with stronger guilt, but did not tend to compensate more. In Study 2, results suggested that individuals with higher perpetrator sensitivity compensate at their own expense and not at the expense of a third person. We conduct a third experiment with a control condition in which no harm occurs in order to clarify inconsistencies. Our results highlight that guilt reactions can have prosocial but also unfair side-effects on compensatory behavior. At the level of interindividual differences in perpetrator sensitivity, the inclination to feel guilty over perpetrated harm may be coupled with a reluctance to be unfair, thereby shielding against unfair side-effects.

208 „Not in our name:” When punishment of group members is mandatory

Thomas Kessler, Havagül Akce

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Punishment conceived of as collective condemnation of an ingroup member's action classifies such an action as not acceptable given the ingroup's values and standards. We argue that groups or group members have to punish deviant behavior of group members to avoid to be implicated in the deviant's behavior and to make clear and affirm the values of the group. In three experiments we describe potentially deviant behavior of a group member and vary experimentally the groups reaction towards this behavior (e.g., punishment, control, endorsement). Participants rated their perception of the group, its values, and their perception of the actor (e.g., representativeness for the group). In Study 1 we varied the group context as a random factor, in Study 2 the behavior to which the group reacts, and Study 3 varied the group's punishment (e.g., condemnation, hard treatment, or both). The results of the studies consistently show that punishment of deviant behavior leads to a more positive evaluation of the group and the maintenance of group values, whereas all conditions of non-punishment lead to the perception that the group supports the deviant behavior, which also generalizes to a negative evaluation of that group and the perception that the group and its members are also responsible for the deviant's behavior. We discuss these findings as one factor that necessitates punishment and explore some of its implications for intergroup alliances and conflicts.

226 Romantic Partners and Moral Transgressions: Exploring Leniency and Its Underlying Mechanisms

Lisa Klümper

Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

People seem to apply different standards when evaluating moral transgressions, especially when comparing judgments of romantic partners to those of strangers. While romantic partners are often judged more leniently, the underlying mechanism driving this difference remains unclear. As this finding also contrasts with evidence showing that members of social groups are often judged more harshly for norm violations, we took a closer look at potential boundary conditions of moral judgments of close relationship partners.

To explore this issue, we conducted five experimental studies. We examined whether romantic partners, compared to strangers, are judged less morally negatively, whether fewer other-critical emotions are experienced, and whether more benevolent attributions are used to justify their behavior. Additionally, we investigated potential mechanisms behind these differing evaluations, focusing on identity fusion, cognitive dissonance, and the specific moral domain of the transgression.

Our findings reveal a consistent pattern: romantic partners are judged more leniently than strangers. This leniency is reflected in reduced critical emotions, increased self-conscious emotions, and more benevolent interpretations of their actions. The leniency diminishes significantly when the violations involve care and loyalty, suggesting a particular sensitivity to breaches in areas fundamental to romantic bonds. We observed inconsistent results regarding the mechanisms underlying this difference. However, our results underscore the intricate interplay between morality, social bonds, and the processes shaping our moral evaluations.

Symposium: From Individuals to Policies: New Perspectives on Promoting Climate Action

15:00 - 16:20 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 3

Climate action is essential to mitigate the effects of climate change. Engaging a broad population in climate change-mitigating behaviors requires a multifaceted approach that addresses individuals, groups, and public policies. This symposium presents cutting-edge psychological research that spans these levels and offers new perspectives on promoting climate action. The first two talks explore individual-level dynamics. Kathi Diel starts off by presenting an experience sampling study investigating the natural occurrence of almost 3000 environmentally relevant behaviors in everyday life. Importantly, those behaviors are not randomly linked over time but follow four distinct spillover patterns. Daniela Becker follows by exploring people's daily experiences during pro-environmental behaviors. She finds that positive affective experiences are the key driver of repeated engagement in those behaviors. At the group level,

Esther Papies focuses on a key group for societal change: individuals with high socioeconomic status, who are among the largest carbon emitters. Her research sheds light on this group's perceptions of their roles and opportunities in mitigating climate change. Sandra Klaperski-van der Wal then examines the extent to which people engage in climate conversations, revealing how these discussions are linked to social norms and climate action. Finally, Sonja Grelle shifts the focus to public policy, presenting a framework that synthesizes key psychological determinants of policy support. Her work highlights when and why people are likely to support climate policies, offering insights into fostering public acceptance and advancing climate change mitigation.

30 From Individuals to Policies: New Perspectives on Promoting Climate Action

Chair(s)

Kathi Diel

Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany

Daniela Becker

Radboud University Nijmegen, Nijmegen, Netherlands

184 Spillover-Effects Of Environmental Behavior In Everyday Life

Kathi Diel¹, Maximilian Thiel², Simone Dohle³, Wilhelm Hofmann⁴, Malte Friese²

¹Saarland University, Saarland, Germany. ²Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany. ³Bonn University, Bonn, Germany. ⁴Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

The spillover effect - where a pro-environmental behavior influences subsequent behaviors - remains a topic of debate. While previous research has primarily manipulated individual behaviors to assess their impact on subsequent actions, often yielding weak results, we took a different methodological approach by examining how spillover effects occur naturally in everyday life, providing a fresh perspective on the issue. We categorized spillovers into four types: positive consistency (pro-environmental followed by pro-environmental), licensing (pro-environmental followed by environmentally harmful), negative consistency (harmful followed by harmful), and compensation (harmful followed by pro-environmental). Using experience sampling, 191 participants reported environmentally relevant behaviors five times daily for five days, resulting in 2,982 behaviors and 528 sequential behaviors. Participants reported more consistent behaviors (positive and negative) than balancing behaviors (licensing and compensating). Sequential behaviors occurred more often within specific categories (e.g., transportation, food) than across categories. Positive consistency and compensation were associated with heightened positive emotions, whereas negative consistency and licensing were correlated with negative emotions. Our study shows that spillover effects occur naturally in everyday life, manifesting themselves in different forms and frequencies. However, not all reported behaviors were related to antecedent behaviors. These findings provide new insights into the natural occurrence of spillover effects and highlight the need for future research that examines how these findings can be used to design interventions that promote pro-environmental spillovers in real-world contexts.

190 Sustainable pleasure: Positive experiences predict long-lasting behavior change in the health and sustainability domain

Daniela Becker¹, Lena Rieder², Jamie de Haas¹, Esther Papies¹, Rob Holland¹

¹Behavioural Science Institute, Nijmegen, Netherlands. ²Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

One of the greatest challenges of science and society today is to enable people to regularly engage in healthy and sustainable behaviors. Those behaviors can range from eating more plant-based foods (instead of meat), to taking the bike more often (instead of the car). To effectively promote these behaviors, we need to better understand the factors that drive them. In the past, research has focused on people's goals or intentions. In the current set of studies we take a different approach and propose that one key driver of regular healthy and sustainable behavior is the positive affective experience associated with the execution of the behavior. In Study 1 ($N = 150$, pre-registered) we found that hedonic experiences (e.g., pleasure, enjoyment) during the behavior (e.g., eating a plant-based meal) are indeed the strongest predictor of people's regular engagement in those behaviors – stronger than people's eudaimonic experiences or thoughts about pro-environmental goals during the behavior. In Study 2 ($N = 380$, pre-registered) we partly replicate this overall effect in a longitudinal study. Here, not only hedonic but also eudaimonic experiences predicted regular engagement in several healthy and/or sustainable behaviors. Together the two studies suggest that in order to achieve long-lasting behavior change in the health and sustainability domain, we need to focus on changing people's *experiences*. Specifically, we need to make sure people experience those behaviors are enjoyable and meaningful.

264 No agency and responsibility for the privileged? Climate action perceptions among high socioeconomic status citizens

Sophie Duncan¹, Annika Hjelmkog¹, Esther K. Papies²

¹University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom. ²Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Addressing climate change requires significant individual behaviour change, as well as deep societal transformations to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Individuals with high socioeconomic status (SES; i. e., with relatively higher levels of wealth, income, and/or education) have a key role in unlocking these changes. This is because they often have carbon-intense consumer lifestyles, but also increased power to address climate change via other social roles, for example as investors, role models, organisational participants, and citizens.

In two pre-registered studies, we examined how high SES individuals in the UK perceive these roles and opportunities. In Study 1 (N = 81), we collected online qualitative data exploring opportunities for emission reductions in private and professional lives. Reflexive thematic analysis suggested that participants shifted responsibility to others, saw themselves mainly as consumers, did not recognize power within other social roles, and experienced climate change as a distant threat. In Study 2 (N = 511, mixed methods), we examined personal willingness and policy support for emission reductions (e.g., max. one flight every three years). We found low support for lifestyle changes, little awareness of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from one's own behaviour, and a strong desire for personal choice, which includes the option of not changing one's behaviour. Findings suggest the need for targeted policy, for tailored education (e.g., on local and health impacts of climate change; on personal opportunities to support mitigation), and for a discourse on sufficiency-focused lower-carbon lifestyles that can be desirable and fulfilling.

191 Let's talk about heat baby: Climate change conversations, norm perceptions, and sustainable behaviour

Sandra Klaperski-van der Wal, Erin Newman-Grigg

Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Notwithstanding unequivocal evidence identifying climate change as major threat, humans struggle to engage in sustainable behaviour. The misperceived social norm that nobody cares (also called Pluralistic Ignorance) is thought to contribute to this knowledge-action gap. Interpersonal communication about topics related to climate change is considered to bear particular importance for the correct perception of norms and for the facilitation of sustainable behaviour. However, evidence is sparse and levels of interpersonal communication on topics related to climate change have been found to be rather low.

We conducted one of the first European studies on this topic by surveying a large representative Dutch sample (N = 928) and a sample of Dutch individuals trained in climate change conversations (N = 56). Descriptively, our data shows that most participants from the representative sample indicated to "sometimes" (less than once per week) talk about climate change related topics, most often with their partner. Climate change communication experts expectedly talked more about the topic, they were also much more concerned. Our participants also provided insights into various barriers to (e.g., fear of confrontation / discomfort, lack of interest, lack of knowledge) as well as facilitators of climate change conversations (sense of urgency, supportive environments, curiosity). We furthermore found empirical support for the existence of pluralistic ignorance in both samples. Climate change communication frequency did not seem to predict levels of pluralistic ignorance, however, there was a positive association with some sustainable behaviours.

241 When and Why do People Accept Climate Policies? Testing the Integrative Public-Policy-Acceptance (IPAC) Framework

Sonja Grelle¹, Wilhelm Hofmann^{2,3}

¹Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ²Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany. ³German Center for Mental Health (DZPG), Marburg, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Individual sustainable behavior is shaped by a broader socio-political context that either constrains or facilitates available options. Understanding when and why people support climate policies designed to promote systemic sustainability is crucial for effective climate change mitigation. The Integrative Public Policy Acceptance (IPAC) Framework synthesizes key psychological determinants of public policy acceptance into a unified model, highlighting the central role of individuals' Desire for Governmental Intervention (DGI) (Grelle & Hofmann, 2024). The IPAC proposes that problem awareness predicts policy acceptance, with this relationship mediated by DGI. Furthermore, support-seeking characteristics, such as trust in government, control/responsibility attributions, and perceived changeability are predicted to shape DGI, possibly in interaction with problem awareness. Policy qualities, such as effectiveness, fairness, and regulatory depth, in turn, are expected to shape policy acceptance, possibly in interaction with DGI. To test these predictions, we conducted a large online study (n = 1000, nobs = 25080) across diverse environmental domains, including transportation, meat consumption, housing, food waste, and fast fashion. Multilevel regression analyses provided strong empirical support for many of the IPAC's proposed main links affecting DGI and acceptance, as well as the mediation of the effect of problem awareness on acceptance via DGI. Subsequent moderator analyses yielded more mixed results. Together, these findings underline the importance of addressing psychological and contextual factors in designing climate policies. The IPAC offers valuable insights for fostering public support for sustainability policies, contributing to climate change mitigation.

Symposium: Gender Dynamics in Social Perceptions and Judgments

15:00 - 16:20 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 4

Contemporary gender dynamics are characterized by striking contradictions, including the simultaneous rise in societal endorsement of gender-egalitarian norms alongside the persistence of heteronormativity and inequality. This symposium examines how gender shapes interactions and social structures by integrating findings from experiments, mixed-method studies, and intercultural research on the formation of gender perceptions, gendered social evaluations, and their consequences for identity and self-regulation. Marie Isabelle Weißflog presents a survey experiment examining how information on pronouns and face gender influence gender categorization and stereotype ascription beyond the male-female binary. Adding on the role of social information in gender perceptions, Verena Heidrich investigates how the salience of another social category—age—affects gender categorization, face perception, and stereotypic attributions across five mixed-method studies. Her findings reveal that gender differences were perceptually and stereotypically amplified for the young and middle-aged adult category but diminish for children and the elderly. Fiona Kazarovytska shifts the focus to the influence of gender norms in social evaluations, demonstrating in two experiments that norm violations in conflict situations—rejecting an offered apology—are judged more harshly when committed by men. Sarah Buhl extends this perspective to violations of gender-equality norms, showing through three experiments that such violations by the male ingroup provoke moral threats, particularly among egalitarian men. Finally, Marina C. Orifici provides an intercultural perspective, examining how perceived gender inequality and gender stereotypes shape self-regulation, social regulation, and risk-taking behavior across 26 countries. Together, this symposium offers a comprehensive understanding of gender dynamics across interpersonal, social, and cultural contexts.

15 Gender dynamics in social perceptions and judgments

Chair(s)

Fiona Kazarovytska

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Mainz, Germany

Sarah Buhl

Chemnitz University of Technology, Chemnitz, Germany

104 Age × Gender dynamics in face perception, categorization, stereotyping and judgement

Verena Heidrich, Roland Imhoff, Fiona Kazarovytska

Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Age and gender are fundamental social categories that people use to structure their environments, anticipate behavior, and guide interactions. Importantly, perceptions of age and gender do not occur independently but interact to shape social judgments and behaviors. While previous research has focused on the emergence of novel stereotypes at the intersections of age and gender, we propose a hydraulic interaction between these categories, where age modulates the salience of gender differences. Specifically, we hypothesized that age-related tasks (e.g., caregiving) and the heightened perceptual salience of age in children and elderly individuals emphasize age over gender. Conversely, in young and middle-aged adults, gender differences become more accessible due to their functional relevance (e.g., reproduction, mating) and the emergence of gender-specific visual features. Across five studies, we investigated the relative impact of age and gender on various aspects of social perception, including similarity perception ($N = 573$), face categorization ($N = 295$), mental representations of age and gender-typic faces ($n_1 = 383$, $n_2 = 242$), stereotypic attributions ($n_1 = 100$, $n_2 = 193$) and behavioral judgements ($N = 381$). In summary, the findings suggest that age and gender follow opposing salience patterns: gender is most salient in (young) adults, whereas age becomes more emphasized in children and elderly individuals. For elderly faces, the reduction in gender differences was less pronounced and primarily driven by top-down processes, such as stereotypic impressions, attributes, and judgments. In contrast, children were consistently perceived as a homogeneous group, influenced by both more stereotype-based and more feature-driven processes.

107 A multinational test of social role theory

Marina C. Orifici^{1,2}, Vanessa Clemens², Laura Froehlich¹, Andreas Glöckner^{2,3}, Angela Dorrough^{1,2}

¹FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ²University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany. ³Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Social role theory is a prominent, highly-cited theory that aims to explain behavioral gender differences. According to the theory, women and men can be observed in different social roles. Women are often observed in roles that require communion (e.g., homemakers or caretakers), while men are frequently observed in roles that require agency (e.g., financial providers or leaders). Observing this division of labor results in gender role beliefs, including gender stereotypes regarding agency and communion. Based on social role theory, gender role beliefs, in turn, determine gender-differentiated behavior via regulatory processes, including self-regulation (via internalization of gender roles) and social regulation (via other's expectations). The theory was developed and has mainly been tested in the US. This raises the question of whether the theoretical assumptions can be generalized to other countries. We systematically tested the assumptions of social role theory in two incentivized studies with over 9,000 participants from 26 countries around the globe. Across countries, results showed that men were associated more with agency and women more with communion. These gender stereotypes were predicted by perceived gender inequality as an indicator of the division of labor. Further, gender stereotypes predicted self- and social regulation, which in turn predicted gender differences in risk-taking behavior, with men taking higher risks than women. This research provides evidence in line with social role theory across various countries from all world regions. Cultural variations and theoretical implications are discussed.

108 Masculinity under construction: On the role of masculinity threat in response to male norm transgressions

Sarah Buhl¹, Anika Seehars², Frank Asbrock¹

¹Chemnitz University of Technology, Chemnitz, Germany. ²University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Nuremberg, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Purpose and Background:

In recent decades, women's representation in power positions has increased, alongside a global decline in anti-egalitarian gender biases. International surveys suggest these shifts create pressure for many men to change. But does this pressure stem from a genuine desire to align with the gender-egalitarian status quo?

Drawing on identity management research, we argue this is only the case when the status quo aligns with men's personal beliefs. When men are confronted with the idea that their group fails to meet gender-egalitarian norms, they experience **image threat**—fear of negative perception by others. However, only men with egalitarian beliefs perceive this failure as a moral shortcoming, leading to **moral threat**.

Methods and Results:

Across three preregistered experiments (N = 1,566), moderation analyses reveal that confronting men with their ingroup's structural dominance (vs. a control condition) elicits image threat among all men, regardless of beliefs. However, only egalitarian (vs. anti-egalitarian) men report heightened moral threat (Study 1). More specifically, image

threat arises when men deviate from egalitarian norms by engaging in anti-egalitarian (vs. egalitarian) behaviors, but this transgression elicits moral threat only among egalitarian men (Study 2). Notably, while image threat consistently occurs when men's behavior deviates from societal norms—whether egalitarian or anti-egalitarian—moral threat arises when men's behavior conflicts with participants' egalitarian (vs. anti-egalitarian) beliefs, regardless of societal norms (Study 3).

Conclusion:

This research provides an updated perspective on masculinity threat in light of recent gender-egalitarian shifts and discusses implications for social change and future research directions.

97 Morality perceptions in apologetic interactions: Gendered consequences of not accepting an offered apology

Fiona Kazarovytska¹, Friederike Funk²

¹Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Mainz, Germany. ²Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Munich, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

In intergroup contexts, rejecting an apology reduces perceived victim group morality while increasing perceptions of victim group in the eyes of uninvolved third parties. Similarly, in interpersonal contexts in organizational settings, unforgiving victims are often perceived negatively by colleagues. The current research introduces an additional component that adds complexity to this basic effect: gender differences. Prescriptive gender norms, which expect women to be warm and caring, make interactional justice violations (e.g., impoliteness or lack of empathy) appear less acceptable for women than men (see also role congruity theory, status incongruity hypothesis, and expectancy violation theory). Building on literature, we hypothesized that female victims rejecting an apology would be judged as less moral and more powerful than male victims rejecting an apology. However, contrary to expectations, results from a high-powered experiment ($N = 1,202$) involving three different organizational transgression scenarios revealed the opposite: male victims rejecting apologies from female colleagues were judged as less moral and more deviant from social norms, but not different in power, than female victims rejecting apologies from male colleagues. A follow-up experiment ($N = 401$) tested whether this effect extended to hierarchical status differences. Specifically, we examined across same-gender dyads whether high-status individuals rejecting apologies from low-status individuals would be judged less moral than the reverse. Results showed no such effect, suggesting that the observed pattern may be more closely tied to gender differences rather than general status differences.

114 The influence of pronouns on gender categorization

Marie Isabelle Weißflog¹, Lou Dörr², Elli Van Berlekom³, Youri Mora⁴, Jana Heuver¹

¹Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, Germany. ²Rheinland-Pfälzische Technische Universität Kaiserslautern-Landau, Landau, Germany. ³Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden. ⁴Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Many transgender and non-binary individuals identify with gender categories outside women and men. They often report feeling invisible, misunderstood, and targeted with harmful stereotypes. Improving this group's well-being requires comprehending and addressing these causes of marginalization. Many transgender and non-binary individuals pick specific pronouns as part of their gender presentation. These choices are, however, not always respected by others, who may, intentionally or erroneously, use wrong pronouns for the person, potentially misgendering them. We examined how gendered pronouns influence gender categorization and person perception. We manipulated pronouns (traditional binary “she” and “he”, as well as two gender-neutral options) and face gender (feminine, androgynous, masculine) of a target person in a survey experiment in Germany, investigating participants’ categorization (as male, female, or nonbinary), categorization certainty, and stereotypes of the presented person. We also investigated potential interactions between face gender and pronouns, expecting a stronger influence of pronouns on categorization of androgynous faces.

Session: Health and Well-Being

15:00 - 16:20 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Seminarraum 2 Oben (Karthago)

83 Navigating Institutional Barriers: Impact on Well-being of Families with Children with Disabilities

Sabrina Fuths¹, Zeynep Börek¹, Rebekka Daubert¹, Marie Hennecke¹, Christian Walter-Klose²

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Parents of children with disabilities frequently encounter systemic barriers when interacting with institutions such as youth welfare services, counseling centers, and healthcare providers. Drawing on Self-Determination Theory (SDT), this study examines how parents perceive these institutional barriers as frustrating their needs for autonomy, competence, and relatedness, and how this impacts their well-being. We also explore whether these effects vary with disability type and socioeconomic status, potentially reflecting stigmatization and structural inequities.

Using a mixed-methods approach, we first quantitatively model the relationship between need-frustrating institutional experiences and parental well-being through a nationwide survey of 786 parents, applying structural equation modeling to assess moderating effects of disability type and socioeconomic status. Second, we implement an innovative citizen-science framework, involving parents as co-researchers who conduct peer-to-peer interviews. This approach aims to capture shared experiences and identify desired institutional changes.

We anticipate the results will demonstrate that institutional barriers, manifested as need frustration within the SDT framework, significantly reduce well-being among parents, particularly those who care for children with complex needs or come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The qualitative insights from the citizen-science-approach will provide rich, contextual data, grounding findings in lived realities and highlighting opportunities for systemic innovation.

This study aims to inform the development of inclusive, need-supportive institutional practices. By framing barriers through the lens of SDT, we offer a fine-grained understanding of institutional challenges and their impact on well-being. Additionally, our findings aim to guide the development of evidence-based policy reforms, ultimately reducing systemic inequities and empowering families of children with disabilities.

131 Motivacionales Erleben im Kontext sozialer Ängste: Eine Experience-Sampling-Studie zur Untersuchung von Flow-Zuständen in sozialen Aktivitäten

Dominik Stöckle, Michael Barthelmäs, Johannes Keller

Ulm University, Ulm, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Dem Zusammenspiel von Persönlichkeitsmerkmalen und situativen Faktoren hinsichtlich des Erlebens von Flow in sozialen Aktivitäten wurde bisher wenig Beachtung geschenkt. Um diese Lücke zu schließen, wurden in der vorliegenden Studie die Zusammenhänge zwischen sozialer Ängstlichkeit und dem Flow-Erleben auf der State- und Trait-Ebene untersucht. Eine erhöhte Aufmerksamkeitsfokussierung auf das Selbst sowie auf als bedrohlich wahrgenommene soziale Stimuli, erschöpfte Selbstregulationsressourcen und eine eingeschränkte Wahrnehmung von positivem Feedback könnten relevante Aspekte darstellen, die Individuen mit hoher (vs. niedriger) sozialer Ängstlichkeit daran hindern, zentrale Merkmale des Flow-Erlebens, wie beispielsweise hohe wahrgenommene Kontrolle oder reduzierte Selbstaufmerksamkeit, in sozialen Kontexten zu erleben. Daher wurde die Hypothese aufgestellt, dass Personen mit hoher (vs. niedriger) sozialer Ängstlichkeit weniger Flow in sozialen Aktivitäten erleben (alle Hypothesen wurden prä-registriert). Mit Hilfe der Experience Sampling Methode wurden 10.064 episodische Berichte einer großen, heterogenen Stichprobe ($N = 541$, $M_{\text{age}} = 41.3$, $SD_{\text{age}} = 11.9$) erhoben. Es zeigte sich eine negative Assoziation zwischen sozialer Ängstlichkeit und dem Flow-Erleben auf der State- und Trait-Ebene. Darüber hinaus war der negative Zusammenhang zwischen sozialer Ängstlichkeit und dem Flow-Erleben in sozialen Situationen besonders ausgeprägt, je niedriger der Bekanntheitsgrad der beteiligten Personen war, je mehr Personen involviert waren, und je länger die soziale Aktivität dauerte. Aktuelle Befunde deuten darauf hin, dass die Prävalenz sozialer Ängste, die sich entlang eines Kontinuums abbilden lassen, in der Allgemeinbevölkerung zugenommen hat. Vor diesem Hintergrund leistet die vorliegende Arbeit einen Beitrag zu einem besseren Verständnis des motivationalen Erlebens von Personen, die in ihrem Alltag von sozialer Ängstlichkeit betroffen sind.

268 Are People Really Overly Optimistic and Would it Matter if They Were?

Niels Haase

University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

It is widely believed that people tend to be overly optimistic about personal risks. This unrealistic optimism is usually assessed at group level, as individual likelihoods of experiencing specific events are typically unknown. Participants either compare their own probability of experiencing an event to that of an average person or estimate the absolute likelihoods for both themselves and the average person, which yields a difference score. If personal estimates are realistic, comparative judgments and difference scores should average out to zero across a representative sample. However, hundreds of studies have consistently found aggregate scores deviating from zero, suggesting unrealistic optimism.

I will present a series of studies in which by modifying the paradigm I was able to show that the observed effect, though indicative of a self-serving social comparison, actually stems from a pessimistic estimate of the average person's risk. Although this notion is not new, it has received virtually no empirical attention despite having two significant practical implications.

First, if personal risk perceptions are indeed well-calibrated, the numerous efforts to enhance risk communication for lay audiences may be less critical than widely assumed.

Second, – and perhaps more importantly – the assumed behavioral consequences of unrealistic optimism are only inferred from models that use personal risk perception as a predictor since the paradigm identifies an aggregate effect, which does not allow for predictions of individual behavior

Thus, I would like to discuss two questions: Should we believe that people are optimistic about personal risks? And, if so, does it even matter?

285 Balancing on the Edge: Two Empirical Perspectives on Interested Self-Endangerment

Tammy Brandenburg, Hannah-Louisa Moll, Nina Tairovic

Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Kamp-Lintfort, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Interested self-endangering behavior (ISG) describes employees knowingly compromising their health to meet perceived organizational demands. This paper presents findings from **two quantitative studies** that examined job demands, resources, and the role of autonomy in predicting ISG.

Study 1 (N=147) employed a cross-sectional online survey to explore whether autonomy and resilience affect ISG and task performance. Contrary to expectations, overall autonomy was not significantly associated with ISG; yet, it showed a notable positive relationship with performance. Further analysis indicated that ISG strategies (e.g., presentism) negatively affected task-related outcomes, suggesting potential long-term costs despite short-term gains.

Study 2 (N=150) investigated the joint and individual connections of cognitive demands, goal spirals, and decision autonomy, alongside various resources, on ISG. Hierarchical multiple regression analyses tested whether combining multiple demands would intensify ISG more strongly than single-demand work conditions and whether decision autonomy could act as both a demand and a resource. Although the final results are mixed, preliminary evidence suggests that when job demands accumulate, employees may rely more heavily on ISG strategies. The study also explored which demands or resources exert the strongest influence and compared the prevalence of two ISG dimensions (extensivizing vs. avoidant strategies).

Overall, both studies highlight the complexity of ISG in flexible work contexts. Organizations should pay particular attention to the interplay between autonomy, demands, and resources to foster healthier work designs. Future research should clarify the tipping points where decision autonomy shifts from beneficial to detrimental and develop targeted interventions to mitigate ISG.

46 And yet They Tire: Cognitive Fatigue Facilitates Task Disengagement and Worsens Performance

Leopold Roth, Christopher Mlynski, Chantal Titz, Dominik Meindl, Veronika Job

University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

The Ego Depletion effect—worsened task performance after prior cognitive demand—is considered falsified by most of the field. Yet, the experience of the negative effects of fatigue on task performance is a highly salient human experience. Hence, earlier advances have potentially not operationalized the phenomenon adequately, including large-scale replication projects. The present study (N = 321) modified three common shortcomings in the literature by

using I) an adaptive, and II) longer (1h) fatigue induction, and III) the option to disengage from the main task in a dual-task design. Compared to the control group, the experimental group showed large post-induction differences in subjective fatigue ($d = 0.83$, $BF_{10} > 1,000$) and shorter persistence ($d = -0.31$, $BF_{10} = 8.66$), as well as lower performance ($d = -0.31$, $BF_{10} = 9.21$) in the main task, even when controlling for persistence differences. These findings align with earlier theorizing that cognitive fatigue reduces task performance and highlight that the study of fatigue effects requires strong manipulations as well as a valid operationalization of persistence and performance.

Session: Prejudice and Discrimination

15:00 - 16:20 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Seminarraum 4 Oben (Krakau)

110 Can intergroup attitude research increase anti-immigrant prejudice through survey questionnaires?

Katherina Hildebrand, Judith Masselmann, Julia Becker

Universität Osnabrück, Osnabrück, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Calling for methodological reflexivity, some scholars argue that explicit prejudice measures tend to reproduce essentialist representations of categories aligned with right-wing ideology. Intergroup attitude research may run the risk of assisting in perpetuating or even reinforcing harmful stereotypes and prejudices among participants – in the name of measuring their persistence and pervasiveness in society. In turn, survey questionnaires may inadvertently contribute to further fueling political conflicts.

We tested whether completing a scale of negatively phrased items tapping into perceived threat at least temporarily increased racist prejudice towards immigrants – either by activating negative stereotypes or by inducing negative mood – and whether this effect was positively moderated by initial level of prejudice.

In two pre-registered online experiments participants were randomly assigned to one of two experimental conditions (negatively or positively phrased items about (Arabic) immigrants) or to one of three control conditions (negatively or positively phrased items about climate conservationists, or an empty control).

In Study 1, no significant differences emerged between conditions immediately after the manipulation ($N = 1124$) nor one week later ($N = 831$) across affective, cognitive and conative components of racist attitudes towards immigrants. In Study 2 ($N = 817$), we replicated the findings and did not find this effect to be moderated by initial levels of prejudice.

We conclude that using items representing immigrants in a negative way does not increase participants' racist prejudice. We discuss that intergroup attitude research should nevertheless be sensitive to its potential entanglement in reproducing adverse category depictions.

223 How contextual information might drive the link between social categorization and spontaneous outgroup evaluations

Manuel Becker¹, Sarah Teige-Mocigemba¹, Jeffrey Sherman², Karl Christoph Klauer³

¹Philipps-Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany. ²University of California, Davis, Davis, USA. ³Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

There is a recurring social-psychological debate on whether social categorization influences spontaneous evaluations of outgroup members. This debate might benefit from taking into account that both evaluation and categorization are heavily impacted by contextual factors. For instance, contemporary models of evaluation, such as the APE model (Gawronski & Bodenhausen, 2006), suggest that spontaneous evaluations are a function of the evaluative implications of the stereotypic associations of a target object and the context in which it is encountered. In this talk, we suggest that the link between categorization and evaluation is also moderated by the subset of associations that is triggered by a specific context. In two studies (joint $N=200$), one exploratory, the other confirmatory, we assessed the extent of categorization in conditions of the Who Said What? -paradigm with very different contextual implications for Whites versus Blacks. This score was then correlated with the evaluative preference for Whites over Blacks in an Evaluative Decision Task. In contexts in which it is an asset or advantage to be Black, there was less anti-Black bias the more an individual categorized by race. The reverse was true in contexts that are likely to activate negative racial stereotypes. In the talk, we will also present a last confirmatory study with a larger sample ($N=208$) that reassesses these intriguingly strong correlations.

292 Downsides of Aid Portrayals: Viewing Africa as Poor Predicts Disinterest in African Products and Culture

Adam Hahn¹, Ileriowula Akinola², Marleen Stelter³, Iniobong Essien⁴, Tal Moran⁵, Colin Smith²

¹University of Bath, Bath, United Kingdom. ²University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. ³Fernuniversität Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ⁴Leuphana University Lüneburg, Lüneburg, Germany. ⁵The Open University of Israel, Ra'anana, Israel

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Charities, aid organizations, and Western media often depict Africa as a continent of poverty and instability, presumably to encourage donations and aid. This research demonstrates how such portrayals may have fostered negative perceptions that may hinder Africa's progress. In two mixed-model qualitative-quantitative preregistered studies, convenience (N =298) and representative (N=1127) samples of US and UK residents listed three thoughts on either Africa or continental Europe, then rated their thoughts' valence, and finally their interest in African or European culture and products. Both samples consistently rated their images of Africa vs. Europe as more negative. A coding scheme developed from thematic analysis in Study 1 (then preregistered in Study 2) revealed that those images were dominated by (1) animals and nature (58% of thoughts on Africa vs. 17% on Europe), (2) societal problems (23% Africa vs. 4% Europe), and (3) lack of culture (10% Africa vs. 58% Europe). Importantly, the combination of valence and the three themes entirely explained participants' preference for purchasing European over African products and culture. Two additional preregistered experiments (N=1163) showed that positive information about Africa's emerging economy (e.g., "many African countries are wealthy") was more effective than stereotype-negating messages (e.g., "not every African country is poor") in changing general evaluations, purchase intentions, cultural interest, and travel intentions. These findings demonstrate the powerful role of stereotypes and evaluative learning in explaining global imbalances and inequality, and they highlight the need to reframe narratives about Africa to promote economic engagement and cultural interest from Western audiences.

326 The Relation of Old-Fashioned, Modern, and Aversive Racism in a Cognitive Consistency Framework

Esther Kroll, Mathias Kauff

MSH Medical School Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Researchers have often used implicit, explicit racism, motivation to respond without prejudices, and the perception that ethnic minority group members are discriminated against in an unrelated way. Gawronski et al. (2008) applied a cognitive consistency framework to demonstrate the relation among these concepts. According to their framework, people try to keep consistency among implicit and explicit affective responses toward ethnic minorities. People achieve this cognitive consistency in altering their propositions, for instance, their motivation to respond without prejudices or their perception to what extent ethnic minority members are discriminated against. This consistency framework also helps to differentiate between old-fashioned, modern, and aversive racism. People with old-fashioned racism have a low motivation to respond without prejudices whereas their perception that ethnic minority members are discriminated against is high.

People with modern racism have a high motivation to respond without prejudices whereas their perception that ethnic minority members are discriminated against is low. People with aversive racism hold both a high motivation to respond without prejudices and a high perception that ethnic minority members are discriminated against. In this aversive racism only, implicit and explicit affective responses are not in balance, i.e. people may show a positive explicit response but a negative implicit response. In three German non-student samples, we have replicated this original study. The measures were pre-registered on osf. We were especially interested whether we are able to find similar results for the German context with Turkish people as ethnic minority members.

205 Unveiling Residents' Metaperceptions of Refugees Through Data-Driven Analysis

Maximilian Schmidt

Universität Münster, Münster, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Correcting negative metaperceptions (MPs) might be a promising starting point for interventions aimed at reducing prejudice and fostering intergroup interaction between residents and refugees. While the role of MPs in integration-related psychological processes is not clear yet, research suggests that negative MPs about outgroups solidify prejudice, and that inaccurate negative MPs could be meaningfully reduced by simple disclosure interventions in other intergroup contexts. As research in this context is scarce, the content and frequency of residents' spontaneous MPs about refugees is not clear. In the present study, we measure German residents' MPs as spontaneous free-text responses that are analyzed using data-driven natural language processing to identify the prominent topics and sentiment. Additionally, we employ relevant scales about group MPs adapted from previous works in different social contexts. To assess which spontaneous MPs are unique to refugees, two control conditions measure the same constructs referring to EU-citizens (control 1) and residents with a migration background (control 2). Exploratory analyses test for associations of MP sentiment and intergroup contact frequency and quality, intergroup anxiety, perceived intergroup similarity in stereotype dimensions, and perception of threat. We will also assess whether the spontaneous recall of MPs varies depending on peoples' perspective taking ability.

Coffe Break

16:20 - 16:40 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Foyer Veranstaltungszentrum

Symposium: Antecedents and Consequences of Prejudice: Normativity, Stereotypes, and Hate Speech

16:40 - 18:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 1

Ever since the emergence of social psychology, prejudice has been of central interest in research. Recent political crises underline the importance of psychological contributions to a profound understanding of the emergence and persistence of prejudice and its consequences, with the goal of changing prejudice and reducing its negative outcomes. This symposium brings together several perspectives on the topic with specific foci on attitudinal and normative processes. First, Lindner et al. critically examine the relevance of personality factors and socially shared attitudes as predictors of prejudice. They demonstrate that prejudices are shared within social contexts even across the political divide (higher versus lower RWA). Wagner/Oehme et al. go further and offer insights how stereotypes are ascribed to criminal offenders and present evidence for the context-dependency of the social perception of those groups. Bender et al. investigate predictors of prejudice and support for prosecuting prejudice-motivated violence, focusing on the roles of RWA and SDO. They examine in more detail how different RWA sub-dimensions relate to prejudice and prosecution attitudes, accounting for variations based on the target group of prejudice-motivated violence. Finally, Gelfort et al. investigate the justification processes inhibiting the effect of normative pressure on the expression of prejudice, showing how free speech arguments are utilized to vicariously justify sanctioned prejudices. The contributions cover a broad spectrum of questions still open in prejudice research by focusing not only on different perspectives on the emergence, maintenance, and outcomes of prejudice but also applying theoretical frameworks on a broad array of prejudice targets.

24 Antecedents and Consequences of Prejudice: Normativity, Stereotypes, and Hate Speech

Chair(s)

Pascal Gelfort

Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany

142 The Social Perception of Criminal Offenders – Context Matters

Annalena Oehme¹, Deliah Wagner¹, Jennifer Laura Führer¹, Frank Asbrock^{1,2}

¹Center for Criminological Research Saxony, Chemnitz, Germany. ²Chemnitz University of Technology, Chemnitz, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Societal perceptions of offenders significantly influence public attitudes, justice policies, and reintegration efforts. Across three studies, this paper examines how prejudice, social comparison, and context shape these perceptions using the Stereotype Content Model (SCM), which evaluates judgments along warmth and competence dimensions.

In Study 1 ($N = 68$), participants rated offenders by crime type. Harmful crimes (e.g., assault, rape) elicited lower warmth ratings, while crimes linked to planning or higher social status (e.g., tax evasion) were associated with higher competence. While this established baseline perceptions, the small sample limited generalizability. Study 2 ($N = 5,174$) expanded on this with a representative German sample, incorporating non-offending groups (e.g., elderly, career women) for comparison. Offenders were consistently rated lower in warmth and competence, highlighting the role of prejudice and social comparison in amplifying stigmatization. Study 3 ($N = 595$) manipulated the inclusion of non-offending reference groups to isolate contextual effects. Offenders judged alongside non-offending groups were perceived as colder and less competent, particularly for minor offenses like fare evasion. However, crimes like murder or rape, carrying inherent stigma, were judged harshly regardless of context.

These findings link offender stereotypes to prejudice mechanisms like social comparison and intergroup dynamics. Offender stigma, shaped by context, reinforces barriers to reintegration and biases in justice policies. Addressing these biases is essential for promoting fairer, more inclusive approaches, reducing prejudice, and fostering societal reintegration for offenders. This work extends SCM research and emphasizes the importance of combating stigma in criminal justice.

151 Free Speech Endorsement and Prejudice - Expressive Threat and the Reactance to Social Norms

Pascal Gelfort, Maret Weimann, Paula Sill, Marco Klug, Thomas Kessler

Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Across many disciplines of social sciences, norms are identified as powerful determinants of individual attitudes and behavior. However, as normative pressure on prejudice expression seemingly increases, it is unclear whether prejudice expression decrease in a similar rate. The presented work looks into inhibitors of normative change by investigating the vicarious justification of non-conformant prejudice expression via the endorsement of free speech arguments. An experimental study replicated evidence for the Expression-Threat-Hypothesis by White and Crandall (2017) by showing that people endorsing xenophobic attitudes (a right-wing attitude) claimed the right for free speech as a justification of their attitudes when confronted with a punishment of xenophobic remarks. If a behavior unrelated to prejudice was punished (i.e. a person getting fired over offensive remarks towards a particular coworker), xenophobic attitudes did not predict the support of the right of free speech. A second study replicated and extended this finding in the context of a left-wing prejudice (negative attitudes towards soldiers). Both studies showed evidence that this effect is mediated by the experience of vicarious reactance. In a third study, we found that also overly positive attitudes towards a group predict the endorsement of freedom of speech, if participants observe punishment against those attitudes. The broadened conceptualization of prejudice in the presented research allows to infer on basic processes of prejudice in general. This work extends our understanding of how the punishment of prejudice related norm violations evokes reactance and has implications for norm-based interventions on prejudice.

153 Is prejudice a product of individual or collective processes? Insights from multi-level modelling

Clemens Lindner¹, Pascal Gelfort¹, Julia Elad-Strenger², Stefanie Hechler³, Esther Stemmler¹, Thomas Kessler¹

¹Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany. ²Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel. ³Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Social psychology typically treats the individual as the unit of analysis to explain prejudice towards specific outgroups, and consequently focuses on individual psychological dispositions as explanatory factors. Right-wing authoritarianism (RWA) is a prominent explanatory variable in prejudice research, with numerous studies demonstrating that individuals high on RWA show stronger prejudice than individuals who are low on RWA. However, only few studies have (1) examined the inter-individual variance in prejudice toward one group against the variance between prejudice targets and (2) pitted the effects of individual-level explanations for prejudice against contextual-level effects. Using data from the European Social Survey (ESS) Wave 4 (N=56,752) from 29 countries, we investigate in Study 1 whether RWA differentiates between more and less prejudiced individuals (e.g., anti-immigrant). The results reveal high similarity of levels of prejudice within countries irrespective of individual differences. However, in addition to the variance within prejudice, between prejudice target variation added significant amount of variance. Study 2 extends this finding by predicting individuals' prejudice levels with regional prejudice norms (context-level variable) and RWA (individual-level variable). We analyzed data from ESS Wave 10 (N=37,611) using multi-level modeling, testing several context-level predictors (e.g., prejudice norms, right-wing party votes) at the regional level (NUTS-2) in separate models. Results consistently show that prejudice (e.g., anti-gay) was predicted by both, individual- and context-level predictors. We demonstrate a strong effect of context-level predictors on individual-level prejudice, suggesting that prejudice is rather a collective than an individual product. Our findings underscore the importance of social contexts in prejudice research.

183 Nuancing Authoritarianism: Relations between RWA Sub-Dimensions, SDO and Support for Prosecuting Prejudice-Motivated Violence

Rowenia Bender^{1,2}, Claas Pollmanns², Oliver Christ³, Frank Asbrock^{1,2}

¹Center for Criminological Research Saxony, Chemnitz, Germany. ²Chemnitz University of Technology, Chemnitz, Germany. ³FernUniversität Hagen, Hagen, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Prejudice-motivated crimes are criminal acts driven by biases against characteristics such as nationality, religion, or sexual identity. Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) and Social Dominance Orientation (SDO), both robust predictors of prejudice toward a range of marginalized groups, were found to be positively correlated with attitudes toward prejudice-motivated crime (Bacon et al., 2021; Kehn et al., 2023). However, Bilewicz et al. (2017) found in a Polish

sample that while higher RWA predicted greater prejudice, it also correlated with stronger support for banning hate speech, particularly for groups protected by Polish social norms (e.g., Africans, Ukrainians). SDO, in contrast, was consistently associated with higher levels of prejudice and opposition to hate speech bans.

In this preregistered study we aimed at replicating Bilewicz et al.'s findings with regard to prejudice-motivated violence in a German sample ($N = 3,652$). Multiple linear regression analyses were conducted with RWA and SDO as predictors for prejudice toward several groups and support for prosecuting prejudice-motivated violence. Results confirmed SDO's positive relationship with prejudice and opposition to prosecuting such crimes, aligning with prior research. RWA, however, showed no significant overall effects. A more detailed analysis of its sub-dimensions aggression, submission, and conventionalism revealed distinct and at times opposing effects on both outcome variables, with notable variations depending on whether target groups were categorized as "norm-threatening" or "non-threatening".

These findings add to previous findings on the differentiation of the RWA sub-dimensions and will be discussed with regard to their role in shaping attitudes toward prejudice-motivated violence.

Symposium: Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviors: Insights across Intergroup Settings and Over Time

16:40 - 18:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 2a

Understanding prosocial and antisocial behaviors is critical for addressing today's most pressing global challenges, from fostering international cooperation to mitigating corrupt practices. This symposium examines these behaviors across various contexts. Vanessa Clemens and colleagues examine prosociality across national boundaries. In a 25-nation study, they show that an individual's prosociality depends on their own and their interaction partners' national background. These differences in intergroup prosociality are related to similarities in culture and nation-specific stereotypes, economic and institutional factors, and national conflict and cooperation. Similar to the investigation of prosociality across national boundaries, Jasper Siol and colleagues focus on antisocial behavior as they investigate bribery across national boundaries. Using an incentivized bribery game in 20 nations with probabilistic punishment based on country-specific corruption detection rates, they show that punishment reduces bribery overall, with a stronger effect on bribe acceptance than on bribe offering and significant variation across nations. Pinar Uğurlar and colleagues focus on prosociality in an intergroup setting when multiple group memberships are made salient. They show that prosociality increases with the number of shared group memberships, both in natural and arbitrary social categories. Finally, Dorothee Mischkowski and colleagues investigate the stability of prosociality across different situations. They reanalyze data to investigate whether prior interactions influence subsequent cooperation, particularly when interests shift from alignment to conflict. Results show that decreased aligned preferences positively predicted cooperation. Angela Dorrough will provide an integrative discussion concerning the mechanisms and factors affecting prosocial and antisocial behavior across national borders, multiple group memberships, and time.

19 Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviors: Insights across Intergroup Settings and Over Time

Chair(s)

Angela Dorrough

FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany

Vanessa Clemens

University of Cologne, Köln, Germany

121 Beyond Ingroup Favoritism: Cross-national social preferences Across 25 Nations

Vanessa Clemens¹, Marina Orifici^{1,2}, Laura Froehlich², Andreas Glöckner¹, Angela Dorrough^{1,2}

¹University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany. ²FernUniversität Hagen, Hagen, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Global crises require cooperation across national borders, that is, cooperation between individuals from various nations. Social preferences describe an individual's prosociality and are considered a core determinant of cooperation. Cross-national studies investigating prosociality between individuals from various nations beyond the classical ingroup versus outgroup distinction are scarce. In a preregistered, incentivized cross-national study with 6,182 participants from 25 nations, we assessed individuals' prosociality towards individuals from the respective 25 nations, thereby investigating cross-national social preferences for $25 \times 25 = 625$ national dyads. Our data revealed significant variation in cross-national social preferences beyond ingroup favoritism. This systematic variation was related to similarity in culture and nation-specific stereotypes, economic and institutional factors, and national conflict and cooperation. Similarity in nation-specific stereotypes and conflict between the respective nations emerged as the strongest predictors. These findings highlight the importance of examining both the characteristics of individuals and their interaction partners, including social perceptions as well as broader contextual factors such as cultural and economic factors, to enhance our understanding of global intergroup prosociality and cooperation.

122 Cooperation in multiple social categorization settings

Pınar Uğurlar¹, Angela Dorrough²

¹Özyeğin University, İstanbul, Turkey. ²FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Psychological literature has suggested that the human tendency to adopt an "us versus them" perspective may impede cooperation among diverse social groups: People show an intergroup bias in that they tend to cooperate less

with outgroup than ingroup members. Nevertheless, people often belong to multiple groups. Two interacting people may belong to two distinct groups in one category (e.g., nationality: the U.S. vs. the U.K.) but may share group membership in another (e.g., gender: men vs. women). While intergroup bias can obstruct cooperation across social groups, the natural heterogeneity of social categories can create untapped opportunities to promote intergroup cooperation. In three high-powered, preregistered, and incentivized experiments involving participants from the US, we found that cooperation increases with the number of shared group memberships in arbitrary social categories as well as in naturally existing social categories such as political orientation and ethnicity, or political orientation and religious beliefs. We replicated this finding in arbitrary social categories with participants from Türkiye – suggesting that the impact of the number of shared group memberships on cooperation may extend beyond specific cultural contexts. Two further studies extended the number of groups shared groups and explored whether theories that primarily attempt to explain intergroup bias in single categorization, such as the social identity approach and the bounded generalized reciprocity theory, can account for cooperation in multiple categorization situations. Together with these findings, we aim to discuss the nature, underlying mechanisms, and boundary conditions of the relationship between overlapping multiple group memberships and cooperation.

124 From coordination to cooperation: Previous coordination behavior facilitates subsequent cooperation – particularly for dispositional prosocials

Dorothee Mischkowski^{1,2}, Johannes Ullrich³

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

The question of whether prosocial behavior remains stable over time and across situations, or is compensated for in the form of moral licensing, remains an ongoing puzzle. The present study investigated how prior interactions influence subsequent cooperation behavior when interests are aligned vs. conflicted across situations (i.e., coordination games vs. social dilemmas). Specifically, we hypothesized that an increase (vs. decrease) in conflicting interests from one economic game to the next would positively predict subsequent cooperation behavior. Furthermore, we examined whether this potential spillover effect might be conditional on dispositional prosociality (i.e., Honesty-Humility, HH, and Social Value Orientation, SVO) as these individuals by disposition show temporally stable and generalized prosocial behavior. To this end, an existing data set ($N = 421$ participants) was re-analyzed. Participants played 67 hypothetical, one-shot economic games that varied in the continuous competitiveness-cooperativeness index (CCI), which allows the comparison of games in their degree of aligned preferences vs. conflicting interests. As expected, differences in CCI between two subsequent games were predictive of cooperation behavior: An increase (vs. decrease) in CCI relative to the previous game positively predicted cooperation behavior. This spillover effect was particularly pronounced for individuals with a high degree of dispositional prosociality (i.e., for individuals high in SVO and HH alike). The findings require replication, but provide an important starting point whether and for

whom maximizing mutual gains in coordination games facilitates costlier forms of cooperation in subsequent conflicts of interest.

132 Transnational Bribery and Punishment - Experimental Evidence from 20 Countries

Jasper Siol¹, Nils Köbis², Angela Dorrough³, Andreas Glöckner¹, Shaul Shalvi⁴, Bernd Irlenbusch¹, Louis Strang¹

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Curbing transactional unethical behavior like bribery presents a grand global challenge. While previous studies have explored the influence of national backgrounds on bribery behavior, they have not examined the effects of the risk of punishment on such behaviors. Following prior work (Dorrough, Köbis, et al., 2023), we use incentivized bribery games to study transnational bribery. In these bribery games, participants from multiple countries are matched with each other and decide as “citizen” and “public official” players whether to offer and accept “unofficial payments” (=bribes). Such transfers mutually benefit both players but cause a financial cost to third parties, such as a donation deduction to an environmental NGO.

The current study provides the first insight into how punishment affects transnational bribery behavior by implementing probabilistic punishment. Namely, in a survey of corruption research experts, we assessed the perceived likelihood of bribery detection in 20 countries. We then conducted an experiment across these 20 countries, with a sample size of 200 participants per country ($N_{\text{total}} = 4081$, representative of age and gender in each country). For each country, we implemented the experts’ ratings of perceived detection as a probabilistic sudden death punishment (i.e., if bribery is detected, all money is lost). Based on pre-registered analyses, our results show that punishment reduces bribery but does so asymmetrically, i.e., curbing bribe acceptance rates twice as much as bribe offer rates. We furthermore show that the effect of punishment strongly differs across countries.

Keywords: *cross-cultural, bribery, corruption, punishment*

Session: Misinformation and Polarization

16:40 - 18:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 2b

152 Illuminating the Ideological Lens: The (Dis-)Connect Between Ideological Bias Awareness and Ideological Bias Expression

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University of Jena, Jena, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Political thinking and behavior is shaped by ideological beliefs, a phenomenon that we describe as ideological bias. However, it is largely unclear to what extent individuals are aware of their own ideological bias, and how this awareness might be linked to bias expression in a polarized information environment. We introduce the concept of *ideological bias awareness* – a metacognitive belief structure reflecting how individuals recognize, worry about, and aim to control their own ideological biases. We distinguish three theoretical perspectives on the empirical relationship between ideological bias awareness and the expression of ideological bias indicating negative relation, no relation or positive relation. We outline the development and validation of an ideological bias awareness scale using three samples from Germany and one from the US ($N_{1, \text{German}} = 338$, $N_{2, \text{US}} = 455$, $N_{3, \text{German}} = 1,229$, $N_{4, \text{German}} = 442$). Finally, we empirically examine the proposed theoretical perspectives on the link between ideological bias awareness and bias expression. In an experimental feedback study with two points of measurement ($N_{t1} = 1229$, $N_{t2} = 1001$), we find evidence that people are able to control their ideological bias expression. However, across three correlational studies, we find no meaningful relationship between ideological bias awareness and ideological bias expression. Our findings are in line with research on bias blindness and advance our understanding of the challenges in mitigating ideological bias expression through metacognitive introspection and highlight the complexity of addressing ideological polarization.

156 Normative Beliefs Among Homeopathy Users About the Use of Homeopathy to Treat Serious Conditions

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Osnabrueck University, Osnabrueck, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Can homeopathy cure all diseases? Depending on whom you ask, answers to this question might be very different. This research investigates what homeopathy users believe about (a) whether and how homeopathy should be used to treat serious conditions like cancer, and (b) science and the relevance of scientific evidence regarding

homeopathy. Using latent profile analysis (N = 225), we identify subgroups of homeopathy users that differ in their normative beliefs about the use of homeopathy in serious conditions: supporters of standalone use of homeopathy in serious conditions (~9%), those who are open toward standalone use (~43%), supporters of supplementary use (~35%), and supporters of both supplementary use and nonuse in serious conditions (~13%). Subgroups that supported or were open toward the standalone use of homeopathy in serious conditions held the most negative attitudes toward science. These findings are relevant for interventions aiming to prevent the risks associated with homeopathy use.

254 Need for Security Mediates Reception of Mandatory/Voluntary Policies and Interest in/Agreement with Anti-Mainstream-Narratives

Gülru Horozoglu¹, Małgorzata Kossowska², Monika Gołąb², Davide Melita², Ursula Kessels¹

¹Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany. ²Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

The threat to psychological needs like the need for significance have been linked to adherence to anti-mainstream narratives (Da Silva et al., 2024). However, there is little evidence regarding the need for security, i.e., wanting one's life to be structured and safe, and interest in and agreement with anti-mainstream narratives. With two preregistered experiments we explored the role of the need for (financial) security (NFS) in the interest in and agreement with anti-mainstream narratives. We manipulated NFS by presenting a costly policy proposing the mandatory or voluntary instalment of climate-friendly heaters. For study 1, homeowners in Germany (n=480) were randomised into three groups (mandatory/voluntary policies, control condition). The manipulation threatened NFS successfully, leading to the highest threat to NFS in the mandatory policy condition followed by the voluntary and control conditions, $F(2, 476)=89.58, p<.001$. We calculated a structural equation model (SEM) to test the path between the interest in anti-mainstream narratives and group assignment over NFS. The assignment to the mandatory condition led indirectly over NFS (partial mediation) to a higher interest in anti-mainstream narratives, $B= .06, 95\% \text{ CI } [.01, .12]$. Study 2 (n=523), conducted in Poland, replicated the effect of the manipulation on NFS, $F(2, 512)=172.41, p<.001$. NFS (fully) mediated the agreement to anti-mainstream narratives in the SEM, $B= .13, 95\% \text{ CI } [.05, .24]$. Results indicate the importance of NFS for anti-mainstream narratives and urge further research into the role of psychological needs in media use behaviour and opinion formation.

308 The Role of Critical Thinking in Motivated Belief Updating

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

False information can shape societal perceptions and communication. Distinguishing true from false information is therefore crucial to maintaining informed public discourse and decision-making. Research indicates that individuals with higher critical thinking skills are better at differentiating fake from real news, while motivated reasoning may distort veracity assessments, leading individuals to attribute greater credibility to false information that aligns with their preexisting beliefs. To examine the interplay between motivated reasoning and critical thinking in shaping beliefs about information veracity, we conducted an online experiment with 933 participants. We assessed critical thinking abilities using the Cognitive Reflection Test (CRT), the Critical Thinking Disposition Scale (CTDS), and the Need for Cognition Scale (NCS-6), alongside political preferences. Utilizing an adapted version of Thaler's motivated reasoning paradigm (2024), participants responded to numerical questions on current German political topics. After providing their median belief, they received either true or false information that was consistent or inconsistent with their political preferences. Participants then assessed the information's veracity and could revise their initial estimates.

Preliminary results indicate that participants do not assign higher veracity to preference-consistent information and instead rate true information as more credible. Participants are more likely to update their beliefs contrary to their political preferences when encountering new information, though this trend is not statistically significant. Additionally, participants with higher critical thinking abilities (only CRT) assign lower veracity assessments overall but significantly higher veracity to true information. These findings may inform strategies to combat disinformation and enhance critical thinking as essential digital age skills.

280 Strength of the personal respect norm-tolerance link depending on extremity of position and perceived threat

Lucía Estevan-Reina¹, Laura Frederica Schäfer², Wilma Middendorf³, Marcin Bukowski⁴, Maarten van Zalk³, Oliver Christ²

¹University of Granada, Granada, Spain. ²University of Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ³University of Osnabrück, Osnabrück, Germany. ⁴Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Many societies all over the globe are challenged by heated debates around important societal issues such as migration policies, gender equality and transgender rights, and climate change. This divergence in opinions is often associated with affective polarization, i.e., an increasingly strong dislike of and intolerance toward those with opposing views. Previous research has shown that respecting disapproved others as equals might fosters tolerance, even in polarized contexts. Yet, an empirical test whether respect tolerance toward opposing others is still observable even in the case of extreme positions (i.e., extreme opinion on a social issue and/or strong disapproval of opposing views) and high perceived threats from opposing others, is still missing. In our research, we will test whether the strength of the association between personal respect norms and tolerance of opposing views is dependent on the extremity of the own opinion, strength of disapproval of the opposing opinion, and perceived threat from the outgroup. Results based on survey data of more than 12,000 respondents from 12 European countries reveal that the association between adopted respect norms and tolerance is unaffected by extremity, strength of disapproval and perceived threat. We discuss the implications of our findings for interventions and policies aimed at addressing negative societal consequences associated with opinion polarization.

Symposium: From Civil Courage to Systemic Change: Strategies for Reducing Prejudice and Discrimination

16:40 - 18:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Saal 3

Intergroup bias, which contributes to continuing social inequalities and intergroup conflict, persists at individual, systemic and cultural levels. This symposium explores how individual characteristics (e.g., attitudes, anger) and systemic factors (e.g., institutional features, segregation) that contribute to the perpetuation of prejudice and discrimination can be addressed. On a small scale, confrontation and civil courage can challenge discriminatory behaviour. On a larger scale, community interventions can improve intergroup relations. This symposium brings together research on practical solutions to address prejudice against (ascribed) ethnic, racial, sexual, or gender minorities. It employs a variety of methods, including surveys, (field) experiments, and expert interviews.

a) Stefanie Hechler examines how individual and systemic features of racism influence intentions to confront it and foster anti-discriminatory environments.

b) Daniela Niesta Kayser and colleagues illustrate how individual emotional mechanisms (i.e., trait and state anger) drive civil courage to counter prejudiced behaviour in public spaces.

c) Ruth Dittmann and colleagues evaluate community-based solutions in a region of violent inter-ethnic conflicts through contact interventions using a field experiment.

d) Finally, Ulrich Klocke focuses on long-term institutional solutions by asking organizational experts about promising measures to reduce prejudice against LGBTQ+ people in Germany.

The research emphasizes that effective solutions to prejudice require a balance between psychological insights, structural reforms, and context-specific strategies that promote awareness, strengthen intergroup solidarity and implement organizational measures.

Finally, we are delighted to have Ulrich Wagner as our discussant, who will critically comment on the research and propose future directions.

17 From Civil Courage to Systemic Change: Strategies for Reducing Prejudice and Discrimination

Chair(s)

Stefanie Hechler

Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany

105 Recognition of systemic biases as preconditions for confrontation of discriminatory behaviour

Stefanie Hechler

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Racist behaviour is often attributed to individual characteristics of the actor, such as their racist attitudes and decisions (i.e. person attribution). Characteristics of a system or context, for instance general rules, shared knowledge, habits or values, can also determine behaviour that reproduces racist stereotypes and inequalities. In these cases, interpersonal behaviour may reproduce systemic or institutional racism while the actor may not appear to be culpable or responsible. However, challenging such instances raises awareness of unintentional biases. Using large-scale survey data from Germany, the current studies examined the role of acknowledging systemic racism and attributing discriminatory behaviour to individuals in the health care system. Study 1 ($N \approx 12,000$) showed that bystanders intend to confront negative behaviour by white actors towards members of racial minorities more strongly than similar behaviour towards members of the white majority. This solidarity effect did not differ between majority and minority participants, but varied with the recognition of racial inequalities beyond individual prejudice. In Study 2 ($N \approx 3,000$), individual forms of racism increased willingness to confront actors compared to institutional forms, and this effect was mediated by person attribution. Study 3 ($N \approx 2,000$) manipulated attribution ambiguity by providing person or context explanations for negative behaviour towards minority members to test how this affected willingness to confront the actors. Overall, the findings highlight the importance of shared knowledge of systemic racism and recognition of its reproduction in interpersonal encounters in order to contribute to changing discriminatory environments.

337 The influence of anger on strategies for civil-courage behavior

Daniela Niesta Kayser¹, Elisabeth Zick¹, Maria Agthe²

¹Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany. ²UMIT, Tirol, Austria

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Research on the underlying mechanisms of civically courageous behavior has shown that moral anger influences the intervention of third parties in the event of norm violations (e.g. Sasse, Halmburger & Baumert, 2022). Hereby, the emotion of anger is a significant determinant for civically courageous behavior both as a personality trait (trait anger) and as a situational emotional state (state anger) (Niesta Kayser et al., 2024). To test the direction of the effect,

previous studies lacked an experimental induction of anger. It was also unclear which type of anger expression predicted which form of action. The study therefore examines possible influences of anger on intervention in emergency situations involving discrimination against third parties from different perspectives. Study 1 (n = 156) examines both the dispositional components and the situational experience of anger as well as its influence on civil-courage behavioral intentions with regard to civil-courage options for action. In addition, state anger is experimentally manipulated by means of an anger induction. Study 2 (n = 390) also examines the relationship between state and trait anger (e.g. in the school context) and analyzes the “situational strength” of civil courage situations as well as the influence of injustice sensitivity (observer) on civil courage behavioral intention. The hypotheses on the connection between state and trait anger are confirmed and it is shown that different options for civil-courage intervention are chosen depending on the level of anger. The results are discussed regarding their impact for interventions in cases of discrimination in schools and in public.

282 Reducing bias against LGBTI+ people: Measures taken in Germany and international research on their effectiveness

Ulrich Klocke

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Attitudes towards LGBTI+ people in Germany have become more positive since the 1960ies. However, reported hate crimes against LGBTI+ are on the rise since data collection began in 2001. LGBTI+ people have a higher risk of victimization, mental health problems and suicide. Several NGOs, public institutions, and companies apply measures to counter prejudice and discrimination against LGBTI+ and promote an LGBTI+ inclusive climate. However, it is often unclear whether they attain these goals, especially in the long run.

We compiled existing measures in Germany, invited 1,389 organizations to answer questions on measures they implemented and received 274 completed questionnaires (97 NGO's and public welfare, 77 universities, 21 schools, 20 religious, 18 police, 6 companies). Altogether, the organizations reported 1,064 different measures: 29% involving direct contact (13% educating multipliers and 16% reducing bias in non-multipliers, e.g. students), 16% publicly valuing sexual orientation and gender diversity, 13% changing organizational structures, 12% creating and distributing educational material, 10% counseling LGBTI+ people how to counter discrimination, 9% counseling organizations to develop an LGBTI+ inclusive culture.

In interviews with 30 respondents (finished) and a second survey of all active organizations (March 2025), we assess the specific goals of these measures, respondents' experiences with essential conditions of attaining these goals, and their open questions to research. The assessments are rounded off by a systematic review of international research on effects of the different measures and their conditions. We will discuss possible next steps of effectiveness research considering type and scope of measures implemented in Germany.

289 Does prolonged, intensive intergroup contact reduce interethnic prejudice in a conflict setting?

Ruth Dittmann¹, Tenaw Abate², Solomon Zena Walelign³, Dereje Abegaz³, Lingerh Akalu⁴, Yohanes Ayele⁵, Habtamu Edjigu⁶, Cecilia Hyunjung Mo⁷

¹Hertie School, Berlin, Germany. ²Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark. ³University of Gondar, Gondar, Ethiopia.

⁴GuiZhou University, Guiyang, China. ⁵Overseas Development Institute, London, United Kingdom. ⁶Policy Studies Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. ⁷UC Berkley, Berkley, USA

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Intergroup contact is the most studied social psychological intervention for improving intergroup relations. However, its effectiveness in reducing prejudice amid ongoing ethnic violence in the Global South remains underexplored. This research investigates the impact of intergroup contact in Ethiopia, a nation grappling with deep ethnic tensions exacerbated by conflicts in regions such as Tigray, Amhara, and Oromia. These conflicts have fostered fear and resentment among ethnic groups.

The University of Gondar's Host Family Program aims to address these divides by pairing non-Amhara students with local Amhara families to encourage cross-ethnic dialogue. In this study, 720 students are randomly assigned to either 360 host families or a control group that does not participate in the program. At the academic year's end, questionnaires and behavioral games will measure whether sustained, meaningful contact reduces ethnic prejudice and increases trust and cooperation.

This field experiment offers a rare opportunity to examine intergroup contact in a setting marked by active ethnic conflict. Preliminary results and insights into the challenges and opportunities of conducting such research will be presented at the conference.

Session: Human Sexuality

16:40 - 18:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

Saal 4

64 How Valid Are Sexual Self-Reports? Using the Item-Sum-Technique to Examine Self-Presentation Tendencies in Online Research

Marcel Weber, Helena Kilger, Malte Frieese

Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Honest self-reporting is essential for valid conclusions about motivation, but it cannot be taken for granted. This is especially true for the private and sensitive domain of sexual motivation, where participants may feel pressured to conform their responses to (gendered) social norms. Such tendencies can have far-reaching implications for society and science, including the potential overestimation of gender differences in sexual motivation. In the present research, we investigated whether the hope that online data collection could help mitigate the problem of socially desirable responses to indicators of (sexual) motivation is justified. We used the *Item Sum Technique*—an indirect questioning method that maximizes anonymity—to establish a strong standard of comparison for standard online self-reports ($N_{\text{total}} = 2,857$). For several theory-driven indicators of sexual motivation, frequency estimates and gender differences were unaffected by response method, providing little evidence of social desirability bias in online studies. Additional findings, including small to no gender differences for sexual bias indicators, near-maximal levels of self-reported honesty, and weak associations between sexual motivation and social desirability scales, further support the accuracy of (gender differences) in online self-reports of sexual motivation. We discuss these findings in the context of the ongoing debate about the validity of gender differences in sexual motivation.

79 I'll hurt you because it's fun... and you deserve it!

Claudia Sassenrath^{1,2}, Sophia Schipp¹, Johannes Keller¹

¹Ulm University, Ulm, Germany. ²Hochschule Ravensburg-Weingarten, Weingarten, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Victims of sexual violence are often blamed for their victimizing experiences. Past research on victim blaming has primarily focused on the underlying cognitive or motivational processes. The current research takes a novel approach by examining (a) affective processes contributing to victim blaming, and (b) by examining resulting overt aggression towards the victim. In a first online study, we investigated the relationship of everyday sadism, victim blaming and aggressive behavior towards representations of both the victim and the perpetrator in the context of sexual harassment. 263 participants read a case vignette and then were able to punish both the victim and the perpetrator of the vignette by an online adaption of the Voodoo Doll Aggression Task (VDAT). Findings indicate that individuals higher in everyday sadism blamed the victim to a greater extent due to increased sadistic pleasure and decreased empathic concern. Moreover, results demonstrated that individuals high (vs. low) in everyday sadism stick a

greater number of pins into the victim's Voodoo doll. This association was partially mediated by victim blaming.

In a follow-up study ($N = 338$) addressing victim and perpetrator characteristics and possible interventions, findings indicated that an intervention focusing on the perpetrator and plausible alternative behaviors in the sexual-harassment situation reduced victim blaming compared to an intervention focusing on the victim. Overall, this research provides novel insights on the role of victim blaming in aggressive behavior towards suffering individuals. The design of the VDAT within a victim-perpetrator constellation creates new opportunities to investigate observable aggressive tendencies online.

319 From Harassment to Subtle Bias: A Data-Driven Exploration of Individual Differences in Conceptualizing Sexist Behavior

Violetta Biermann, Manuel Becker, Bea Arias Martín, Sarah Teige-Mocigemba

Philipps-Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

The #MeToo movement has brought heightened awareness to the topic of sexism, still the term remains contested due to varying understanding of what sexism is: some restrict it to hostile gender harassment, while others include subtle or structural biases. We aim to better understand these differences in individual conceptualizations. To this end, we used an inductive approach to develop behavioral inventories which capture the core of the “sexism” construct while representing the broad range of conceptualizations. We asked participants to come up with examples of sexist behavior in an open-ended online survey. A diverse sample ($N = 767$) - including laypeople and subject matter experts of different genders, ages, sexual orientations, ethnicities, and educational backgrounds – generated a total of 4436 individual entries which covered a broad range of sexist actions. Several teams of coders clustered these individual entries, such that entries which represented the same behavior were grouped together under the same label as one unique action. In a second step, distinct but conceptually similar unique actions were grouped into superordinate clusters. The resulting structure of unique actions and superordinate clusters served as a basis to explore how people of different genders and familiarity with the topic differ in their conceptualization of sexism. Follow-up studies will condense this structured collection of sexist actions into behavioral inventories that can then be applied to promote a better understanding of conflicting views on sexism in both academic and public debates.

253 Achieving Safety and Fairness: Testing Moderation Strategies Against Online Sexism

Julia Sasse¹, Jens Grossklags²

¹Ansbach University of Applied Sciences, Ansbach, Germany. ²Technical University Munich, Munich, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Sexual harassment and insults are widespread on social media, harming women's psychological well-being and discouraging their participation in online discourse, making it a broader societal issue. To mitigate these adverse effects (and those of other forms of misconduct), platforms employ moderation. In Study 1 ($N = 839$), we tested the effectiveness of common moderation strategies - deletion and public or private counterspeech - in creating a safer environment for women (as members of the targeted group) and users in general. Supporting our preregistered hypotheses, participants (women and users in general) felt safer when sexist content was deleted (vs. visible); if it remained visible, they felt safest when it was addressed publicly rather than privately. However, exploratory analyses showed that deletion was judged as less fair than counterspeech against visible sexist content. Since perceived fairness may influence the acceptance of deletion despite its effectiveness, Study 2 ($N = 794$) tested whether fairness could be improved through optional transparency (i.e., allowing participants to reveal the deleted comment and the reason for deletion). Supporting our preregistered hypotheses, participants felt safer after deletion with and without optional transparency (vs. no moderation), but deletion with optional transparency was perceived as fairer than deletion alone. Notably, this was driven by those participants who used the transparency option. Thus, providing users with access to information about deleted content helped reduce the trade-off between effectiveness and perceived fairness. This highlights the importance of user perceptions in the design of moderation strategies to enhance its acceptance and impact.

Symposium: Collective Environmental Action – Psychological Causes and Consequences

16:40 - 18:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

Seminarraum 2 Oben (Karthago)

The motivation to participate in Fridays for Future demonstrations, actions of the Last Generation, or protests against wind parks is strongly associated with psychological factors such as emotions, perceptions of unfairness, or identification with relevant groups. To what extent these psychological factors are causes or consequences of the collective action is often not clear. The present symposium addresses this question. Blumenschein et al. provide an overview of psychological predictors of collective environmental action with a large survey in Germany. We then turn to two experimental studies that investigate the causal role of emotions for environmentally relevant collective action. Wullenkord et al. employed different instructions of emotion regulation and investigated their effects on collective action for climate protection. Katsarava et al. investigated the causal effects of selective wind park information on emotions and collective action intentions against wind parks. Yet, psychological factors are not only relevant for motivating collective action, they can also result from it as participants have to cope with potential failure and the risk of activist burnout. Turning to more radical collective action, Neji et al. investigated the role of positive emotions and perceived success in non-normative collective action by interviewing members of the Last Generation. Hamann et al. investigated risk and protective factors for activist burnout by explicitly focusing on the potential psychological consequences of collective action. Taken together, these contributions advance our knowledge about psychological predictors and outcomes of collective action.

10 Collective Environmental Action – Psychological Causes and Consequences

Chair(s)

Helen Landmann

Universität Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, Austria

Frank Eckerle

Universität Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, Austria

48 Regulating climate emotions: An experiment investigating the impact of emotion regulation on collective action intentions

Marlis Wullenkord¹, Mara Mosbacher², Helen Landmann^{3,4}

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

Based on self-determination theory and emotion regulation research, we argue that people employ different emotion regulation strategies to cope with threatening information about climate change. These strategies have different associations with psychological need satisfaction and consequences for climate action. To test the causal effects of two emotion regulation strategies, we conducted a pre-registered experiment

with a convenience sample in Germany ($N = 553$). Participants received instructions for integrative emotion regulation (i.e., observing and make sense of their own emotions), emotional distancing (i.e., distancing themselves from their own emotions), or no instruction before they watched a video about the detrimental consequences of climate change. Participants in the emotional distancing condition reported less intense negative emotions. While watching the video, they were less motivated to support increasing prices of climate-damaging products and less motivated to support tightening environmental requirements for products, technologies, and services compared to participants in the integrative emotion regulation condition or participants in the control condition. Considering general emotion regulation, people who reported to integrate their emotions vs. distance themselves from them reported stronger situational and general policy support, general intentions for collective action, and psychological need satisfaction. These findings support the claim that emotional distancing is a relevant factor that prevents more consistent climate policies. Training community members in integrative emotion regulation strategies may mitigate this effect and provide psychological well-being through encouraging people to meet their psychological needs. By extension, these findings also have implications how to engage with climate change in educational settings, for example.

50 Do climate emotions matter? Investigating psychological predictors of collective climate action

Paula Blumenschein¹, Dorothea Metzen¹, Karen R. S. Hamann², Stephan Heinzel¹

¹TU Dortmund University, Dortmund, Germany. ²University Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

In the face of the advancing climate crisis, many individuals show affective responses known as climate emotions. While mainly positive associations between selected emotions, such as climate anger or climate anxiety, and pro-environmental behavior have been observed, a comprehensive consideration of different climate emotions is lacking. To better understand the psychological predictors of collective climate action, we examined climate emotions alone and in combination with other predictors from the Social Identity Model of Pro-Environmental Action (SIMPEA). We conducted an online survey ($N = 966$) with a German sample representative in terms of age, gender, and federal state. Eight distinctive climate emotions were measured using the Inventory of Climate Emotions (ICE): anger, anxiety, enthusiasm, powerlessness, contempt, guilt, sorrow, isolation. Risk perception, social identity, collective efficacy and social norms were measured as further SIMPEA predictors. Regression analyses with climate emotions as predictors revealed climate isolation, guilt, enthusiasm, anxiety, and

contempt as significant positive predictors for collective climate action while powerlessness was a significant negative predictor. The same emotions except for climate anxiety remained significant predictors in a regression model including further SIMPEA predictors, where social identity and social norms further positively predicted collective climate action. Subsequent moderation analyses showed climate enthusiasm moderating the relationship between climate contempt and collective climate action. The results affirm the importance of climate emotions for collective climate action, while causality needs to be investigated in further longitudinal studies.

52 Causal effects of selective wind park information on emotions and collective action intentions

Mariam Katsarava¹, Helen Landmann², Robert Gaschler¹

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Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

The protest challenges the major role that wind energy plays in green energy production. People motivated to engage in collective action against wind parks usually evaluate the local distribution of wind parks and associated financial benefits as unfair and believe that it is possible to collectively stop wind parks. However, whether these perceptions of unfairness and collective efficacy causally affect collective action intentions against wind parks is not clear. We varied unfairness and collective efficacy information in an online experiment (N = 473). Participants received one of three texts with correct information about wind parks but different foci: (1) distribution of wind parks among federal states in Germany, (2) distribution of financial gains of wind parks, (3) successful action against wind parks, or (4) no information. Subsequently, they reported their emotional reactions, appraisals and action intentions. In line with our hypotheses, participants who read about the distribution of wind parks or financial gains reported more intense anger, injustice appraisals, and stronger intentions to punish those responsible for the construction of wind parks. The information about successful action against wind parks elicited collective efficacy appraisals. However, different to our expectations, this information did not elicit feelings of being moved or collective action intentions. This suggests that the perception that it is possible to change something together does not automatically move people to act. The results further indicate that selective information about wind parks can increase perceptions of injustice, feelings of anger, and the motivation to punish those responsible for windpark construction.

53 Investigating the predictors of volunteer hours and activist burnout in the context of socio-ecological crises

Karen Hamann^{1,2}, Luca Marcus^{2,3}, Anna-Sophie von Agris^{2,3}

¹Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany. ²Wandelwerk e.V., Aachen, Germany. ³FU Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

As the climate crisis becomes more tangible, collective action on environmental issues is both increasing and urgently needed. Psychological research has begun to investigate the antecedents of collective action. However, it has predominantly focused on “generalists” who show a variety of collective actions while overlooking the individuals who devote substantial time to one specific action. Moreover, we know little about the psychological processes that contribute to the resilience of collective action. We simultaneously addressed these gaps by investigating the predictors of volunteer hours dedicated to socio-ecological movements (as a measure independent of collective action content) and activist burnout in two cross-sectional studies involving German-speaking participants (N = 441, N = 486). Regression analyses revealed that participative efficacy and integrated volunteer motivation account for volunteer hours over and above commonly used predictors of the Social Identity Model of Collective Action (SIMCA). In Study 2, descriptive norms further positively predicted volunteer hours, whereas moral convictions surprisingly emerged as a negative predictor. As for activist burnout, social identification and self-efficacy emerged as buffers of activist burnout. We discuss the need for social psychology to develop a more comprehensive perspective on collective action by acknowledging why individuals invest their time in social movements and through which mechanisms their engagement can be sustained resiliently.

57 Solidarity under Threat moves to Act: Positive Emotions and Perceived Success in Non-normative Collective Action

Sybillé Neji¹, Anette Rohmann¹, Dorothee Köstlin¹, Tobias Klotzsch¹, Judith Rusch¹, Stefanie Gimmerthal¹, Helen Landmann²

¹FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany. ²Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, Germany

Submission Type

Symposium Contribution

Abstract

People can be motivated to engage in collective action for climate protection because they are angry about an injustice or because they are emotionally moved by the idea that they can achieve something together. To date, specific elicitors of these emotions in the context of non-normative climate protests are unclear. One possible elicitor of these feelings is the anticipated success of the protest. However, it is not clear which criteria climate activists use to evaluate their actions. To better understand the motivation to engage in collective action for climate protection and the respective success criteria, we conducted structured interviews (N = 30) in Germany with activists of the “Last Generation”, a group that engages in non-normative collective action for climate protection. Qualitative content analyses revealed that feelings of being moved were mainly evoked by solidarity among activists, especially in threatening situations. Perceived success criteria mainly focused on raising awareness for the severity of climate

change. The identified emotion elicitors as well as the success criteria enhance our understanding of collective climate action. Considering these factors may be crucial for sustained collective climate action.

Session: Group Dynamics

16:40 - 18:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025
Seminarraum 4 Oben (Krakau)

98 The Effect of a Shared Social Identity on Mutual Support in Remote Group Tasks

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

The rise in remote work has transformed traditional team structures and collaboration, increasingly relying on virtual meetings and collaboration. This has implications for team identity and support dynamics, as remote settings can challenge the development of shared identities and mutual support typically fostered through in-person interactions. Prior research suggests that social identity plays a critical role in facilitating supportive behaviors. Thus, we conducted a single-factor online experiment with virtual team interactions via Zoom with N = 120 participants, randomly assigned to either a social identity (N = 60) or personal identity condition (N = 60). Participants underwent the experiment in groups of three mutually attending a zoom conference. After experimentally inducing either a shared social identity or a personal identity in an online setting, teams engaged in a 20-minute collaborative task that required cooperation and information exchange. Participants in the social identity condition reported significantly higher identification with their work-team compared to participants in the personal identity condition, confirming the effectiveness of the online manipulation. Furthermore, we found an indirect effect of the social identity manipulation on social support, which was mediated by self-reported identification with the team. Participants in the social identity condition showed increased received and provided support through higher levels of identification compared to participants in the personal identity condition. These findings suggest that a shared social identity can be fostered in virtual settings, which in turn can enhance support behaviors in remote teams.

206 Effects of Communication Synchronicity on Non-Native Speakers in Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning Groups

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Interaction is critical to Computer Supported Collaborative Learning (CSCL). Two trends affect student interaction in CSCL: increasing diversity due to globalization and lifelong learning, and changing communication means (from text-based, asynchronous to synchronous tools like video calls). Asynchronous communication allows students to reflect on their contributions, avoiding cues leading to stereotypical categorization, which is especially relevant for non-native speakers. In contrast, synchronous communication may reinforce stereotypes, particularly based on native language. On the other hand, synchronous communication can help groups quickly revise fixed stereotypes through real-time cues, reducing the internalization of stereotype threat.

In two longitudinal studies ($n_1 = 223$, $n_2 = 117$) of CSCL groups in higher education, we examined effects of communication methods and first language on CSCL outcomes. Students were randomly assigned to CSCL groups which were randomly assigned to collaborate asynchronously (Study 1: forums, Study 2: forums/voice messages) or synchronously (1: video calls, 2: video calls/instant messaging). Participants answered questionnaires on their collaboration once a week during the 4-week group work.

In both studies, communication methods interacted with participants' first language in predicting CSCL outcomes in mixed linear models: non-native speakers reported significantly lower self-efficacy in asynchronous conditions compared to synchronous conditions, while native speakers did not differ. Robust Bayesian analyses confirmed these effects despite few non-native speakers. Our findings align with the SIDE model, suggesting that synchronous communication can mitigate stereotype-related concerns by offering real-time group cues. We conclude that communication methods for CSCL environments should be carefully considered to ensure equitable outcomes.

217 Rapid transitions between movement repertoires in human crowds. An experimental – observational approach

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

It has long been assumed that people in large groups and crowds move homogeneously - and current computer simulations of pedestrians and crowds reproduce this uniform motion. However, in crowd experiments we observe that participants often switch between different types of forward movement. To systematize this observation, we studied the movement behaviour of participants in a pedestrian crowd experiment, more specifically in four experimental runs ($N=351$) of crowd situations, videotaped from top-view perspective. In the experiments, large groups of around 80-90 imagined being on the way to a concert. The participants moved out of a waiting area, through a corridor towards a closed entrance gate, waited in front of the gate and then left the experiment through the opened gate. There was no instruction for how to behave except that participants' motivation to arrive at the gate first was varied through instructions (low/high). Through an iterative process of systematic behaviour observation, a complete list of behavioural repertoires (an ethogram) was collected (including i.e. queuing, zipping, walking, running, racing). Behaviours were either performed by individuals, small interactive groups, or large action groups. The analysis reveals that participants indeed show many, sometimes rapid, changes both between movement repertoires

and between the social unit they are engaged in. Two examples are used to illustrate how the transitions are communicated non-verbally within seconds and coordinated with each other. The examples show that coordination and communication are closely related to the dynamic spatial situations and limited perception abilities in moving crowds.

220 Male students in female-dominated study programs: Perceived diversity climate in gender-mixed Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning

Jennifer Raimann, Natalia Reich-Stiebert, Jan-Bennet Voltmer, Stefan Stürmer

FernUniversität in Hagen, Hagen, Germany

Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Research suggests that gender diversity in workgroups can enhance performance but also poses challenges (e.g., van Knippenberg et al., 2004). Increased social categorization of underrepresented minorities can heighten the salience of gender stereotypes (e.g., Kanter, 1977), potentially disrupting team processes and reduce team performance (e.g., van Knippenberg et al., 2004). However, a positive diversity climate, characterized by perceptions of fairness and social integration for all team members (e.g., Holmes et al., 2021; McKay et al., 2008), can integrate minorities and increase their representation (e.g., Alay & Can, 2020). This study investigates the relationship between perceived diversity climate and learning outcomes in a gender-mixed computer-supported collaborative learning (CSCL) course in introductory psychology. We hypothesized that this relationship would be stronger for male (gender minority) than for female students (gender majority). Data from 1,172 first-year university students at a blended learning university (n=1,172, 75% female) with three points of measurement in a 9-week CSCL assignment were analysed. Moderated mediation regression analyses confirmed that students' perceptions of the diversity climate in their CSCL group were significantly related to gains in online learning self-efficacy among male but not female students. Furthermore, by increasing gains in self-efficacy, diversity climate perceptions also translated into better quiz performance among male students. This study highlights the importance of diversity climate for male students' learning outcomes in female-dominated domains. Further research focusing on the minority perspectives of males in female dominated domains, such as stereotypes and potential backlash effects, is needed to better understand the underlying psychological processes.

261 Genuine or opportunistic team effort gains in track & field relays? Replicating Schleu et al. (2019)

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Submission Type

Individual Talk

Abstract

Schleu et al. (2019) showed that 4 × 400 m track and field relay runners showed effort gains in teams (i.e., faster times in relays than in individual races) at major championships (e.g., the Olympics). However, their study had limited statistical power, and it remained unclear whether these gains were *genuine* (i.e., due to teamwork) or *opportunistic* (i.e., due to higher medal chances in the relay).

In this preregistered study with 1718 observations from 1346 collegiate athletes at US championships, we sought to replicate and extend these findings. We analyzed the data by comparing the running times from the individual competition to the individual split times from the relay competition while controlling for possible relay start benefits.

We find that members of 4 × 400 m relays exhibited effort gains only if their relay had a high medal chance and if they had not been successful in the individual competition (i.e., did not place first to third). Unlike prior findings, these opportunistic effort gains followed a linear rather than quadratic trend across relay positions. Additionally, we found *effort losses* in relays among runners who were successful in the individual competition (i.e., placed first to third).

Thus, our replication and extension yielded partly corresponding and partly deviating findings, while clarifying the nature of the observed effort gains and losses. Relay members showed overall opportunistic effort expenditure, which illustrates the important role of incentives for motivation management in teamwork.

Transfer to City / Conference Dinner

18:00 - 19:00 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

Conference Dinner and Farewell Party (open end)

19:00 - 23:59 Tuesday, 16th September, 2025

Rotunde Bochum

We'll close the conference in style at Rotunde Bochum, a laid-back venue in the heart of Bochum's famous Bermuda Triangle district. Enjoy an all-vegan dinner and an evening of entertainment featuring live music by Svenja & the Huh-Huh-Boys, followed by DJ sets from DJ SimonSays (open end).