Group Processes & Intergroup Relations

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What is This?

Group Processes & Intergroup Relations 10 Years On: Development, Impact and Future Directions

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The development of this Journal, *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, is reviewed. Throughout its first 10 years, the Journal has been supported by a strong editorial board. It has sustained a significant profile in social psychology in the area of both intergroup and small group processes. Its wider impact includes connection to related disciplines such as organizational behavior and neuroscience, focused special issues, small conferences related to the theme of the Journal and the expansion of group and intergroup research through learned societies. The editors thank authors, editorial board members, editorial assistants, reviewers and readers for their support.

Group Processes & Intergroup Relations (*GPIR*) is now at the end of its eleventh year (Vol. 11), our first issue having been published in July 1998. When the Journal was launched, with the help of enthusiastic endorsements from Marilynn Brewer and Bib Latané, the international scene for communicating work on group processes and intergroup relations looked very different. Major U.S. journals in social psychology were providing only very limited space for research on groups, and specialist groups journals such as *Small Group Research* were concerned primarily with one sub-area. In Europe, both the *European Journal of Social Psychology* and the *British Journal of Social Psychology* were strongly representing work on social identity, social representations and other 'European' approaches but did not encompass much mainstream work from the USA. *GPIR* was launched to accomplish a truly international integration, to provide a home for a wider range of research, linking both small groups and intergroup processes, and

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encompassing both the European and non-European approaches.

At the time of its launch, the Journal was a controversial initiative and some European social psychologists were openly more enthusiastic than others. There were fears that the distinctiveness of the European and British journals might be undermined, and there were concerns that the apparent rise in interest in groups and intergroup relations might evaporate. As Editors we approached this issue empirically—we undertook an empirical review (Abrams & Hogg, 1998) that gave us confidence that the Journal was going to represent a thriving and expanding area of research within social psychology. The final article of the present issue (Randsley de Moura, Leader, Pelletier, & Abrams, 2008) expands and updates that empirical review and demonstrates that groups research has continued to expand, to become more influential in the major general journals in social psychology, and to have a very promising future. Far from weakening these mainstream journals, the arrival of *GPIR* has probably strengthened the position of groups research within them.

Our goal was for *GPIR* to act as the integrative focal point for groups research in all its diverse forms, and thus to invigorate the field and raise the profile and impact of this research across all social psychology journals. We feel this goal has been achieved.

The editorial board

The international scope and standing of the Journal has been supported through our stellar editorial board. We are enormously grateful for the guidance, support and work of our consulting editors and reviewers over the years, and especially to our associate editors. Volume 1 was launched with a very able and expert team (Anne Maass, John Dovidio, Diane Mackie, Richard Moreland, Don Taylor and Scott Tindale). Victoria Esses joined for Volume 2, Margo Monteith and Carsten De Dreu at Volume 4, and Nyla Branscombe for Volume 6. Emanuele Castano, Craig Parks and Deborah Prentice joined for Volume 8, Serge Guimond and Brenda Major for Volume 9. Volume 10

established our current team, which includes Bertjan Doosje, Matthew Hornsey, Norbert Kerr and Linda Tropp. Many of these outstanding researchers have held major editorial roles in journals such as *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* and others. Several have also held presidencies or other key positions on the committees of learned societies including the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology (EAESP), the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), and the Society for Experimental Social Psychology (SESP). Both the associate editorial team and the consulting editors are invited as a reflection of the content of the articles submitted to the Journal, and also to signal to the academic community what *GPIR* wants to represent. It has been, and continues to be, a great pleasure working with our colleagues in these roles.

Special issues

An important innovation for *GPIR* has been publication of special issues on themes that seemed particularly 'hot' at various times. The Journal remains open to proposals for special issues and will also act proactively to initiate special issues that seem timely. To date, we have published special issues on information processing in small groups (Brauner & Scholl, 2000), social identity in organizations (van Knippenberg & Hogg, 2001), intergroup contact (Dovidio, Gaertner, & Kawakami, 2003), evolutionary approaches to group research (Kameda & Tindale, 2004), the inaugural group processes and intergroup relations pre-conference of SPSP (Gaertner, Hogg, & Tindale, 2005), workplace diversity (Christian, Porter, & Moffitt, 2006), lay theories and intergroup relations (Levy, Chiu, & Hong, 2006), intergroup emotions (Giner-Sorolla, Mackie, & Smith, 2007) and social neuroscience and intergroup behavior (Eberhardt & Prentice, 2008). Forthcoming issues include music and intergroup relations (Giles, Hajda, & Hamilton), dehumanization (Castano & Kofta) and self-regulation within and between groups (Jonas, Sassenberg, & Scheepers).

Impact and expansion of the Journal

A significant success for the Journal was its inclusion in the ISI indexes relatively early (after Volume 6—2003). The Journal hit the ground running in 2006 with an impressive impact factor of 1.58 (13th of the 48 journals in the Thompson Social Science Citation Index for social psychology). This year *GPIR* registered an impact factor of 1.49.

The spread of citations across content suggests that the scope of the Journal is even and appropriate. From Volume 1 the three most cited articles cover leadership, group investment and group processes (Abrams & Hogg, 1998; Platow, Reid, & Andrew, 1998; Smith, Tindale, & Steiner, 1998). In Volume 2 the most cited articles were on crossed categorization, positive negative asymmetry and schism (Buhl, 1999; Crisp & Hewstone, 1999; Sani & Reicher, 1999). In Volume 3 the most cited articles were on collective efficacy, work groups and shared representations (Hollingshead, 2000; Peterson, Mitchell, Thompson, & Burr, 2000; Tindale & Kameda, 2000). The most cited articles in Volume 4 were on intergroup attitudes, organizational merger and hostile media (Brown, Maras, Masser, Vivian, & Hewstone, 2001; Matheson & Dursun, 2001; Terry & O'Brien, 2001). From Volume 5, the most cited article was on deviance (Abrams, Marques, Bown, & Dougill, 2002), and from Volume 6 the most cited articles were on intergroup contact (Levin, van Laar, & Sidanius, 2003; Shelton, 2003; Voci & Hewstone, 2003). These first six volumes provided the basis for the calculation of the initial impact factor of *GPIR*.

In Volume 7, articles on intergroup emotions (Miller, Smith, & Mackie, 2004; Navarrete, Kurzban, Fessler, & Kirkpatrick, 2004), and evolution and xenophobia (Faulkner, Schaller, Park, & Duncan, 2004) were most highly cited. In Volume 8, the most cited articles were on reducing intergroup bias (Crisp & Beck, 2005) and intergroup emotion (Lickel, Schmader, Curtis, Scarnier, & Ames, 2005) and perspective taking (Galinsky, Ku, & Wang, 2005). The most cited articles from Volume 9 were on implicit theories (Haslam, Bastian, Bain, & Kashima, 2006), general prejudice (Jayaratne et al., 2006) and intergenerational contact (Tam, Hewstone, Harwood, Voci, & Kenworthy, 2006).

Full citation data are not yet available for the period 2006–2008, but currently the articles that are being viewed most often on the SAGE website for Volume 9 (2006) include Christian, Porter, and Moffitt's introduction to the special issue on workplace diversity, and related articles. For Volume 10 (2007) the most viewed articles are by Rudman and Ashmore on discrimination and the IAT, by Ryan, Hunt, Weible, Peterson, and Casas on multicultural and colorblind ideology, and by Hoyt and Blascovich on women leaders' responses to stereotype activation. From Volume 11 (2008), the special issue on neuroscience and intergroup relations has already attracted considerable interest (see Prentice & Eberhardt, 2008), particularly McRae, Ochsner, Mauss, Gabrieli, and Gross's fMRI study of gender and emotion; Derks, Inzlicht, and Kang's article on stigma and stereotype threat; and Dovidio, Pearson, and Orr's article on social psychology and neuroscience.

In line with other journals, *GPIR* has increased its page extent (from approximately six articles per issue to nine or ten), and from 2009 we will be increasing the number of issues per volume from four to six. This reflects a healthy increase in the volume of submissions. We also moved to an on-line manuscript-tracking system in 2008 which has resulted in a faster manuscript decision time (currently under 90 days).

Group processes and intergroup relations pre-conference at the SPSP annual conference

The annual conference of SPSP is the world's largest annual gathering of social psychologists. Initially, there were no groups pre-conferences, so in 2004 Lowell Gaertner, Michael Hogg and Scott Tindale initiated the inaugural group processes and intergroup relations pre-conference. It has become a very successful and stimulating annual one-day event; an opportunity for groups researchers to meet one another, and a valuable companion activity for *GPIR*. Subsequent

pre-conferences have been convened by Hinsz, Dovidio and Park, Brewer, Craig and Crisp, Castano, Miller and Jackson, and Hogg, Levine and Blaylock. Attendance has risen from 63 in 2004 to 125 in 2008. Parallel pre-conferences have been run recently at both SESP and EAESP, signalling the firm establishment of the 'group processes and intergroup relations' as a coherent focus and body of research.

Conclusions, prospects and thanks

We hope that readers of *GPIR* will agree that the Journal has made excellent progress since its inception. The prospects continue to look good as the number of manuscripts being submitted is increasing and the quality of the work is extremely high. We intend to increase the size of the associate editorial team to reflect these trends. In common with other journals, we intend to ensure as fast a decision time as possible, and this will sometimes mean that editors may have to make decisions with only one or two reviews to hand, though we will sustain a policy of seeking three reviews for each decision. There are many new and exciting areas of research in group processes and intergroup relations. A key challenge that remains is how best to integrate and combine theories of small group, intragroup processes with theories of intergroup processes. These two levels of analysis are proximal, but researchers are also becoming more interested in how these can be connected with higher and lower levels (e.g. sociological and anthropological, on the one hand, and biological and neuroscience, on the other hand). Additional questions concern the way in which affective and cognitive processes combine in groups, how people learn about group processes (e.g. as they move between groups with different norms, and as they develop over their lifespan) and the role of groups in motivating and constraining people's abilities and performance.

Research funding, at least in North America and Europe, appears to be pitched increasingly at work that integrates across disciplines, cultures and methods. Some parts of social psychology may be able to evade these pressures, but work on group processes and intergroup relations necessarily falls at the intersections of many areas. There is also increasing pressure towards translational and transformational research—research that is more accessible, more immediately relevant to social issues and more likely to transform our world in positive ways. As society itself becomes more complex, more global and more interconnected, there has never been a more important time to focus on how people combine to behave toward one another as members of different social groups. These issues bear directly on how we can deal with, for example, inequality, terrorism, global environmental and health threats, collective decision making, and population movement and culture clashes. We hope that *GPIR* will be able to capture and promote the best research addressing these and other questions.

As editors of this Journal it has been our honour to work with such distinguished colleagues. It is very satisfying that the readership and impact of the Journal continues to grow. Advising and urging us through the initial practical steps we benefited especially from invaluable guidance by Dick Moreland and Jack Dovidio. Much work has also been done by a series of very dedicated and patient editorial assistants, many of whom now hold permanent academic posts themselves. Our first editorial assistant was Barbara Masser, followed by Sabina Aharpour, Georgina Randsley de Moura, Lindsey Cameron, Katerina Tasiopoulou, and currently Joe Pelletier. Their commitment and energy has been essential for the success of the Journal. Finally, we are tremendously grateful to Ziyad Marar and Michael Carmichael from SAGE Publications whose confidence and enthusiasm has been essential and greatly valued since the inception of the Journal.

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