537.0 Personal versus group perception of individuals

Lorenzi-Cioldi E.

University of Geneva, Switzerland

The contributors will explore social factors that lead people to pay attention to categorical or individuating features of ingroup and outgroup members. Michael Hogg elaborates on research carried out in the framework of social identity theory. This theory has proven useful to predict the momentary salience of personal and group perception of other people by focusing on the inclusiveness levels that are alternatively used by individuals to categorize the self and other people. With a focus on this theory, José Marques and Ad van Knippenberg highlight further motivational and contextual factors, and groups' status, that mediate perception. Susan Fiske then concurrently elaborates on a general model of interpersonal and intergroup interdependence.

537.1 Intergroup perceptions, social identification, and group cohesiveness

Hogg M.A.

University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

A field study of a women's netball league is described in which the relationship between (1) objective intergroup status (i.e., relative team performance), (2) intergroup perceptions of subjective status, stability, legitimacy and permeability, (3) social identification, self-categorization and prototypicality, (4) interpersonal relations, (5) personal attraction, and (6) the social attraction component of group cohesiveness, were investigated. Structural equation modeling confirmed predictions derived from social identity theory and self-categorization theory. Social attraction, which was independent of personal attraction, was directly influenced by identification, and indirectly influenced by intergroup perceptions (via identification), but was uninfluenced by interpersonal relations.

537.2 Intergroup differentiation, ingroup favouritism, and normativity effects on inter- and intra-group judgments

Marques J.

University of Porto, Portugal

Subjects reported perceived variability, evaluated groups overall and judged group deviants, in a Group (Ingroup, Outgroup) x Uniformity (Homogeneous, Heterogeneous group) design. Perceived variability decreased with group uniformity effect, but was lower for the ingroup than the outgroup. Latitudes of rejection were a function of ingroup but not of outgroup uniformity. Ingroup favoritism co-occurred with stronger derogation on ingroup than outgroup deviants, and subjects were more willing to exert influence upon the former than upon the latter. The results are discussed in terms of their implications for the interplay between descriptive intergroup differentiation and prescriptive differentiations occurring within ingroups.

538.0 Aging from a life-span developmental perspective: New directions

Convener: J. Smith

Smith J.

Max Planck Institute for Human Development & Education, Berlin, Germany

Many studies of aging focus on specific topics (e.g., dementia) and specific subgroups (e.g., the institutionalized) with a view to understanding the etiology and consequences of late-life phenomena. These studies present a negative picture of functioning in late adulthood: one of dependence, loss of self-control, social isolation, and disengagement from life. Studies of the young-old however, provide a picture of active and productive involvement in late life, of autonomy and self-fulfillment. This symposium considers recent theories that deal with both views of aging and place functioning in later adulthood in a life-span perspective.

538.1 Dependence, independence throughout the life-span

Baltes M.M.

Free University Berlin, Germany

The argument will be made that development is not a process from dependence towards independence. Rather, a balance between dependence and independence best describes developmental stages whereby their salience will vary throughout stages, domains, and people. In this sense, factors such as age and gender as well as stage in the life course, availability of resources, and importance of life domains influence the expression of dependence versus independence. Findings from research on dependence in old age will be used to illustrate the need for balance and the important role of dependency in successful aging.