406.3 Habit, information acquisition, and the prediction of travel mode choice behavior

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Three studies examined the role of habit in travel mode choices. Habit was measured by using mental representations of activities that may include the target behavior. Using behavioral process-tracing paradigms, it was found that habit attenuates not only the elaborateness of information acquisition concerning the attributes of choice options, but also basic features in the appreciation of the choice situation. In a field study, it was found that actual travel mode choices were predicted by behavioral intentions only when habit was weak. Attempts to influence the elaborateness of habitual decision-making were not or only temporarily effective.

406.4 The effects of attitudes on behavior: A role for ingroup norms

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On the basis of social identity theory, it was hypothesized that attitudes would be most likely to predict behavior when supported by a salient ingroup. As predicted, subjects exposed to an attitudinally-congruent ingroup-norm towards their preferred career choice were more likely to attend an information session on this choice than subjects in norm-inconsistent or no-norm conditions, an effect that was evident under both spontaneous and deliberative processing conditions, but most marked for subjects with relatively inaccessible attitudes. Other results revealed that low identifiers were influenced positively by norm-inconsistent information when behavioral decisions were made deliberatively.

406.5 The role of moral norms and affect in explaining behavioral intentions

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Previous research has established that moral norms and anticipated affect contribute to the explanation of behavioral intentions. The present research builds on this tradition by considering both factors together, and by distinguishing between the affect one expects to experience while performing a behavior and the affect one anticipates experiencing after performing the behavior. In the context of research on intentions to commit various driving violations, we show that each of these factors makes a significant and independent contribution to the explanation of behavioral intentions, over and above the standard constructs included in Ajzen's (1985,1988) theory of planned behavior.

407 SYM

Longitudinal research from a life-span perspective

Convener: L. Verhofstadt-Denève

407.0 Longitudinal research from a life-span perspective

Verhofstadt-Denève L.
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Utilizing a normative longitudinal study, Schwarz and Silbereisen compare pre- and post-divorce adjustments of adolescents with agemates who had lived with both parents (n=96). Verhofstadt-Denève examined a representative sample of 820 adolescents concerning psychosocial attitudes and behaviour. After 8 and 15 years, clear links were found with dimensions of psychosocial development. In a Finnish longitudinal study from the age of 8 through 36 (n=369), Pulkkinen analyzes the type and source of individuals' resources for coping with economic recessions and its effects on psychological health, lifestyles, and future orientation. Loeben presents the results of a longitudinal study on 1517 boys from age 6 to 18. Analyses show that delinquent behaviors best fit a triple pathway model: an Authority Conflict Pathway, a Covert Pathway and an Overt Pathway.

407.1 Pre- and post-divorce adjustment of adolescents

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Many studies on divorce are hampered by the fact that cross-sectional, non-random samples were used. Utilizing a normative longitudinal study, we compared adolescents who had experienced their parents' divorce with agemates who had lived with both parents (n=96). The study accomplished two goals: (1) to investigate the relevance of pre-divorce development for the adjustment after divorce, and (2) to find out whether family- and peer-relations can compensate for the divorce-related risk to self-concept and for increased problem behavior.