

International Society for Justice Research (ISJR)

www.isjr.org



Summer 2011 Newsletter

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❖ News from the President

Dear ISJR members,

I hope this message finds you well and "squeezing" your summer and its partial break from academic activities!

A couple of weeks ago, I informed our ISJR members about the voting process for the Society's next President-Elect. Michael Wenzel from Flinders University has been nominated for this position. A message from him and instructions for voting were sent to members by email. Michael's message can be found at the end of this newsletter or in our web's homepage at <http://isjr.jimdo.com/>.

As explained in the 2011 Spring Newsletter, ISJR has initiated some forms of collaboration with several associations/centers that are also interested in furthering justice research. In the current issue we have invited the Center for Studies in Social Justice at the University of Windsor, directed by Tanya Basok, to share with us some information about their mission and programs.

Some good news about our Society's journal: Social Justice Research (SJR) -. Teresa Krauss, who is our Springer's representative, has informed us that the Impact Factor of Social Justice Research has a pretty good score of **1.042!!** This ranks SJR as 35 out of 56 Psychology, Social journals and 39 out of 129 Sociology journals. It is great that SJR is listed in both and that ISI recognized that justice research is involved in both disciplines.

Concerning the 2010 Conference to be held in Rishon Le-Zion, Israel, we will send you further information soon. I only would like to announce that for this occasion our Society will offer a new academic activity aimed at bringing together young researchers from different disciplines and countries; we will be offering an opportunity for PhD students to present and discuss their research on justice in a constructive atmosphere where senior researchers as well as participants will provide mutual comments and feedback. The workshop will be led by Manfred Schmitt. More information will be provided in due course.

Finally, our newsletter includes information about some journals which may serve, in addition to SJR, as an outlet for your publications.

Wish you a happy Summer season!

Truly yours,

Clara Sabbagh
ISJR President

❖ Storytelling of Justice Scholars: Ron Cohen

1. *Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your family? Where were you born and how can you characterize the familial, social, educational and political environment in which you grew up?*

I was born in Chicago in 1944, two months before my father, a pilot in the Army Air Corps, was killed in Germany. My mother re-married, my dad adopted me, and they had four more children.

Chicago's South Side in the late 40's and early 50's was a hotbed of progressive political activity, and my parents were deeply involved. They read C. Wright Mills, blacklisted works, and the *National Guardian* (a newspaper founded by supporters of Henry Wallace's Progressive Party). My mother turned away the FBI at our front door when they came to ask questions, and I stayed up with them the night the Rosenbergs were executed—somehow imagining their letter to Dwight Eisenhower would convince him to spare them. The first “programs” we watched on television were the 1954 Army McCarthy hearings.

We had a strong Jewish cultural heritage. My siblings and I attended the South Side School of Jewish Studies, a secular Sunday School. The traditional Haggadah, the text for the Passover Seder, was modified so that when it came time to celebrate the Jews' liberation from Egypt, we demanded liberation for all who remained oppressed.

We found similar social and political currents in the Twin Cities, and later in Ann Arbor, where rallies, petitions, and protest marches were a significant part of what we continued to inhale. Many graduate students and faculty members at Michigan were deeply involved in linking theory, research, and civic life. And, of course, all of this occurred in the midst of international upheaval.

2. *When did you first become interested in social justice research? Can you describe a key experience(s) which contributed to your interest in justice research?*

I've always been interested in (in)justice, and not only research. I have my families to thank for that. Judy attended the demonstrations at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1968; later that year she and I met for the first time in a police paddywagon after being arrested in a demonstration; we were married 2 months later. Our daughters always called attention to injustices we either perpetrated or ignored, and our granddaughters now do the same thing.

My undergraduate work on community power structure led me to Steven Lukes' *Power: A Radical View* and John Gaventa's *Power and Powerlessness*, both convincing critiques of “pluralist” conceptions of power. Arriving in Ann Arbor without having taken any work with “psychological social psychologists,” I was a little lost at first, but the Joint Program in Social Psychology was a wonderful place to see how the two traditions might be integrated. Whatever its peculiarities, the U.S. Midwest has a history of nurturing progressive politics and learning.

3. *Please reflect on how you see the current state of social justice research. Where do you think it is going, and is it going in the right direction?*

Work on social justice is proceeding in, and from, many directions at the same time. Consistent with the initial goals of ISJR, that work is increasingly international and interdisciplinary, and likely to become more so. I think future work would benefit from deeper and more explicit consideration of anthropological, historical, and narrative perspectives, and that this would have both substantive and methodological benefits.

4. *What advice would you give a young justice scholar?*

Read Edward Tufte's "The Cognitive Style of Powerpoint: Pitching Out Corrupts Within."

Consider the justice implications of the work you do—the questions you ask, the methods you employ, the interests of the institutions that support it. *Cui bono?*

Ask people to whom you don't normally speak what is unjust in their own lives, and in their communities. Listen to what they say.

I'm a member of the Bennington County Reparative Board, a restorative justice program where local volunteers meet with offenders to discuss the impact of their offense, to construct a plan for restoration to victims and the community, and to design a plan to avoid reoffending. In one instance, we met with a single mother convicted of welfare fraud. When asked to explain what she did and why, she told us she had three young children, one of whom was chronically ill, and because she could no longer afford the medicine, she made a false claim for support. Then she took off her glasses, looked at us, and asked: "What would you do?" What would you do?

❖ Expanding the Network of ISJR Collaboration Partners

Centre for Studies in Social Justice University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada

The Centre for Studies in Social Justice provides a place for researchers from the University of Windsor and other universities, centers and institutes, policy makers and community members to: address the causes and impact of widespread social and economic changes; research the elements that promote or impede social justice; access resources, training, and knowledge; stimulate discussion and debate on social justice issues; and to formulate recommendations on policies or strategies that could diminish existing injustices. The Centre invites distinguished speakers to give lectures. It also organizes panels for University of Windsor researchers and local community activists to exchange knowledge and engage in debate. The Centre has organized international conferences on such issues as human rights and citizenship. Key note addresses presented at these conferences were published in the Centre's peer reviewed journal *Studies in Social Justice*. *Studies in Social Justice* (www.studiesinsocialjustice.org) publishes articles on issues dealing with the social, cultural, economic, political, and philosophical problems associated with the struggles for social justice. The journal focuses on debates that move beyond conventional notions of social justice, and views social justice as a critical concept that is integral in the analysis of policy formation, rights, participation, social movements, and transformations. Social justice is analyzed in the context of processes involving nationalism, social and public policy, globalization, diasporas, culture, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, welfare, poverty, war, and other social phenomena. It endeavours to cover questions and debates ranging from governance to democracy, sustainable environments, and human rights, and to introduce new work on pressing issues of social justice throughout the world. The Centre also produces a Newsletter bi-annually. The Newsletter features articles on local social justice initiatives, teaching, student issues, and main events organized by the Centre. The latest issue, guest edited by a student, focused on student activism. Finally, the Centre administers the Social Justice Degree Program. The Social Justice Program is a combined honours program taken with another subject mostly (although not exclusively) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Windsor. It combines conceptual analyses of main social justice issues with opportunities to apply knowledge in a practical setting. The Social Justice program also offers an option of obtaining a Minor in Social Justice. The syn-

ergy produced by the Centre and the Social Justice program contributes to a very rich and stimulating learning environment for students.

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❖ Recent Justice-Related Books

***Social Justice and the Experience of Emotion (2011)* by Russell Cropanzano, Jordan H. Stein, and Thierry Nadisic. Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.**

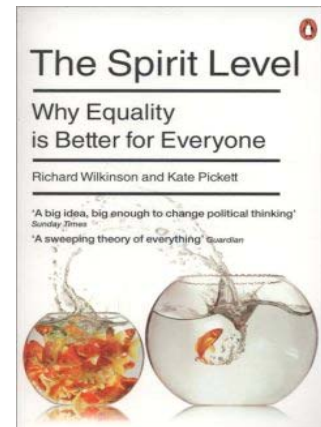
Researchers have long known that affect and fairness are closely related. Being victimized by injustice causes anger, whereas harming someone else engenders guilt. Theories of justice become more complete when moods and emotions are included. This is important, but not the whole story. Going a step further, this book places special emphasis on the transformational power of affect. Incorporating emotions and moods into our thinking can profoundly alter our understanding of justice. We can illustrate this point with four examples that are taken directly from our book. Consider first the moral emotions. The human capacity for empathy suggests that people are concerned with the needs of others and not exclusively focused on their own interests. There seems to be more to being human than rationally maximizing one's personal outcomes. As a second example, research on affect and the self suggests that fairness, to a very large degree, is grounded in social connections. People form close relationships with one another, and justice seems important for maintaining social ties in groups and communities. Third, the "justice-to-affect" causal order is in need of a second look. There is considerable evidence that mood states and emotions impact judgments of fairness. Fourth, injustice is so closely tied to peoples' feelings that it creates a challenge for emotional regulation. We discuss how individuals manage their emotions when they are treated badly by others. Each of these four research programs, as well as others discussed in this book, provides an innovative perspective on human behavior. In summary, we explore the implications of the affective revolution for social justice perceptions. Our review aims to be as complete as possible, integrating findings from social psychology, economics, management, and philosophy. In so doing we review the major theories of psychological justice, closely tying each to research on moods and emotions.



Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better: Based on The Spirit Level by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett

Comparing life expectancy, mental health, levels of violence, teenage birth rates, drug abuse, child wellbeing, obesity rates, levels of trust, the educational performance of school children, or the strength of community life among rich countries, it is clear that societies which tend to do well on one of these measures tend to do well on all of them, and the ones which do badly, do badly on all of them. What accounts for the difference? The key is the amount of inequality in each society. The picture is consistent whether we compare rich countries or the 50 states of the USA. The more unequal a society is, the more ill health and social problems it has.

Inequality has always been regarded as divisive and socially corrosive. The data show that even small differences in the amount of inequality matter. Material inequality serves as a determinant of the scale and importance of social stratification. It increases status insecurity and competition and the prevalence of all the problems associated with relative deprivation. Particularly important are effects mediated by social status, friendship and early childhood experience. However, although the amount of inequality has its greatest effect on rates of problems among the poor, its influence extends to almost all income groups: too much inequality reduces levels of well-being among the vast majority of the population.



❖ Justice-Related Journals

Studies in Social Justice (SSJ)

<http://ojs.uwindsor.ca/ojs/leddy/index.php/ssj>

Studies in Social Justice publishes articles on issues dealing with the social, cultural, economic, political, and philosophical problems associated with the struggle for social justice. This interdisciplinary journal aims to publish work that links theory to social change and the analysis of substantive issues. The journal welcomes heterodox contributions that are critical of established paradigms of inquiry.

The journal focuses on debates that move beyond conventional notions of social justice, and views social justice as a critical concept that is integral in the analysis of policy formation, rights, participation, social movements, and transformations. Social justice is analysed in the context of processes involving nationalism, social and public policy, globalization, diasporas, culture, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, welfare, poverty, war, and other social phenomena. It endeavours to cover questions and debates ranging from governance to democracy, sustainable environments, and human rights, and to introduce new work on pressing issues of social justice throughout the world.

The Journal of Poverty and Social Justice (JPSJ)

http://www.policypress.co.uk/journals_jpsj.asp

The Journal of Poverty and Social Justice, formerly known as *Benefits*, provides a unique blend of high-quality research, policy and practice from leading authors in the field related to all aspects of poverty and social exclusion.

Contemporary Justice Review (CJR)

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1028-2580&linktype=1>

Contemporary Justice Review is an interdisciplinary journal for scholars, activists, and practitioners of social and restorative justice around the globe who seek to design and implement models of justice that take into account the needs of all. The journal publishes cutting-edge work on: social and restorative justice theory; restorative justice demonstration projects; peacemaking criminology; state crimes and healing from genocide; peaceful methods of conflict resolution; truth and reconciliation commissions; environmental justice; critiques of criminal justice institutions and law; structural issues of justice in the family, school, and workplace; utopian visions of a just society; and non-violent, needs-meeting solutions to needs-denying, power-based social arrangements.

The journal embraces a variety of formats: scholarly articles; electronic roundtable discussions; interviews on social and restorative justice; narrative histories on crime and punishment; film and book review essays; and justice watch statements on timely issues that affect the quality of life around the globe. The editors prefer articles written in engaging and accessible prose which avoid academic jargon and offer insights in how to foster justice in daily life.

❖ **Conferences of Interest to ISJR Members**

The ANZSOG *Institute Justice Group* in the Law Faculty, University of Canberra, hosted a day long symposium, *Justice Connection* on 3 June. The day commenced with a talk by the Vice Chancellor Professor Stephen Parker and continued with four sessions showcasing the justice-based research of a number of University of Canberra Law Faculty academics. They were joined by Justice Michael Kirby, former High Court judge, Prof Rosalind Croucher, President of the Australian Law Reform Commission, Professor Margaret Thornton, ARC Professorial Fellow, Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights Commissioner and Associate Prof Simon Rice who heads up the ACT Law Reform Committee. Academics, lawyers, government policy officers and students attended from around Australia and the world. We hope to make this an annual event with *Justice Connections 2* in 2012.

The *XVI. Workshop "Aggression"* will be held at the Philipps-University Marburg, Germany, November 10-12, 2011. Deadline for submissions: August 1, 2011. More information and call for papers:

http://www.uni-marburg.de/fb04/ag-meth/workshop-aggression-englisch/index_html?set_language=en

❖ Call for Contributions

Special Issue of *Human Relations* on "Organisational Justice and Behavioural Ethics: New Perspectives on Workplace Fairness"

Guest Editors:

Jonathan Crawshaw (Aston Business School, Aston University, UK), Russell Cropanzano (Eller College of Management, University of Arizona, US), Chris Bell (Schulich School of Business, York University, Canada), and Thierry Nadisic (EMLYON Business School, France)

Submission Deadline: 31 January 2012

For more information go to:

http://www.tavoinstitute.org/humanrelations/special_issues/org_justice.html

❖ Grants Awarded to ISJR Members

Anna Baumert, Detlef Fetchenhauer, Thomas Schlösser, and Manfred Schmitt have received a grant from the German Research Association for a series of studies on Justice Sensitivity, Information Processing, and Behavior.

❖ Awards to ISJR Members

Leanne Gosse has won a 2-year post-doctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

❖ Professional News about ISJR Members

Claudia Dalbert has changed from university to parliament. In the state election on March 20, 2011, after 13 years of absence in the state parliament, the German Green Party with Claudia Dalbert as front runner won nine seats in the state government of Saxony-Anhalt. Claudia Dalbert was elected as chairwomen of the Green parliamentary group.

Guillermina Jasso from New York University was elected member of the Committee on Nominations of the American Sociological Association.

❖ Job Announcement

The Department of Psychology at New York University invites applications for a tenure-track position in social psychology, focusing on the relationship between the individual and society, especially the area of political psychology. We are primarily seeking applicants at the assistant professor level, but outstanding candidates at a higher level will be considered. The position is to begin September 1, 2012, pending budgetary and administrative approval. We will begin evaluating applications after October 15, 2011. To apply, see the NYU Department of Psychology web site at <http://www.psych.nyu.edu/>. The application should include a vita, statements of research

and teaching interests, representative publications, and three letters of reference. Questions may be directed to the Chair of the Search Committee, Professor John T. Jost at john.jost@nyu.edu. New York University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

❖ Recent Justice-Related Publications of ISJR Members

- Biberman-Shalev, L., Sabbagh, C., & Resh, N. (2011). Teachers' Distribution Preferences when Allocating Grades: Does Disciplinary Expertise Matter? *Teaching and Teacher Education* 27(5): 831-840.
- Broeders, R., Van den Bos, K., Müller, P. A., & Ham, J. (2011). Should I save or should I not kill? How people solve moral dilemmas depends on which rule is most accessible. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 47, 923-934.
- Dalbert, C. (2011). Warum die durch die Schüler und Schülerinnen individuell und subjektiv erlebte Gerechtigkeit des Lehrerhandelns wichtig ist [Why the subjectively and individually experienced teacher justice is important]. *Zeitschrift für Pädagogische Psychologie*, 25, 5-18.
- De Castella, K. C., Platow, M. J., Wenzel, M., Okimoto, T. G., & Feather, N. T. (2011). Retribution or Restoration? Anglo-Australian's views towards domestic violence involving Muslim and Anglo-Australian victims and offenders. *Psychology, Crime, and Law*, 17(5), 403-420. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10683160903292253>
- Gollwitzer, M. & Rothmund, T. (in press). What exactly are victim-sensitive persons sensitive to? *Journal of Research in Personality*. doi: 10.1016/j.jrp.2011.05.003
- Gollwitzer, M., Meder, M. & Schmitt, M. (2011). What gives victims satisfaction when they seek revenge? *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 41, 364-374. doi: 10.1002/ejsp.782
- Greifeneder, R., Müller, P. A., Stahlberg, D., Van den Bos, K., & Bless, H. (in press). Beyond procedure's content: The role of accessibility experiences and personal uncertainty in procedural justice judgments. *Experimental Psychology*.
- Ham, J., & Van den Bos, K. (in press). On unconscious and conscious thought and the accuracy of implicit and explicit judgments. *Social Cognition*.
- Lotz, S., Okimoto, T. G., Schlösser, T., & Fetchenhauer, D. (2011). Punitive versus compensatory reactions to injustice: Emotional antecedents to third-party interventions. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 47(2), 477-480. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2010.10.004>
- Okimoto, T. G. & Wenzel, M. (2011). The other side of perspective-taking: Transgression ambiguity and victims' revenge against their offender. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 2(4), 373-378. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1948550610393032>
- Okimoto, T. G. & Wenzel, M. (2011). Third-party punishment and symbolic intragroup status. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 47(4), 709-718. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2011.02.001>
- Rothmund, T., Gollwitzer, M. & Klimmt, C. (2011). Of virtual victims and victimized virtues: Differential effects of experienced aggression in video games on social cooperation. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 37, 107-119. doi: 10.1177/0146167210391103

Simmons, P. (2010). Communicative displays as fairness heuristics: Strategic football referee communication. *Australian Journal of Communication*, 37, 1, 75-94.

Van den Bos, K., Van Lange, P. A. M., Lind, E. A., Venhoeven, L. A., Beudeker, D. A., Cramwinckel, F. M., Smulders, L., & Van der Laan, J. (in press). On the benign qualities of behavioral disinhibition: Because of the prosocial nature of people, behavioral disinhibition can weaken pleasure with getting more than you deserve. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

❖ Candidate Statement

I am a social psychologist at the School of Psychology at Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia, where I have been since 2005. I completed my PhD at the University of Münster, Germany in 1996, held a lecturer position at the University of Jena, Germany, from 1997 to 1999, and a research position at the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, from 2000 to 2004.

My research has largely revolved around four issues: justice, social identity, intergroup conflict, and compliance with the law. My main intellectual achievements have been (1) a categorization approach to distributive justice (developed in my PhD, awarded the Heinz-Heckhausen Prize of the German Psychological Society), (2) the ingroup projection model of social discrimination and intergroup tolerance (developed with Amélie Mummendey), (3) an analysis of justice issues in the area of taxation and tax compliance, and (4) an integrated approach to justice restoration after transgressions, including the concept of restorative justice. While fundamentally social-psychological in approach, a consistent characteristic of my work has been my interest in engaging with related disciplines including philosophy, criminology, law, sociology and economics. Not least for this reason, ISJR has always felt like my intellectual or professional home, because of its breadth of interest in justice that ranges from an understanding of basic cognitions to an advancement of justice in society and its institutions. I have been an active participant in all ISJR conferences, bar one, since the 1997 conference in Potsdam, and I joined ISJR as a member in 2003. I was the organizing chair of the ISJR conference held in Adelaide in 2008 and, in that capacity, served on the Executive Board from 2006 to 2008.

I believe ISJR is a thriving organization, with a collegial and inclusive sentiment, inspirational and most pleasant biennial meetings, and a scientific journal that, now included in the Social Science Citation Index, will likely further gain in prominence. On the other hand, the challenges for ISJR are the further growth of its membership base, the attraction of new generations of researchers to the study of justice and ISJR, and the promotion of interdisciplinary exchange, while at the same time avoiding a niche status and instead connecting with the mainstream of its various disciplines.

I would be honoured to serve ISJR as a president, and I would do what is in my capacity to maintain its vibrant and friendly character and expand its reach.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Wenzel

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<http://www.ssn.flinders.edu.au/psyc/staff/MichaelWenzel/>

ISJR Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

I am not an ISJR member but am interested in joining the Society. Please send me information about membership in ISJR.

TO JOIN: From the Homepage go to the "Membership" tab and then click "Become a member."
Or email to Steven Blader, New York University, sblader@stern.nyu.edu

SUBSCRIBE to the ISJR listserv:

Send an email to csabbagh@edu.haifa.ac.il . In the subject line of the email, type "SUBSCRIBE ISJR".

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