

International Society for Justice Research (ISJR)

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Summer 2009 Newsletter

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❖ News from the President

Dear members,

It is that time of our organization's administrative cycle to vote for the next President-Elect. Clara Sabbagh from the University of Haifa has been nominated for this position. A message from her and instructions for voting are on the ballot at the end of this newsletter. You will also receive a copy of the ballot via a separate e-mail message.

On another topic, we have further information on the 2010 conference, to be held in Banff Alberta, Canada. I will leave news on the conference up to the organizing committee, who send a message later in this newsletter.

Finally, below is a list of new members who joined ISJR since the last newsletter.

- Pius Kruetli, ETH Zurich Institute for Environmental Decisions, Switzerland
- Fatur Rochman, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

A warm welcome to you!

Sincerely, Carolyn Hafer, ISJR President

❖ A last call for 2009 ISJR membership renewals

This will be the last call for anyone who has not done so to renew their membership with ISJR for the 2009 year. Doing so soon will assure that you receive all issues Social Justice Research (SJR) for this year, and it will help with covering the modest expenses of maintaining our Society and providing annual scholarship awards. Associate Memberships are also available for students (dues for Associate Members are currently \$ 10 per year without subscription to Social Justice Research and \$ 40 per year, with a subscription of SJR included).

You can renew your membership by pointing your web browser to the ISJR web page: <http://www.isjr.org/> and clicking on “Members”, and then clicking on “Renew your dues.” Alternatively, you can go directly to the Membership Information page: http://study.psych.uic.edu/ISJR/ISJR_membership.htm

While the Society’s experience with PayPal has been excellent, if you experience any problems with it (or with receipt of your journals), please let me know in order that I might try to assist.

Thank you for your continuing support of the ISJR. I look forward to seeing your memberships renewed very soon.

Sincerely, Larry Heuer, ISJR Treasurer, LBH3@Columbia.edu

❖ 13th Biennial ISJR Conference, Banff, Canada, August 21-24, 2010

The Organizing Committee of the 13th biennial ISJR conference is very excited to be hosting our next meeting in Banff, in the province of Alberta, Canada. The town of Banff is situated within Banff National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site in the mountains of the beautiful Canadian Rockies. The venue is the Banff Centre, a world-class facility whose mission is to inspire innovation and creative exchange of ideas in the arts, sciences, business, and beyond. Their vision focuses on multicultural and interdisciplinary experience, a goal close to the heart of ISJR – we think you will agree that the Centre makes a great location for our next meeting!

We plan to announce a formal call for papers in October, via this newsletter, the ISJR listserve, the ISJR website, and several other channels. The Organizing Committee has decided on the theme of the conference as “Rights and Equality in the Global Community”. We believe this theme encompasses a wide variety of interesting and timely topics such as human rights, cross-cultural issues, social welfare, international and intergroup relations, justice and the law, etc. As usual, though, submissions on any topic within justice research will be welcome. The committee is currently working on several planning details and will continue to update ISJR members as further information becomes available. In the meantime, put August 21-24 in your 2010 calendar! We look forward to seeing you in Banff!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Hafer, ISJR President, Brock University

John Ellard, Conference Host, University of Calgary

Ramona Bobocel, University of Waterloo

Leanne Gosse, Brock University

Mitch Callan, University of Western Ontario

❖ Recent Publications of ISJR Members

- Athenstaedt, U., & Mikula, G. (2008). Haben es männliche Führungskräfte bei der Bekanntgabe negativer Entscheidungen leichter als weibliche? Zu den Folgen von Gerechtigkeitsvorstellungen und geschlechterstereotypen Erwartungen an Führungskräfte. [Is the communication of negative decisions easier for male than female leaders? Consequences of justice ideas and gender stereotypes]. *Wirtschaftspsychologie*, *10*, 65-75.
- Athenstaedt, U., Mikula, G. & Bredt, C. (2009). Gender role self-concept and leisure activities of adolescents. *Sex Roles*, *60*, 399-409.
- Bal, M., & Van den Bos, K. (in press). The role of perpetrator similarity in reactions toward innocent victims. *European Journal of Social Psychology*.
- Abstract: Building and extending on just world theory, this paper studies people's negative reactions to innocent victims of rape or sexual assault. Specifically, we focus on an as yet unexplored variable that may help to explain these reactions, namely whether the perpetrator of the crime was similar or dissimilar to people who observed what happened to the victim. Perpetrator similarity refers to whether the perpetrator belongs to the personal world of the observer or not, and in accordance with predictions derived from just world theory, findings of three studies reveal that especially men take more physical distance from an innocent victim (Study 1) and blame (Study 2) and derogate (Study 3) an innocent victim more when the perpetrator is similar to them as opposed to when the perpetrator is different from them. Implications are discussed.
- Bodi, O., Mikula, G., & Riederer, B. (in press). Long-term effects between perceived justice of the division of domestic work and women's relationship satisfaction: Testing for moderation effects. *Social Psychology*.
- Dalbert, C. (2009). Belief in a just world. In M. R. Leary & R. H. Hoyle (Eds.), *Handbook of Individual Differences in Social Behavior* (pp. 288-297). New York: Guilford Publications.
- Dalbert, C. (2009). Le besoin de justice et le développement des adolescents à l'école et au dehors. In M. Duru-Bellat & D. Meuret (Eds.), *Les sentiments de justice et sur l'école* (pp. 57-73). Bruxelles: de Boeck.
- Lothaller, H., Jagoditsch, S., & Mikula, G. (2006). Familienarbeit und Berufstätigkeit aus der Sicht von Männern und Frauen [Family work and profession from men's and women's point of view]. In: Beham, E., Werneck, H., & Palz, D. (Hg.) *Aktive Vaterschaft – Männer zwischen Beruf und Familie* (pp. 110-125). Wien: Psychosozial-Verlag.
- Lothaller, H., Mikula, G., & Schoebi, D. (in press). What contributes to the (im)balanced division of family work between the sexes? *Swiss Journal of Psychology*.
- Mikula, G., Schoebi, D., Jagoditsch, S., & Macher, S. (in press). Roots and correlates of perceived injustice in the division of family work. *Personal Relationships*.
- Mikula, G., Riederer, B., & Bodi, O. (2008). Women's professional and familial work loads, relationship satisfaction and well-being. The mediating role of subjective work loads and perceived justice of the division of family work. In: Fontaine, A.M., & Matias, M. (eds.), *Family, work and parenting. International perspectives* (pp. 65-78). Porto: Livpsic.
- Mikula, G. (2006). Social psychology of justice, just division of household labor, and the reconciliation of family and work demands. In P.A.M. Van Lange (Ed), *Bridging Social Psychology: Benefits of transdisciplinary approaches* (pp. 301-306). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Mikula, G. (2005). Some observations and critical thoughts about the present state of justice theory and research. In S. Gilliland, D. Steiner, D. Skarlicki, & K. van den Bos (Eds.),

What motivates fairness in organizations (pp. 197-209). Greenwich, CN: Information Age Publishing.

Mikula, G. (2005). Social justice. In G. Davey (Ed.), *Encyclopaedic dictionary of psychology* (pp. 281-282). London: Hodder Arnold.

Mikula, G. (2005). Equity theory. In G. Davey (Ed.), *Encyclopaedic dictionary of psychology* (p. 247). London: Hodder Arnold.

Okimoto, T. G., Wenzel, M. & Feather, N.T. (2009). Beyond retribution: Conceptualizing restorative justice and exploring its determinants. *Social Justice Research*, 22, 156-180.

Okimoto, T. G. & Wenzel, M. (2009). Punishment as restoration of group and offender values following a transgression: Value consensus through symbolic labelling and offender reform. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 39, 346-367.

Okimoto, T. G. (2009). The moderating and mediating role of group identification in observers' reactions to intragroup disrespect. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 39, 69-81.

Otto, K., Glaser, D., & Dalbert, C. (2009). Mental health, occupational trust, and the quality of working life: Does the belief in a just world matter? *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 39, 1288-1315.

Riederer, B., Mikula, G., & Bodi, O. (in press). Social comparisons and evaluations of justice: Looking for evidence of causal associations. *Social Psychology*.

Rudmin, F. (2009). Constructs, measurements and models of acculturation and acculturative stress. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 33, 106-123.

Van den Bos, K., & Maas, M. (in press). On the psychology of the belief in a just world: Exploring experiential and rationalistic paths to victim blaming. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Abstract: This paper examines why people may blame innocent victims of robbery or sexual assault. We propose that in experiential mindsets associative links are formed between the victim and the negative event. As the creation of such links is independent of explicit beliefs, people in experiential mindsets produce negative reactions to the victim independent of their just world beliefs. Rationalistic mindsets, however, instigate propositional and consistency-based reasoning. For people who strongly endorse just world beliefs (such as people who have strong predispositions to believe that the world is just or whose just world beliefs have been threatened strongly), learning about an innocent victim creates a logically inconsistent system of beliefs. This inconsistency can be resolved by blaming the victim. For people who only weakly endorse just world beliefs, there is no inconsistency in the first place and therefore no need to blame the victim. Two experiments support this line of reasoning.

Van den Bos, K., Müller, P. A., & Van Bussel, A. A. L. (in press). Helping to overcome intervention inertia in bystander dilemmas: Behavioral disinhibition can improve the greater good. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.

Abstract: Conventional wisdom holds that behavioral disinhibition has negative effects on what humans do. Behavioral disinhibition may indeed frequently have negative effects, but in the present paper we reveal some positive consequences as well: The disinhibition hypothesis proposed here states that people may feel inhibited to intervene in situations in which non-intervening bystanders are present and that, therefore, behavioral disinhibition may help to overcome the bystander effect. Findings presented here provide evidence supporting this prediction both inside and outside the psychology laboratory: In both real-life and controlled bystander situations, people were more likely and faster to provide help when (unrelated to the bystander situations) they had (vs. had not) been reminded about having acted with no inhibitions. These findings suggest that, in

contrast with what various theories and worldviews dictate, behavioral disinhibition may have positive effects on helping behavior and hence can be conducive for the greater good.

Van Prooijen, J.-W., & Van den Bos, K. (in press). We blame innocent victims more than I do: Self-construal level moderates responses to just world threats. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Abstract: The present study investigated the impact of self-construal levels on peoples' tendency to blame innocent victims for their fate. We hypothesized that when the belief in a just world is threatened, social self-construal is associated with more victim blaming than individual self-construal. In Experiments 1 and 2, participants were primed with either the individual self or with the social self. Results indeed showed that when threats to just world beliefs were high, social self-activation produced more victim blaming than individual self-activation. This effect was not found when just-world threats were low. Extending on these findings, Experiment 3 revealed that, following a just world threat, an independent self-construal measure was negatively related to victim blaming, and an interdependent self-construal measure was positively related to victim blaming. It is concluded that self-construal levels are important to understand the justice motive.

Wenzel, M. & Mikula, G. (2006). Conflicts, Diplomacy and the Psychology of Justice. In: T. Gärling, G. Backenroth-Osako, B. Ekehammer, & L. Jonsson (eds.), *Diplomacy and psychology: Prevention of armed conflicts after the cold war* (pp. 99-121). Singapore: Marshall Cavendish.

❖ Academic transitions of ISJR members

Dahlia Moore was elected by the Academic Council of the College of management to be the next Chair of the Behavioral Sciences department.

Robyn M. Dawes officially retired. As of July 1, 2009, Robyn is professor emeritus.

❖ Tenure position at the University of Notre Dame

The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenure-track position (rank open), beginning in August 2010. We seek a candidate who applies a social psychological perspective in the study of conflict and post-conflict arenas. The successful candidate will have a joint appointment in Sociology and in The Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. More information about the Sociology Department <http://sociology.nd.edu/> and the Kroc Institute <http://kroc.nd.edu/> is available on-line. Applicants should show evidence of an ambitious research program and excellent teaching skills. Review of applications will begin on September 15, 2009 and continue until the position is filled. Please send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, evidence of teaching effectiveness, three letters of reference, and two examples of written work to Rory McVeigh, Professor and Chairperson, 810 Flanner Hall, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556. The University of Notre Dame, an international Catholic research university, is an equal opportunity educator and employer with strong institutional and academic commitments to racial, cultural, and gender diversity. Information about Notre Dame is available at <http://www.nd.edu>.

Presidential Election Ballot



Please cast one vote for President-elect of the International Society for Justice Research. If you would like to vote for an alternate individual who has agreed to be nominated, please enter the name in the space beside "Other" below. Ballots can be returned to Carolyn Hafer at Fax # 905-688-6922 (905 is the local area code, so don't forget to add appropriate other phone codes). Or return your ballot by mail to Carolyn Hafer, Department of Psychology, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2S 3A1, CANADA, by **AUG. 7, 2009**.

____ **Clara Sabbagh, University of Haifa (statement on following page)**

____ **Other (please provide name):** _____

Candidate Statement

I am honored and grateful for having been nominated for the ISJR presidency. As an active member of ISJR since 1991, I have been involved for many years in the community it represents and have witnessed its remarkable integrity and inclusiveness. As an academic leader, the role of the ISJR president is to promote the intellectual and moral mission of this academic field. The same concerns have inspired most of my research, teaching and academic activities for the past eighteen years.

My enthusiasm for the study of the sociology of justice began during my graduate and doctoral studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and has deepened since my affiliation with the University of Haifa. At the heart of my work lies an ongoing investigation of the conceptions of social justice that underlie the basic structures of society, especially in the realms of social welfare, citizenship, environmentalism, inter-generational relationships, education and the family. Leaning on sociological, social-psychological and philosophical traditions, I have sought to integrate etic (structural) and emic (culture-bound) approaches to social justice. But together with my theoretical work, I have also been keen to take on positions that apply justice considerations to praxis. Among other things, I have been a Senior Adjudicator at the Disciplinary Authorities at Haifa University, I lead workshops on Social Justice and Education among indigenous populations in Guatemala, and took part in committees on Ethics and Intellectual Integrity. For the past eight years, I have also served as Director of Undergraduate and Graduate Programs in Sociology & Anthropology of Education at the Faculty of Education.

I hope to build on that experience, and on our Society's long tradition of excellence in research, by working towards improving our understanding of just social structures. Together with the Executive Board, I intend to act with determination and advance the goals of ISJR and address its major challenges. Three challenges seem to me particularly crucial: First, to develop an ever more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of justice behavior by crossing traditional disciplinary divides and fostering diversity in terms of membership, theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches. Second, to increase our attention to the variety of justice behaviors in non-Western, Third World and small-scale societies. This would help to unveil the universal and particular aspects of justice behavior and to redress the structural and cultural bias that has been created by justice studies mainly based on Western populations of university students. Finally, I will seek to encourage the expansion of research to substantive issues that have been relatively neglected: retributive justice, intergenerational and environmental justice, global justice, family justice, critique of justice theory, social welfare and justice, and so on. These are ambitious challenges, but they are essential to our mission and will therefore receive my special attention as President of ISJR.

Truly yours,

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