

# *International Society for Justice Research (ISJR)*

[www.isjr.org](http://www.isjr.org)



## Spring 2012 Newsletter

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## ❖ News from the President

Dear ISJR members,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the blossoming spring time.

The preparations for the upcoming ISJR Conference in Rishon LeZion are peaking – Dahlia, Aviad and Bracha are putting together the program and taking care of all the administrative arrangements needed so that your participation at the Conference can be exciting and your maximum comfort is guaranteed (see update below). This is the first time that the ISJR Conference hosts a workshop for PhD students. I am glad to announce that we have enough participants for the workshop which will be lead by Manfred Schmitt and Kjell Törnblom.

In the current Newsletter we are including a second announcement (the first announcement was posted on February the 26<sup>th</sup>) of the Agenda of the Business Meeting that will take place at the upcoming ISJR Conference. **Your participation in this meeting is of great importance!!** In the following I would like to explain why this is so.

One clause in the agenda refers to proposed bylaws changes (detailed explanation of proposed changes to the International Society for Justice Research (ISJR) bylaws, approved by the Executive Committee, December, 2011, appear in the 2011 Winter ISJT Newsletter (<http://isjr.jimdo.com/newsletter-1/latest-issue/>). Some of the proposed bylaw changes were approved by the past Executive, during the presidential term of Carolyn Hafer. Even though this proposal was presented to the general membership, it could not be approved because the 2010 General Business Meeting in Banff did not fit the requirement of 20% membership's quorum. Therefore, we will have to vote again on these and new proposals at the upcoming 2012 ISJR General Business Meeting in Israel.

On this occasion, we also want to discuss and vote for a major bylaw change proposal referring to the structure of ISJR membership fees. The current membership dues are determined by seniority and the proposal is to change this criterion to annual income. Fees structures that are determined by different income levels, characterize many international organizations such as the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), the International Sociological Association (ISA) and the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP). ISJR current membership indicates that most of ISJR members (92%) are from the Western world. An income-based fees structure is likely to further the internationality of our Society because it encourages scholars from non-Western countries, who earn lower salaries than their counterparts in affluent Western countries, to join ISJR. It should be noted, however, that as the great majority of ISJR members come from relatively affluent Western countries, the proposed change is not likely to affect ISJR's annual income.

In this regard, ISJR is also offering Travel Awards (2-3 stipends, in the amount of \$500 USD) in order to facilitate the international participation of scholars to the upcoming 2012 ISJR conference in Rishon LeZion.

I will be looking forward to meeting you in Rishon LeZion.

Truly yours,

Clara Sabbagh  
ISJR President

## ❖ Storytelling of Justice Scholars: Riel Vermunt

One of the memorable experiences I had was when I welcomed Melvin Lerner – at that time leader of the outstanding program in social psychology at the University of Waterloo and during long time the most inspiring justice researcher – at Leiden University in the Netherlands. The year was 1984. Mel was invited by the committee of the Cleveringa chair – of which I was member - to teach during one year about justice and do research in that area. The Cleveringa chair was named after Rudolf Pabus Cleveringa, professor of law, who protested against occupation during World War II. Each year another scholar is invited. Other chair holders were Jan Tinbergen, Nobel laureate and the diplomat Max van der Stoel, former Dutch minister of Foreign Affairs. The chair promotes research and teaching to make the world a better place to live in and gives chair holders the opportunity to protest against injustice. Things we all should do when working on justice teaching and research.

It was not my first introduction to justice research but it was a significant one. In my dissertation I had already paid attention to equity theory and the related process of social comparison. In that period we did a lot of work. We founded the International Center of Justice Research at Leiden, later becoming the International Society of Justice Research. And we did more: the first international conference of Social Justice was held in 1986 in Leiden, followed by a second one in 1988. The next international justice conference was in Utrecht and Daniel Kahneman, Nobel laureate, gave a keynote address. These justice conferences were truly interdisciplinary. Scientists from several disciplines came together: sociologists, philosophers, psychologists, political scientists, economists, developmental psychologists. It was great to meet these people and to discuss justice issues from so different perspectives. I have the feeling, but I do not follow the conferences of the last years, that psychologists dominate the discussion. If this perception is correct, it could be an idea to extend connections to other disciplines.

I was born in a small village in the south of the Netherlands as the youngest son of a blacksmith, a lower middle class profession. As middle class family and the fact that many villagers visited the forge and our stove shop, I got a pretty good idea of the ups and downs of lower class people as well as of upper class people. These experiences moulded my character and my vision on the world. I tried and try always to keep a balanced view and that, I assume, made me more sensitive for justice issues.

The prospect to settle in the big city of Amsterdam was probably the main reason to study social psychology there. But what made the study so attractive was that in the three year bachelor phase (kandidaats-fase) many disciplines were taught: philosophy, sociology, pedagogics, political science, next to the psychology sub-disciplines. And I remember from the social psychology course that in the introductory textbook chapters about physiology were cancelled!! Nurture overruled nature. And I could not foresee that short after the start of the curriculum, in 1968, I, as many students in other places in the Western world, became immersed in protest actions against the authoritarian society: freedom, equality, and brotherhood were figuratively speaking written on our foreheads.

In 1984, sixteen years later, freedom, equality and brotherhood were not only words we used to cry out in the years gone by, but became scientific concepts that could be studied in a systematic and orderly way. This start of our scientific endeavor opened the gate for a fruitful science of justice in the Netherlands.

Riel Vermunt, Leiden University

## ❖ Update from Conference Organizers

With almost 100 accepted abstracts and 11 symposia, so far, the conference is taking shape very nicely and promises to provide a basis for a panoramic view of social justice in a complex reality. In addition to presentations in the three major themes that were pre-selected for the conference, we also identified additional focal themes emerging from a plurality of submissions, which provided a basis for organizing relevant new sessions on topics such as justice cognitions, gender and Justice, public protest, indigenous and aboriginal conflicts, and more. We therefore have a truly varied panorama of contemporary views of social justice. A second Call for Abstracts for speakers, symposia and poster presentations was recently disseminated, extending the deadline for late submission until the end of June 2012. Finally, we are very happy to have Prof. Frances Raday and Prof. Guillermina Jasso as keynote speakers. Please submit your proposals for papers, symposia or posters through our website at <http://social-justice.colman.ac.il>, or by email to [socialjustice@colman.ac.il](mailto:socialjustice@colman.ac.il).

## ❖ Invitation to ISJR Business Meeting

**International Society for Justice Research (ISJR) Agenda of the General Business Meeting  
Tuesday, September 11, 2012, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., Rishon LeZion, Israel**

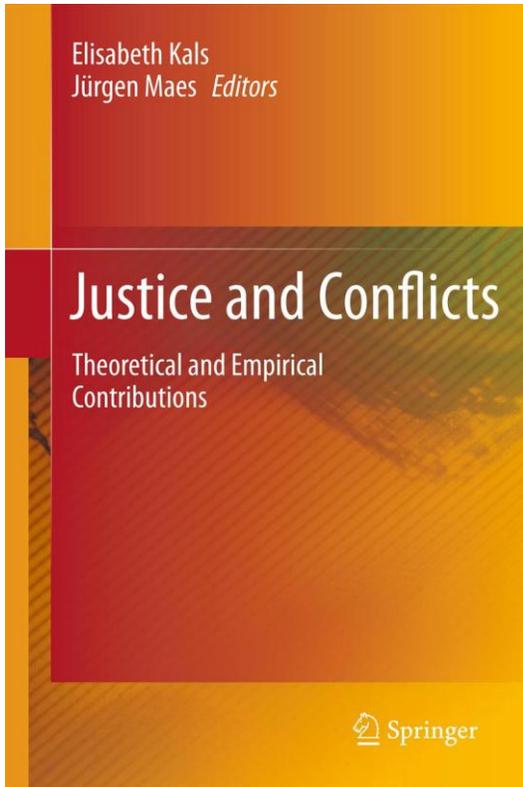
1. Welcome
2. Approval of the two auditors
3. Honours announcements
4. Report of the President
5. Proposed changes to the bylaws
6. Report of the Treasurer
7. Report of the Editor of Social Justice Research
8. Discharge of the Executive Board

Presidency change

9. Elections to the Executive Board
10. Announcement of the appointment of Newsletter Editor
11. Presentations concerning the 2014 conference
12. Any new business from the floor

## ❖ Recent Justice-Related Books

**Kals, E. & Maes, J. (Eds.) (2011). *Justice and Conflicts. Theoretical and Empirical Contributions*. Berlin: Springer.**

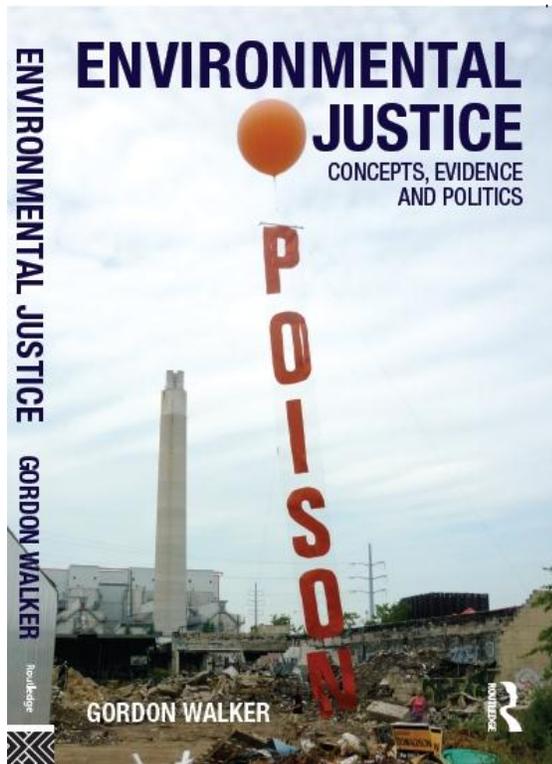


This book offers an interdisciplinary approach to justice research in the light of conflict resolution. The book traces back to the Eichstätt symposium “The potential of justice research for conflict resolution and the understanding of societal problems”, which aimed at bringing together different methodological and disciplinary views of justice research from all over the world. Nevertheless, the emphasis of the symposium was on empirical perspectives and their application. Central to the book are questions concerning the existence and the characteristics of justice motives, and concerning the influence that justice motives and justice judgements have on the emergence, but also the solution of social conflicts. In seven sections, the following main themes are addressed: (1) “introduction” (Leo Montada; Kjell Törnblom, & Ali Kazemi; Susan Opatow), (2) “justice motives” (Claudia Dalbert; Jürgen Maes, Christian Tarnai, & Julia Schuster; Nadine Thomas, Anna Baumert, & Manfred Schmitt; Jan-Willem van Prooijen), (3) “interpersonal justice” (Hans-Werner Bierhoff & Elke Rohmann; Gerold Mikula; Mario Gollwitzer, Livia Keller, & Judith

Braun; Bernhard Streicher, Dieter Frey & Silvia Osswald), (4) “organizational justice” (Adrian Furnham & Evelyn M. Siegel; Elisabeth Kals & Patrick Jiranek), (5) “ecological justice” (Markus M. Müller; Janine Bentz-Hözl & Manfred Broucker; Heidi Ittner & Cornelia Ohl; Geoffrey J. Syme), (6) “social conflicts on a macro-level” (Nils Goldschmidt & Alexander Lenger; John T. Jost, Ido Liviatan, Jojanneke van der Toorn, Alison Ledgerwood, Anesu Mandisodza, & Brian A. Nosek; Klaus-Dieter Altmepfen, Klaus Arnold, & Tanja Kössler; Ronald Fischer), and (7) “protective factors to strengthen and foster sustainable justice” (Mathias Allemand & Marianne Steiner; Tanja M. Gerlach, Dmitrij Agroskin, & Jaap J.A. Denissen; Silvia Osswald, Dieter Frey, & Bernhard Streicher; Carolyn L. Hafer). All chapters are structured in a similar way in order to enhance the readability of the book: They are introduced by a short abstract, followed by an introduction into the specific research topics of the chapters. They close with an outlook on practical perspectives or concrete implications of the findings and thoughts discussed.

The book is available as printed hardcover (106,95 € (D) | 109,95 € (A) | SFr. 143.50) as well as eBook from Springer’s eBook Collection.

Walker, G. (2012). *Environmental Justice: Concepts, Evidence and Politics*. Routledge.



Our book asks what is the relationship between the principles of social justice and global justice? How can we best reconcile the quest for greater social justice 'at home' with greater social justice in the world? Are the social justice pressures our societies currently face the result of globalisation or are they domestically generated? And how can we advance social justice in the light of the new social realities? In this volume, leading international experts offer compelling answers to these questions.

The term environmental justice has become utilised as a campaigning slogan, a description of a field of academic research, a policy principle and a name given to a political movement. Emerging from its origins in anti-toxics and civil rights activism in the US to produce what some have seen as one of the most significant developments in contemporary environmentalism, the language of environmental justice has become increasingly used around the world for examining issues from the local street level, through to the global scale. This book seeks to capture

this diversity and dynamism by seeing environmental justice as concerned with the intertwining of environment and social difference and as a multivalent matter of justice as distribution, procedure and recognition.

An analytical framework is set up in the early chapters which focuses on the relationship between justice concepts on the one hand and evidence of inequalities on the other, and the claim-making that ties these together. Subsequent chapters examine substantive environmental topics – wastes of various forms, air pollution, flooding, greenspace and climate change. The intention was to produce an accessible and thought provoking text which should help readers delve further into the ever expanding and diversifying environmental justice literature. It aims to engage the environmental justice research community, but is also written for advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds – geography, sociology, politics, environmental studies/science, law, management, public health amongst others.

Overall the book argues that developing a careful and critically informed view of environmental justice is important. This is not just a matter of academic advancement, but more significantly about knowing better the interrelation between environment and social difference and therefore more effectively pursuing the improvement of conditions under which people are able lead their lives and the way they are treated in environmental terms.

## ❖ Justice-Related Dissertations

### *Representations of globalization, justice and relations between countries: A contribution to the study of the metasystem of social representations*

Globalization is one of the present-day topics that has generated more debate and contradictory positions. If for some people globalization is inherently positive, promoter of welfare, development and progress, for others globalization has, on the contrary, promoted the growth of inequalities between and within nation (Guillén, 2001). Although the literature about globalization is abundant, few studies have attempted to capture lay people's opinion about the phenomenon. Our research was precisely developed with the objective to study Portuguese respondents' representations of globalization, and to analyze various factors that may explain differences in the positions on globalization, namely the perception of justice.

In order to fulfill the proposed objectives the research was divided into four empirical studies: three exploratory studies and a study of synthesis, using qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

Results suggest that our respondents view globalization as a phenomenon which, through economic and communicational networks, should lead to a unified world. In relation to this common representation, three different positions were identified: two contrasted positions held by supporters and opponents, highly involved in the process of globalization, and a third position, held by respondents less involved in the process, the indifferent. A favorable position is characterized by the perception of a greater inevitability and a higher level of optimism regarding the phenomenon, globalization being perceived as more just, a process from which all countries, including Portugal, may benefit. An unfavourable position is based on a greater perception of injustice and social inequalities, stresses the importance of individual action and the role of national institutions in the regulation of the process of globalization. Finally, the opinion of the indifferent seems to rest on a greater resignation, namely with regard to social recognition. Thus, results suggest that differences in positioning on globalization are a matter of struggle for justice, for recognition and distribution.

Ph.D. dissertation defended in Jun 2011

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## ❖ Justice-Related Special Issues

Issue 1 of Critical Criminology 2012 is as Special Issue on Restorative Justice. For more information see:

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/1205-8629/20/1/>

## ❖ Recent Justice-Related Publications of ISJR Members

- Bal, M. & Van den Bos, K. (in press). Blaming for a better future: Future orientation and associated intolerance of personal uncertainty lead to harsher reactions toward innocent victims. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.
- Baumert, A., Otto, K., Thomas, N., Bobocel, R. & Schmitt, M. (2012). Processing of unjust and just information: Interpretation and memory performance related to dispositional victim sensitivity. *European Journal of Personality*, 26, 99-110.
- Gollwitzer, M. & Bushman, B. J. (in press). Do victims of injustice punish to improve their mood? *Social Psychology and Personality Science*. doi: 10.1177/1948550611430552.
- Gollwitzer, M., Rothmund, T., Alt, B. & Jekel, M. (in press). Victim sensitivity and the accuracy of social perceptions. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. doi: 10.1177/0146167212440887.
- Loseman, A. & Van den Bos, K. (2012). A self-regulation hypothesis of coping with an unjust world: Ego-depletion and self-affirmation as underlying aspects of blaming of innocent victims. *Social Justice Research*, 25, 1-13.
- Simmons P. & Walsh, B. (in press). "Public relations and organisational justice: more fairness or just more cooperation?", *Journal of Public relations Inquiry*.
- Stel, M., Van den Bos, K., & Bal, M. (2012). On mimicry and the psychology of the belief in a just world: Copying the behaviors of others reduces the blaming of innocent victims. *Social Justice Research*, 25, 14-24.
- Van den Bos, K., & Maas, M. (2012). Adhering to consistency principles in an unjust world: Implications for sense making, victim blaming, and justice judgments. In B. Gawronski & F. Strack (Eds.), *Cognitive consistency: A fundamental principle in social cognition* (pp. 424-444). New York: Guilford.
- Van Dillen, L. F., Van der Wal, R. C., & Van den Bos, K. (in press). On the role of attention and emotion in morality: Attentional control modulates unrelated disgust in moral judgments. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

## ❖ 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](mailto:sblader@stern.nyu.edu)

### **SUBSCRIBE to the ISJR listserv:**

Send an email to [csabbagh@edu.haifa.ac.il](mailto:csabbagh@edu.haifa.ac.il) . In the subject line of the email, type "SUBSCRIBE ISJR".