

International Society for Justice Research (ISJR)

www.isjr.org



Spring 2013 Newsletter

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❖ News from the President

Dear ISJR members,

We all value ISJR as a unique academic organization in the scientific landscape of justice and related phenomena, with its key features of internationalism and interdisciplinarity, diversity of research interests and perspectives, inclusiveness and collegiality. With its presence now so familiar and its processes established, however, there may be a risk that we take it easily for granted. It is always worthwhile to reflect on how things started and to recall the amount of work and initiative, enthusiasm and idealism that people have invested in bringing ISJR into existence.

I recently noticed that our website lacked information about ISJR's history and origins. So, together with Sarah Brosnan, our secretary, and in consultation with key protagonists who were there from the start, we have put together an account of our society's historical origins. While it is rather brief and not complete by any means, the account acknowledges the individuals – some explicitly mentioned, many others implied – whose vision and hard work has brought ISJR into being. Their initiative and enthusiasm should inspire us to continue their work and keep ISJR happening! The history page also includes two very cool photos that Riel Vermunt kindly provided, showing impressions of the very first international justice conference in Leiden in 1986:

<http://isjr.jimdo.com/about-isjr/history-of-isjr/>

Indeed, ISJR is a continuing project. For a healthy future it needs to grow in size and presence. The Web is of course one key to presence and visibility in this age. With Wikipedia having become a main reference for many Internet queries, I figured ISJR should have an entry too – only to discover that there was already one in existence, albeit with very limited information. Sarah Brosnan has done a fabulous job in now expanding the entry with information about our aims, history, and activities. Over time more information can be added. More crucially, in order to use the Web's features to increase ISJR presence, we need to connect to the entry and create links from other entries. If you happen to have your own Wikipedia entries, or maintain or edit any, please see whether you can include a link to the ISJR entry:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Society_for_Justice_Research

Otherwise, I am always interested in ideas for promoting ISJR and increasing its presence. So, if you happen to have an idea, don't hesitate to contact me and share it with me:

Michael.Wenzel@flinders.edu.au.

And paraphrasing the old adage “don't just think what the society can do for you but what you can do for the society”, join up and join in, keep contributing to our newsletters, spread the word*, and keep ISJR happening. Enjoy the newsletter!

Michael Wenzel

ISJR President

* Why not include the following in your email signature:

Member of the *International Society for Justice Research*: www.isjr.org

❖ News from the Treasurer

Greetings from the Treasurer!

I am happy to report that ISJR continue to be in a very vibrant position. Our membership currently stands at 130 members for 2013. This is quite strong, particularly for a year in which we are not hosting one of our biennial conferences. Our finances are in similarly strong shape, enabling us to pursue the mission of the Society to promote justice research.

I am also happy to report that Springer, the publisher of ISJR, is now offering electronic access to our journal. If you are a paid member of ISJR for 2013, please watch your email inbox for a message from me that will include your code and instructions for accessing the journal electronically.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Steven Blader

❖ ISJR 15th Biennial Conference 2014

The ISJR 15th Biennial Conference will be held on **June 19-22, 2014**, at New York University, organized by Professor [John T. Jost](#). The conference will take place at facilities of the Leonard N. Stern Business School, New York University, in Greenwich Village. Other members of the Organizing Committee include Steven Blader, Claudia Cohen, Peter Coleman, Guillermina Jasso, Jamie Napier, Jojanneke van der Toorn, and Batia Wiesenfeld. Three major conference themes are planned: (1) Economic inequality (the 1% vs. the 99%); (2) Law, justice, and social science; (3) Progress, social stability, and change. Information about discounted hotel rates and keynote speakers will be posted on the ISJR website during the summer of 2013.

❖ Inspirations: Norm Feather

I came into justice research by the back door. I was invited to give an address at the International Congress of Psychology that was held in Sydney in 1988. I wanted to show that advances in social psychology can be made by examining a topic that comes from one's own culture and one that was commonly held to be unique to that culture. Psychology around the world is very much influenced by research that comes from North America and European sources. I decided to focus on a local topic to see where research on it would lead. So at the Sydney Congress I described research that I had initiated on "tall poppies", or people who hold positions of high status. There is a common belief that Australians like to see tall poppies cut down to size. Would research support that belief? What variables determine a wish to see tall poppies fall? When are we happy to see tall poppies hold on to their high status positions?

Across a wide range of studies I found that people were happier about a tall poppy's success in achieving high status and happier about a tall poppy's failure when the tall poppy was perceived to deserve the high status or to deserve the fall. So deservingness emerged as a key variable in my research. Although deservingness has received attention in the justice literature it is still relatively neglected as a concept in social psychology and has not been brought into the mainstream.

Yet judgments of deservingness permeate our social life, influencing our beliefs, our actions, and how we feel about outcomes.

In the years since 1988 I have pursued an active research program in which perceived deservingness has a central place. My interest in deservingness led me to a close conceptual analysis of the concept. I distinguished deservingness from rule-based entitlement and developed a structural model that used Fritz Heider's principle of balanced relations and that brought together variables that I considered to be the key to perceived deservingness. The research testing this model was described in my 1999 book "Values, Achievement, and Justice: Studies in the Psychology of Deservingness". More recently, my research took a new direction by investigating how discrete emotions such as *schadenfreude*, sympathy, resentment, guilt, and pride relate to judgments of deservingness. So deservingness as a justice-related variable has been central to my research over many years.

Ideas develop from many influences that are part of your background of experience. Before developing ideas about deservingness I had done a lot of research on achievement motivation, cognitive consistency, values, attribution theory, and the psychological impact of unemployment. At an early stage I was attracted to cognitive theories, especially to the theoretical approaches of Edward Tolman and Kurt Lewin which were current at that time. Subsequently I worked with Jack Atkinson at the University of Michigan, and was influenced by Milton Rokeach's appeal to give values a more central place in social psychology.

Values and social norms are basic variables in the analysis of deservingness, entitlement, and legitimacy and they deserve much more attention from justice researchers. They can be integrated into theories of motivation (e.g., expectancy-value theory) and into theoretical approaches to justice. I was also attracted to the seminal contributions of Fritz Heider and his interest in unpacking lay psychology. Throughout my research I have always been interested in cognitive structures and the degree to which beliefs fit together in a balanced or coherent way, taking evaluations into account. Cognitive approaches to human motivation have also been a central interest. While acknowledging these influences, it is true to say that I have always been a bit of a loner, developing my own ideas and pushing ahead bit by bit.

My advice to younger scholars is to read widely and develop a sound knowledge of what has gone before. Don't limit yourself to recent contributions to the literature but go back to examine the history of an idea. If a concept (such as deservingness and legitimacy) spans different disciplines, look to see what other scholars from those disciplines have to say about it. In my own reading I profited from looking at some relevant publications from legal scholars and philosophers, not just from psychologists. But there is a limit to a literature search. One can read too much, delaying the start. At an early stage let your own ideas flow through and, if you think they are good ideas, have the courage and confidence to pursue them. Hang on to them like a terrier worries a bone. Don't be seduced by trendy ideas in the literature that hold sway for a limited time, leading to studies that become more and more obsessed with minutiae and that don't add much to our store of knowledge. Search for ideas that shine a new light on existing knowledge and that go some way toward integrating past contributions. There has to be more space for building up an integrated and reliable body of knowledge in psychology and you should be part of that pursuit. Don't be too hasty but find time for reflection. It's not easy but in the end it may lead to a valuable contribution as well as personal satisfaction for a deserved achievement.

❖ Justice-Related Conferences

Social Injustice - from a political-psychological perspective at the guesthouse of the Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, 03/01/2013-03/02/2013 (review)

Organized by the Political Psychology Section of the German Psychological Association (DGP), the conference took place in the guesthouse of the Goethe University Frankfurt from 03/01 to 03/02. The conference was held in German, but nevertheless attracted interdisciplinary scientists with an international range, because of the topic's omnipresence and accessibility from different disciplines. Furthermore, investigations about Justice have a specific importance and usefulness for political guiding.

The conference opened with a lecture of Prof. Ernst Hustler (University of Gießen) who discussed the question if you can ever escape the poverty you once entered considering the possibilities given by the state. He noted that even though the German state invests a lot in social expenses, few people are able to combat poverty. He concluded, that in order to solve this dilemma it is necessary to understand the underlying social selection processes and to strengthen community services, which still lack socio-psychological skills. After a short coffee break the first session started with Katrin Prinzen (University of Cologne) who presented her dissertation project that investigates intergenerational justice in times of demographic change. The results suggest, that young generations think it is just to support older generations via financial support, but the younger generation anticipates an unjust financial support when they are older, what might imply an offense of the merit principle. Prof. Petia Genkova (University of Applied Science at Oldenburg) focused on the concept of corruption and remarked the methodological difficulties investigating the concept. Furthermore, they study potential cultural influences on the perceived corruption especially between Germany and Indonesia. Afterwards Dr. Rainer Krieger (University of Gießen) gave an overview of the past work and development of the Political Psychology Section and its impact on political education. The day ended with a general assembly and a collective dinner in the city of Frankfurt.

The next day started with a second session and the presentation of the dissertation project of Melanie Misamer (University of Braunschweig). She will be investigating the role of teachers in transmitting democratic and moral values to pupils. For that matter she will especially focus on the relationship between power, trust, and justice perceptions. Prof. Rolf van Dick (University of Frankfurt) gave an interesting talk about the relationship of citizenship behavior, career orientation, justice, and commitment. Prof. Dr. van Dick detected that commitment has a moderating effect on the relationship between distributive and procedural justice. All in all procedural justice is especially important for persons with high commitment to their organization, whereas persons with low commitment see distributive justice as more important. Before the lunch break Prof. Nils Bandelow and Prof. Barbara Thies (University of Braunschweig) presented their joint research project about mediation processes in the context of infrastructure projects that accounted for several protests by the German population. They aim to extract specific strategies to enable a constructive and peaceful decision process. Judith Brinker (University of Goettingen) gave a talk about her Bachelor's thesis which deals with the question if there is a difference in socially acquired conflict styles between Israelis, Palestinians, and Germans. Among other things, the study includes the investigation of personality traits. It also fosters the question if socially acquired conflict styles can be transferred to the way internal and external conflict resolutions are treated. The first results suggest that there is no difference between Israelis and Palestinian in regard to

conflict style and personality traits. The last discussion was held by Dr. Karin Schnebel (University of Passau) who brought up the role of gender in the justice discussion that represents a very current issue in the German society. She discussed, derived from the socio-philosophical discourse, the still not reached ideal of gender equality, and what has to be done to reach a gender sensitive perspective to offer the same possibilities for women as for men.

For more information please visit <http://www.bdp-politische.de/>. Unfortunately the homepage is just available in German.

Nadine Knab & Constanze Beierlein

Peace and Justice Studies Association Conference 2013

"Peace Studies between Tradition and Innovation"

October 17-19, 2013 -- The enduring tension between tradition and innovation, and between continuity and change, will be the overarching theme of the 2013 meetings of the Peace and Justice Studies Association, to be jointly hosted in Waterloo, Ontario by the University of Waterloo's Conrad Grebel University College and Wilfrid Laurier University's Department of Global Studies. The 2013 PJSA conference theme honors the tradition, history and accomplishments of the peace and justice studies movement while simultaneously seeking to expand the movement's frontiers in search of new and innovative ways to promote both the practice and the culture of peace in a divided world. The conference will welcome proposals from across a wide range of disciplines, professions and perspectives on issues such as the innovative use of social or communications technology in the promotion of peace, the use of unconventional or unorthodox peace promotion strategies by long-established actors in the field, or on the comparative accomplishments of 'new' vs. 'old' actors in the field of peace and justice studies. Proposals are due by APRIL 15, 2013.

<http://www.peacejusticestudies.org/conference/call.php>

International Sociological Association (ISA) Conference 2014

Dear Friends.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that I was asked to serve as Program Coordinator for the International Sociological Association (ISA) conference in Yokohama, Japan (13-19 July, 2014). We have been allocated 18 sessions (including keynote speakers, poster sessions, etc.)! More information about the conference, its' themes and deadlines may be found at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/#>

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

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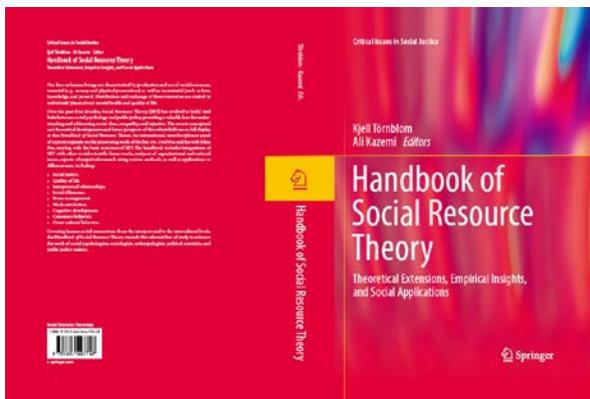
❖ Special Issues of Social Justice Research

A special issue of Social Justice Research on Ecological Justice will be published in 2013, guest edited by Susan Clayton and Markus Müller.

Kjell Törnblom and Ali Kazemi, current editors of Social Justice Research, are planning a special issue featuring outstanding 'younger generation' justice researchers from different disciplines. Colleagues have been asked to identify candidates for this issue.

❖ Justice-Related Books

Törnblom, K.Y. & Kazemi, A. (Eds.) (2013). *Handbook of Social Resource Theory. Theoretical Extensions, Empirical Insights, and Social Applications*. New York: Springer.



Social relationships may be characterized by their use of social resources, both material ones, as in money and physical possessions, and intangibles such as love, knowledge, and power. Transactions involving their distribution and exchange are central to individuals' quality of life. Over the past four decades, Social Resource Theory (SRT) has evolved to build vital links between social psychology and public policy, providing a valuable lens for understanding and addressing social class, inequality, and injustice.

The possibilities for this robust field are on full display in the Handbook of Social Resource Theory. An international, interdisciplinary panel of experts expands on the pioneering work of the late Dr. Uriel Foa, starting with the basic structure of SRT and including recent conceptual and theoretical developments.

The topic of this Handbook spans several disciplines (psychology, sociology, social psychology, management, economics and marketing, political science, history, and applied ethics/philosophy), features both laboratory and field research from a number of different countries, addresses students and researchers as well as policy makers, and its application is potentially useful on different levels and in a variety of contexts. Following a Foreword by Morton Deutsch and an introductory chapter, this Handbook presents five parts containing 26 chapters and concludes with an Envoi by Elaine Hatfield and Richard Rapson.

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3 Some Conceptual and Theoretical Issues in Resource Theory of Social Exchange. *Kjell Törnblom and Ali Kazemi*

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- 8 Understanding Status as a Social Resource. *Kevin R. Binning and Yuen J. Huo*
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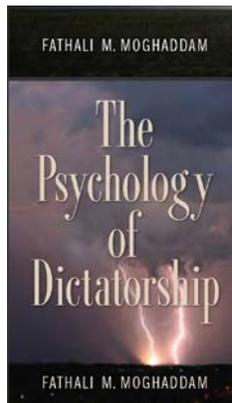
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Moghaddam, F. M. (2013). *The Psychology of Dictatorship*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.



How do countries become dictatorships? What social, political, and interpersonal dynamics create opportunities for despots to take and maintain control? And how are dictatorships overthrown? Ever since World War II, social scientists have recognized the crucial importance of these questions. Yet despite the great strides made in our understanding of dictatorships, most studies in this area are undertaken by academics in liberal democracies who view totalitarian societies from the “outside in,” a perspective that has caused researchers to ignore crucial elements of everyday life and to misunderstand the role of ideology and brute force in totalitarian societies.

In this book, Fathali M. Moghaddam presents his “springboard model” of dictatorship, derived from both a substantive analysis of the common structures underlying dictatorial regimes and his own personal experience of life in a modern dictatorship. He discusses the importance of psychological processes such as displacement of aggression, conformity, obedience, fear, and cognitive dissonance as tools that aid the development and maintenance of dictatorships, as well as the crucial role of ideology in cementing the allegiance of elites. Because even democracies contain an ever-shifting relationship between democratic and dictatorial tendencies, with elements that can pull democracies back to dictatorship, this book has important implications for citizens of all nations, even our own.

Oxford University Press book series in Political Psychology

There are now 10 published books in the Oxford University Press book series in Political Psychology, which is edited by ISJR member John T. Jost. You can find information about all of the books in the series here:

<http://bit.ly/XGrDZU>

Please check out the books, spread the word about the series, and think about whether you would like to submit a book proposal to us.

Zelman, E. (in press) Our Beleaguered Species (preview)

In the 1980s and 1990s, the focus of my research was on the psychology of property rights. Property, of course, is defined by cultural norms and by conventions of legislation. One way to understand property right cross-culturally is via holocultural methods. This entails sampling cultures, as political opinion polling samples people, and then statistically analyzing these representative data. One of the best holocultural data bases I encountered and used for this purpose was that prepared by Elizabeth Zelman for her doctoral studies at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Zelman taught anthropology at McKendree College in Illinois, but then became a speech pathologist, beginning a 25 year career helping disabled children acquire communication skills. Now in retirement, Dr. Zelman volunteers teaching anthropology at Washington University's Lifelong Learning Institute, with a focus on evolutionary ethics. She has conceived that our current crises require us to understand our inherent tribalism, to build on our tribalism, and expand it to global pan-tribalism. She is now finishing a book entitled, "Our Beleaguered Species: Beyond Tribalism". The book will be available in Amazon, with expectations before January 2014.

Here is an excerpt from the introduction:

"Our particular evolutionary trajectory has produced a species which, like other animals, can be characterized by typical physical/biological features and behaviors. Unlike other species, *Homo sapiens* negotiates the world largely through a brain-based culture-language complex which itself consists of universal features that are rooted in our common biology. Although our species is not as genetically diverse as many other species, our behaviors and specific sociocultural "adaptations" are incredibly diverse. This has enabled us to occupy and dominate most niches of our earth.

In this book, I argue that, while our evolutionary heritage has given us impulses toward small-group orientation, emotional bonding and empathy toward our social group, and cognitive bias favoring it, this heritage also has provided us with impulses toward and cognitive capacity for extending cooperation and empathy outward from the small, intimate group. Our extraordinary sociocultural and individual diversity of thought and behavior gives us the capacity to overcome this small-group "tribalism" and to survive and thrive today and into the future.

The diversity as evidenced by our successful occupation of even extreme environments reflects the adaptability enabled by our versatile upper limbs--hand and fingers, large, complexly interconnected brains, long childhoods, and language-culture complex. Our adaptability, in contrast to adaptive specialization of some other species, is related to flexibility of thinking and behavior, and to creativity in general. Taking full advantage of this creative potential by acknowledging and appreciating our differences, seeing diversity as our strength, we can "tinker" with our own cultural evolution. We can modify or tweak our perceptions and thinking, our sociocultural institutions, and our definitions of value to move us beyond tribalism, beyond sectarian concerns. I suggest that we view this as a kind of "epimimetic" tinkering with cultural "memes" as analogous to "epigenetic" influences that have been shown to switch genes on and off under particular conditions. We moderns live in a very different environment from that of our ancestors and require a worldwide and pan-tribal approach rather than "tribal" approaches to solving our common, worldwide problems."

Floyd Rudmin

❖ Justice in a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

A massive open online course is acronymed as a MOOC. It is a recent outgrowth of distance education, and wiki- technologies. MIT and Harvard, two elite universities on the same street, collaborated to organize a MOOC distribution center, under the online banner of edX.org. Then UC Berkeley and University of Texas joined, and subsequently Wellesley, Georgetown, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, McGill University, University of Toronto, Australian National University, Delft University of Technology, and Rice University. These X Universities are offering free courses on a variety of topics.

I am currently taking the Harvard MOOC on “The Ancient Greek Hero”, focussed on close readings of classical Greek literature (in translation). There are about 20,000 students taking this course with me.

There is a Harvard MOOC on “Justice”, focussed on “a critical analysis of classical and contemporary theories of justice”. The course began on March 12, but enrollment is still open. Last night, BBC World Service radio had a feature report on this MOOC. Members of ISJR might be interested in this MOOC as a private experience, or engaged as a local seminar group

Floyd Rudmin

❖ Justice-Related Dissertations

Andrew Davies: Grace Under Fire: Altruistic Behavior and the Risk of Criminal Victimization (State University of New York at Albany, School of Criminal Justice)

Two studies investigate whether the perceived risk of criminal victimization reduces altruistic behavior as social disorganization theory predicts it will. The first study, of 160 nation-states, suggests not. Rather, the relationship depends on national culture. In highly religious countries, for example, the perceived risk of victimization actually appears to increase altruistic behavior. The second study, an experiment conducted on samples both of undergraduate students and internet users, suggests that certain individuals for whom the risk of criminal victimization may be particularly salient – volunteers worried they may be put in harm’s way, and fatalists paranoid about the inevitability of victimization – can indeed be deterred from altruistic behavior under conditions of risk. Juxtaposed, the studies suggest not only that the relationship between the risk of criminal victimization and altruistic behavior is more complicated than expected, but also that, like criminal behavior, altruistic behavior might be as much a product of ecological factors as of individual dispositions.

❖ Recent Justice-Related Publications of ISJR Members

- Aramovich, N.P., Lytle, B.L. & Skitka, L. J. (2012). Opposing torture: Moral conviction and resistance to majority influence. *Social Influence*, 7, 21 - 34.
- Bauman, C. W. & Skitka, L. J. (2012). Corporate social responsibility as a source of employee satisfaction. *Research in Organizational Behavior*, 32, 63 - 86.
- Baumert, A., Halmburger, A., & Schmitt, M. (accepted for publication). Interventions against norm violations: Dispositional determinants of self-reported and real moral courage. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.
- Doosje, B., Loseman, A., & Van den Bos, K. (in press). Determinants of radicalization of Islamic youth in the Netherlands: Personal uncertainty, perceived injustice, and perceived group threat. *Journal of Social Issues*.
- Feather, N. T. (2012). Tall poppies, deservingness, and schadenfreude. *The Psychologist*, 25, 434-437.
- Feather, N. T., McKee, I. R., & Bekker, N. (2011). Deservingness and emotions: Testing a structural model that relates discrete emotions to the perceived deservingness of positive or negative outcomes. *Motivation and Emotion*, 35, 1-13.
- Feather, N. T., Wenzel, M., & McKee, I. R. (2012). Integrating multiple perspectives on schadenfreude: The role of deservingness and emotions. *Motivation and Emotion*. Advance online publication. DOI 10.1007/s11031-012-9331-4.
- Feather, N. T., Woodyatt, L., & McKee, I. R. (2012) Predicting support for social action: How values, justice-related variables, discrete emotions, and outcome expectations influence support for the Stolen Generations. *Motivation and Emotion*, 36, 516-528.
- Halmburger, A., Rothmund, R., Schulze, M. & Baumert, A. (in press). Psychological reactions to political scandals: Effects on emotions, trust, and the need for punishment. *Journal of Political Psychology*.
- Hogg, M. A., Kruglanski, A., & Van den Bos, K. (in press). Uncertainty and the roots of extremism. *Journal of Social Issues*.
- Jiranek, P., Kals, E., Humm, J. S., Strubel, I. T., Wehner, T. (2013). Volunteering as a means to an equal end? The impact of a social justice function on intention to volunteer. *The Journal of Social Psychology*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/00224545.2013.768594 (link to article: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00224545.2013.768594>)
- Mikula, G. (2012). Perceived justice in the division of domestic labor: Antecedents and consequences. In E. Kals & J. Maes (Eds.). *Justice and conflict: Theoretical and empirical contributions* (pp. 153-167). Berlin: Springer.
- Mikula, G., Riederer, B., & Bodi, O. (2012). Perceived justice in the division of domestic labor: Actor and partner effects. *Personal Relationships*, 19, 680-695.
- Okimoto, T. G., Wenzel, M., & Hedrick, K. (2013). Refusing to apologize can have psychological benefits (and we issue no mea culpa for this research finding). *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 43, 22-31. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.1901>

- Simmons, P., Dowell, D. & Small, F. (2013). The influence of fairness on university student satisfaction. *The International Journal of Assessment and Evaluation*, 19. <http://ijlae.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.251/prod.3>
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