



## Spring 2018 Newsletter

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## ❖ News from the President

Dear ISJR members,

My ISJR presidency will end two months from now. I would therefore like to use this 'News from the President' section to briefly take stock and reflect on the accomplishments of our society so far, and the road ahead.

At present ISJR is a society with a successful biannual conference, an interdisciplinary network of like-minded scholars, a professionally run journal, and a book series by an excellent academic publisher. Furthermore, our individual members make numerous impressive research contributions to the scientific study of social justice. Each newsletter I am impressed with the many new publications that our members shared, leaving us all with a lot of reading material. We also have awards for members who make outstanding contributions to our field, and of course I would like to particularly congratulate Jaime Napier (winner of the 2018 Early Career Contribution Award) and Allan Lind (winner of the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award)!

But how to keep ISJR vibrant for the future? The scientific enterprise as a whole is dynamic, closely associated with novel societal developments, and in continuous change. A key feature of success for any scientific society is to be sensitive to such developments and not get stuck in old habits or traditions. I would like to particularly advocate innovation through multidisciplinary. In the past several of our members have expressed concern that ISJR is too much composed of psychologists. This is unfortunate, particularly because justice research lends itself perfectly for an interdisciplinary approach. Stimulating the multidisciplinary character of our society should be high on the agenda.

Being a psychologist myself, in the past six years I increasingly collaborated with (for instance) political scientists and criminologists, and cannot overstate how much I benefited from this. These collaborations yielded novel research on justice-related topics such as radicalization, conspiracy theories, bystander apathy during criminal incidents, corruption, fake news, and even burglary behavior. A multidisciplinary perspectives increases the quality of research through a richer methodological toolbox, and provides a wealth of inspiring ideas for new research topics.

So my final call to all of our members is to regularly come out of your comfort zones, and be open to different perspectives, different methodologies, and new research questions that address important justice-related issues. It will push our field and our society forward, and also will keep your professional life as a researcher interesting and fun.

Jan-Willem van Prooijen

ISJR President

## ❖ 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the International Society for Justice Research



The 17th biennial meeting of ISJR will occur July 25-28 in Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting, hosted by Emory University in conjunction with Georgia State University and University of Georgia, features the theme Interrogating Injustice and highlights issues related to race and to the distribution of health care resources, among other social justice concerns. Plenary speakers include: Dr. Bernard Lafayette, civil rights leader and expert in nonviolent protest; Dr. Kimberly Jacob Arriola (Emory University), specialist on justice and health in communities of color; and Dr. Jan Willem van Prooijen (VU University in Amsterdam and current ISJR president), noted expert on injustice, punishment, and forgiveness.

Other featured addresses include those by Lifetime Achievement Award winner Dr. E. Alan Lind (Duke University) and Early Career Contribution Award winner Jaime Napier (New York University Abu Dhabi). The conference includes 13 organized symposia and a wide array of paper sessions and poster presentations.

Drs. Manfred Schmitt (University of Koblenz-Landau) and Clara Sabbagh (University of Haifa) are reprising their roles as leaders of the PhD Student Workshop on July 25. Conference attendees may join an evening excursion to Ponce City Market, a recently renovated landmark building in Atlanta that provides a glimpse of the city skyline, a variety of eateries, miniature golf, and access to the beltline (a walkway linking neighborhoods encircling the city). The gala dinner at The Carter Center includes access to the presidential museum and more city views. Although conference sessions end by noon on Saturday, July 28, attendees may opt to visit two iconic locations: The King Center for Nonviolence and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights.

A few rooms at the Emory Conference Center remain at the (lower) conference price and residence hall rooms are available at a bargain price. Early-bird registration closes on June 1. Conference registrants will receive more detailed information (e.g., about locations for picking up packets, directions for walking between lodging and sessions at the School of Public Health, parking) in early July. Please see <http://sociology.emory.edu/home/index.html> for more details. Looking forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

Karen Hegtvedt

## ❖ Awards to ISJR Members

**Olga Stavrova from the University of Tilburg** has received a Rising Star nomination from the Association for Psychological Science. Congratulations!

## ❖ Justice-Related Dissertations

**Melissa de Vel-Palumbo, Flinders University**

### **Redemption Through Suffering: How Self-Punishment Restores Moral Identity**

Individuals sometimes respond to their misdeeds by punishing themselves. Though such behaviours might be thought of as dysfunctional, in this thesis I argue that self-punishment is a strategy transgressors can use to achieve moral redemption. The objective of this thesis was to understand the intrapersonal and interpersonal functions of self-punishment; that is, why people engage in self-punishment, considering both individuals' own experiences and also the effect on others' perceptions. This work developed and validated an identity-regulating model of self-punishment, considering cognitive, emotional, and interpersonal outcomes of engaging in self-punitive behaviour. I propose that transgressors use self-punishment in two distinct ways to resolve the threat to moral identity triggered by their wrongdoing: "moral cleansing" and "moral repair." Evidence for the model was found using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Having first conducted an analysis of the felt experience of naturally occurring self-punishment, findings were followed up with experimentation in the laboratory using various self-punishment paradigms. Subsequently, the work examined the way observers respond to self-punishers, demonstrating that self-punishment could be an effective way for transgressors to restore a sense of symbolic justice, and thus regain moral standing in their social group. Taken together, the findings suggest that while self-punishers can redeem their moral identity through either excusing or confronting their wrongdoing, these two functions have profoundly different implications for intrapersonal and interpersonal repair.

**Karolina Urbanska, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland (currently at Université Clermont Auvergne, France)**

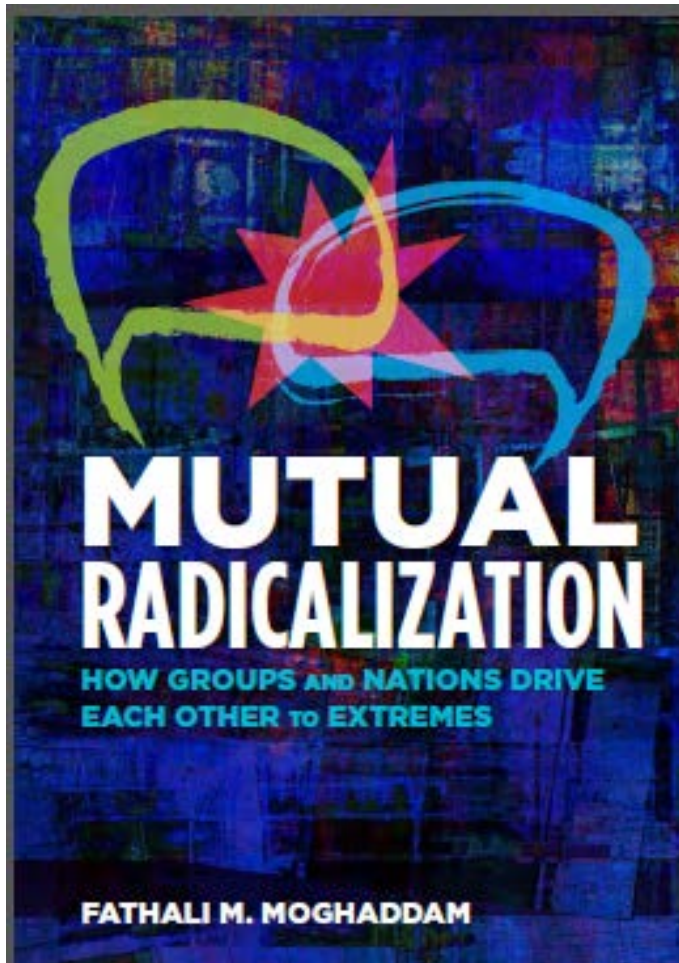
### **Beyond procedural justice: Responding to intergroup-level authority decisions**

The present thesis builds on the relational models of procedural justice (RMPJ) put forward by Tyler and colleagues, which theorise about the importance of authorities being fair in the way they make their decisions. In this view, fair procedures symbolically inform people of their social standing in the society and through this, authorities can gain legitimacy. The present work expands on these models in two ways. First, it proposes that the analysis of authority-subordinate interactions should move beyond the individual-level research, to consider group and intergroup-level interactions. Secondly, it argues that identification with a social group in the first place can be a determinant of perceptions of fairness and the subsequent judgements of the decisions made by authorities. Eight experimental studies investigating group members' responses to the intergroup-level authority decisions were conducted. The main findings suggest that (a) feelings of loyalty to one's group increase preference for ingroup favouring decisions regardless of whether these decisions are fair or not, (b) culture and its underpinning values can shape perceptions of

fairness in relation to authority decisions, and (c) people generally expect authorities to be fair to others regardless if they are of low or high social standing, but ideologies about the structure of the social hierarchy can inform these expectations of fairness. The findings are discussed in the light of the RMPJ and the implications for governing divided societies.

## ❖ Justice-Related Books

**Moghaddam, F. M. (2018). *Mutual radicalization: How groups and nations drive each other to extremes*. APA Press.**



Radicalization has become a serious global problem. Groups and nations are increasingly embroiled in escalating conflicts with one another that are defined by pathological hatred and ideological polarization, with devastating consequences, including terrorism and war. Social psychologist Fathali M. Moghaddam calls this process mutual radicalization. In this groundbreaking book, he explores its causes and potential solutions.

Drawing from well-established psychological principles, Moghaddam presents a dynamic, cyclical three-stage model of mutual radicalization that explains how groups gather under extremist ideologies, establish rigid norms under authoritarian leadership, and develop antagonistic worldviews that exaggerate the threats posed by each other. This process leads to intensifying aggressive actions that can even reach the point of mutual destruction. Moghaddam applies his model to 10 real-world case studies of mutual radicalization that focus on three main areas: the conflict between Islamist radicals and extreme nationalists in the West; nations that

are mired in long-standing hostilities, including North Korea and South Korea; and the increasingly toxic atmosphere in American politics. Moghaddam offers practical solutions for achieving deradicalization and highlights historical successes, such as German reunification.

[https://www.amazon.com/Mutual-Radicalization-Groups-Nations-Extremes/dp/1433829231/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1522590819&sr=1-1&keywords=mutual+radicalization&dpID=51G2bQT8qBL&preST=\\_SY291\\_BO1,204,203,200\\_QL40\\_&dpSrc=srch](https://www.amazon.com/Mutual-Radicalization-Groups-Nations-Extremes/dp/1433829231/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1522590819&sr=1-1&keywords=mutual+radicalization&dpID=51G2bQT8qBL&preST=_SY291_BO1,204,203,200_QL40_&dpSrc=srch)

**Van den Bos, K. (in press). Why people radicalize: How unfairness judgments are used to fuel radical beliefs, extremist behaviors, and terrorism. New York: Oxford University Press.**

In *Why People Radicalize*, Kees van den Bos argues that if we want to truly understand radicalization and prevent, attenuate, and fight violent extremism and terrorism, we must pay attention to what is driving the radicalization process. This implies that we should systematically analyze how radicalizing persons interpret the world. For example, perceptions that certain situations are fundamentally unfair and hence need to be changed are among the core issues that drive Muslim, right-wing, and left-wing radicalization. Furthermore, experiences and perceptions of unfairness and injustice can tempt those who struggle with self-control to break the law and engage in violent extremist and terrorist behavior.

*Why People Radicalize* is among the first attempts to provide a systematic, integrative, and in-depth analysis of the psychology of unfairness judgments and the ways these judgments impact on various radicalization processes. Discussing several conceptual and practical implications that follow from this line of reasoning, the book emphasizes the role of careful scientific thought and the notion of taking individuals seriously, as judgments of unfairness are not merely perceptions. They feel genuine to the persons forming the judgments.

This volume discusses in detail how these radicalization processes can develop and what components are of pivotal relevance in these processes. Accessible for scientists, professionals, and practitioners, the book explains how uncertainty and insufficient self-corrections influence this process. Finally, the book delineates future research issues on radicalization, extremism, and terrorism and applies the analysis to appropriate legal contexts, making the book relevant for policy and decision makers, among others.

## ❖ Recent Justice-Related Publications of ISJR Members

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## ❖ ISJR Membership and Listserv

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