HAL
open science

Group Processes & Intergroup Relations 10 Years On: Development, Impact and Future Directions

Dominic Abrams, Michael A. Hogg

To cite this version:

Dominic Abrams, Michael A. Hogg. Group Processes & Intergroup Relations 10 Years On: Development, Impact and Future Directions. Group Processes and Intergroup Relations, 2008, 11 (4), pp.419-424. 10.1177/1368430208095397 . hal-00571696

HAL Id: hal-00571696

https://hal.science/hal-00571696v1

Submitted on 1 Mar 2011

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Group Processes & Intergroup Relations
2008 Vol 11(4) 419–424

Group Processes & Intergroup Relations 10 Years On: Development, Impact and Future Directions

Dominic Abrams
University of Kent

Michael A. Hogg
Claremont Graduate University

The development of this Journal, *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, is reviewed. Throughout its first 10 years, the Journal has been supported by a strong editorial board. It has sustained a significant profile in social psychology in the area of both intergroup and small group processes. Its wider impact includes connection to related disciplines such as organizational behavior and neuroscience, focused special issues, small conferences related to the theme of the Journal and the expansion of group and intergroup research through learned societies. The editors thank authors, editorial board members, editorial assistants, reviewers and readers for their support.

KEYWORDS contact, emotions, groups, intergroup relations, neuroscience, organizations, review

Group Processes & Intergroup Relations (*GPIR*) is now at the end of its eleventh year (Vol. 11), our first issue having been published in July 1998. When the Journal was launched, with the help of enthusiastic endorsements from Marilynn Brewer and Bib Latané, the international scene for communicating work on group processes and intergroup relations looked very different. Major U.S. journals in social psychology were providing only very limited space for research on groups, and specialist groups journals such as *Small Group Research* were concerned primarily with one sub-area. In Europe, both the *European Journal of Social Psychology* and the *British Journal of Social Psychology* were strongly representing work on social identity, social representations and other 'European' approaches but did not encompass much mainstream work from the USA. *GPIR* was launched to accomplish a truly international integration, to provide a home for a wider range of research, linking both small groups and intergroup processes, and

Authors' note
Address correspondence to D. Abrams, Dept of Psychology, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NP, UK [email: d.abrams@kent.ac.uk] or M. A. Hogg, School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences, Claremont Graduate University, 150 E. 10th Street, Claremont, CA 91711, USA [email: michael.hogg@cgu.edu]

Copyright © 2008 SAGE Publications
(Los Angeles, London, New Delhi and Singapore)
11:4; 419–424; DOI: 10.1177/1368430208095397

encompassing both the European and non-European approaches.

At the time of its launch, the Journal was a controversial initiative and some European social psychologists were openly more enthusiastic than others. There were fears that the distinctiveness of the European and British journals might be undermined, and there were concerns that the apparent rise in interest in groups and intergroup relations might evaporate. As Editors we approached this issue empirically—we undertook an empirical review (Abrams & Hogg, 1998) that gave us confidence that the Journal was going to represent a thriving and expanding area of research within social psychology. The final article of the present issue (Randsley de Moura, Leader, Pelletier, & Abrams, 2008) expands and updates that empirical review and demonstrates that groups research has continued to expand, to become more influential in the major general journals in social psychology, and to have a very promising future. Far from weakening these mainstream journals, the arrival of *GPIR* has probably strengthened the position of groups research within them.

Our goal was for *GPIR* to act as the integrative focal point for groups research in all its diverse forms, and thus to invigorate the field and raise the profile and impact of this research across all social psychology journals. We feel this goal has been achieved.

The editorial board

The international scope and standing of the Journal has been supported through our stellar editorial board. We are enormously grateful for the guidance, support and work of our consulting editors and reviewers over the years, and especially to our associate editors. Volume 1 was launched with a very able and expert team (Anne Maass, John Dovidio, Diane Mackie, Richard Moreland, Don Taylor and Scott Tindale). Victoria Esses joined for Volume 2, Margo Monteith and Carsten De Dreu at Volume 4, and Nyla Branscombe for Volume 6. Emanuele Castano, Craig Parks and Deborah Prentice joined for Volume 8, Serge Guimond and Brenda Major for Volume 9. Volume 10 established our current team, which includes Bertjan Doojse, Matthew Hornsey, Norbert Kerr and Linda Tropp. Many of these outstanding researchers have held major editorial roles in journals such as *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* and others. Several have also held presidencies or other key positions on the committees of learned societies including the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology (EAESP), the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), and the Society for Experimental Social Psychology (SESP). Both the associate editorial team and the consulting editors are invited as a reflection of the content of the articles submitted to the Journal, and also to signal to the academic community what *GPIR* wants to represent. It has been, and continues to be, a great pleasure working with our colleagues in these roles.

Special issues

An important innovation for *GPIR* has been publication of special issues on themes that seemed particularly 'hot' at various times. The Journal remains open to proposals for special issues and will also act proactively to initiate special issues that seem timely. To date, we have published special issues on information processing in small groups (Brauner & Scholl, 2000), social identity in organizations (van Knippenberg & Hogg, 2001), intergroup contact (Dovidio, Gaertner, & Kawakami, 2003), evolutionary approaches to group research (Kameda & Tindale, 2004), the inaugural group processes and intergroup relations pre-conference of SPSP (Gaertner, Hogg, & Tindale, 2005), workplace diversity (Christian, Porter, & Moffitt, 2006), lay theories and intergroup relations (Levy, Chiu, & Hong, 2006), intergroup emotions (Giner-Sorolla, Mackie, & Smith, 2007) and social neuroscience and intergroup behavior (Eberhardt & Prentice, 2008). Forthcoming issues include music and intergroup relations (Giles, Hajda, & Hamilton), dehumanization (Castano & Kofta) and self-regulation within and between groups (Jonas, Sassenberg, & Scheepers).

Impact and expansion of the Journal

A significant success for the Journal was its inclusion in the ISI indexes relatively early (after Volume 6—2003). The Journal hit the ground running in 2006 with an impressive impact factor of 1.58 (13th of the 48 journals in the Thompson Social Science Citation Index for social psychology). This year *GPIR* registered an impact factor of 1.49.

The spread of citations across content suggests that the scope of the Journal is even and appropriate. From Volume 1 the three most cited articles cover leadership, group investment and group processes (Abrams & Hogg, 1998; Platow, Reid, & Andrew, 1998; Smith, Tindale, & Steiner, 1998). In Volume 2 the most cited articles were on crossed categorization, positive negative asymmetry and schism (Buhl, 1999; Crisp & Hewstone, 1999; Sani & Reicher, 1999). In Volume 3 the most cited articles were on collective efficacy, work groups and shared representations (Hollingshead, 2000; Peterson, Mitchell, Thompson, & Burr, 2000; Tindale & Kameda, 2000). The most cited articles in Volume 4 were on intergroup attitudes, organizational merger and hostile media (Brown, Maras, Masser, Vivian, & Hewstone, 2001; Matheson & Dursun, 2001; Terry & O'Brien, 2001). From Volume 5, the most cited article was on deviance (Abrams, Marques, Bown, & Dougill, 2002), and from Volume 6 the most cited articles were on intergroup contact (Levin, van Laar, & Sidanius, 2003; Shelton, 2003; Voci & Hewstone, 2003). These first six volumes provided the basis for the calculation of the initial impact factor of *GPIR*.

In Volume 7, articles on intergroup emotions (Miller, Smith, & Mackie, 2004; Navarrete, Kurzban, Fessler, & Kirkpatrick, 2004), and evolution and xenophobia (Faulkner, Schaller, Park, & Duncan, 2004) were most highly cited. In Volume 8, the most cited articles were on reducing intergroup bias (Crisp & Beck, 2005) and intergroup emotion (Lickel, Schmader, Curtis, Scarnier, & Ames, 2005) and perspective taking (Galinsky, Ku, & Wang, 2005). The most cited articles from Volume 9 were on implicit theories (Haslam, Bastian, Bain, & Kashima, 2006), general prejudice (Jayaratne et al., 2006) and intergenerational contact (Tam, Hewstone, Harwood, Voci, & Kenworthy, 2006).

Full citation data are not yet available for the period 2006–2008, but currently the articles that are being viewed most often on the SAGE website for Volume 9 (2006) include Christian, Porter, and Moffitt's introduction to the special issue on workplace diversity, and related articles. For Volume 10 (2007) the most viewed articles are by Rudman and Ashmore on discrimination and the IAT, by Ryan, Hunt, Weible, Peterson, and Casas on multicultural and colorblind ideology, and by Hoyt and Blascovich on women leaders' responses to stereotype activation. From Volume 11 (2008), the special issue on neuroscience and intergroup relations has already attracted considerable interest (see Prentice & Eberhardt, 2008), particularly McRae, Ochsner, Mauss, Gabrieli, and Gross's fMRI study of gender and emotion; Derks, Inzlicht, and Kang's article on stigma and stereotype threat; and Dovidio, Pearson, and Orr's article on social psychology and neuroscience.

In line with other journals, *GPIR* has increased its page extent (from approximately six articles per issue to nine or ten), and from 2009 we will be increasing the number of issues per volume from four to six. This reflects a healthy increase in the volume of submissions. We also moved to an on-line manuscript-tracking system in 2008 which has resulted in a faster manuscript decision time (currently under 90 days).

Group processes and intergroup relations pre-conference at the SPSP annual conference

The annual conference of SPSP is the world's largest annual gathering of social psychologists. Initially, there were no groups pre-conferences, so in 2004 Lowell Gaertner, Michael Hogg and Scott Tindale initiated the inaugural group processes and intergroup relations pre-conference. It has become a very successful and stimulating annual one-day event; an opportunity for groups researchers to meet one another, and a valuable companion activity for *GPIR*. Subsequent

pre-conferences have been convened by Hinsz, Dovidio and Park, Brewer, Craig and Crisp, Castano, Miller and Jackson, and Hogg, Levine and Blaylock. Attendance has risen from 63 in 2004 to 125 in 2008. Parallel pre-conferences have been run recently at both SESP and EAESP, signalling the firm establishment of the 'group processes and intergroup relations' as a coherent focus and body of research.

Conclusions, prospects and thanks

We hope that readers of *GPIR* will agree that the Journal has made excellent progress since its inception. The prospects continue to look good as the number of manuscripts being submitted is increasing and the quality of the work is extremely high. We intend to increase the size of the associate editorial team to reflect these trends. In common with other journals, we intend to ensure as fast a decision time as possible, and this will sometimes mean that editors may have to make decisions with only one or two reviews to hand, though we will sustain a policy of seeking three reviews for each decision. There are many new and exciting areas of research in group processes and intergroup relations. A key challenge that remains is how best to integrate and combine theories of small group, intragroup processes with theories of intergroup processes. These two levels of analysis are proximal, but researchers are also becoming more interested in how these can be connected with higher and lower levels (e.g. sociological and anthropological, on the one hand, and biological and neuroscience, on the other hand). Additional questions concern the way in which affective and cognitive processes combine in groups, how people learn about group processes (e.g. as they move between groups with different norms, and as they develop over their lifespan) and the role of groups in motivating and constraining people's abilities and performance.

Research funding, at least in North America and Europe, appears to be pitched increasingly at work that integrates across disciplines, cultures and methods. Some parts of social psychology may be able to evade these pressures, but work on group processes and intergroup relations necessarily falls at the intersections of many areas. There is also increasing pressure towards translational and transformational research—research that is more accessible, more immediately relevant to social issues and more likely to transform our world in positive ways. As society itself becomes more complex, more global and more interconnected, there has never been a more important time to focus on how people combine to behave toward one another as members of different social groups. These issues bear directly on how we can deal with, for example, inequality, terrorism, global environmental and health threats, collective decision making, and population movement and culture clashes. We hope that *GPIR* will be able to capture and promote the best research addressing these and other questions.

As editors of this Journal it has been our honour to work with such distinguished colleagues. It is very satisfying that the readership and impact of the Journal continues to grow. Advising and urging us through the initial practical steps we benefited especially from invaluable guidance by Dick Moreland and Jack Dovidio. Much work has also been done by a series of very dedicated and patient editorial assistants, many of whom now hold permanent academic posts themselves. Our first editorial assistant was Barbara Masser, followed by Sabina Aharpour, Georgina Randsley de Moura, Lindsey Cameron, Katerina Tasiopoulou, and currently Joe Pelletier. Their commitment and energy has been essential for the success of the Journal. Finally, we are tremendously grateful to Ziyad Marar and Michael Carmichael from SAGE Publications whose confidence and enthusiasm has been essential and greatly valued since the inception of the Journal.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Georgina Randsley de Moura, Michael Carmichael and Francis Samra for their comments and assistance with the preparation of this article.

References

Abrams, D., & Hogg, M. A. (1998). Prospects for research in *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *1*, 7–20.

Abrams, D., Marques, J., Bown, N., & Dougill, M. (2002). Anti-norm and pro-norm deviance in the bank and on the campus: Two experiments on subjective group dynamics. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *5*, 163–182.

Brauner, E., & Scholl, W. (2000). The information processing approach as a perspective for groups research. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *3*, 115–122.

Buhl, T. (1999). Positive–negative asymmetry in social discrimination: Meta-analytical evidence. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *2*, 51–58.

Brown, R., Maras, P., Masser, B., Vivian, J., & Hewstone, M. (2001). Life on the ocean wave: Testing some intergroup hypotheses in a naturalistic setting. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *4*, 81–97.

Christian, J. N., Porter, L. W., & Moffitt, G. (2006). Workplace diversity and group relations: An overview. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *9*, 459–466.

Crisp, R. J., & Beck, S. R. (2005). Reducing intergroup bias: The moderating role of ingroup identification. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *8*, 173–185.

Crisp, R. J., & Hewstone, M. (1999). Differential evaluation of crossed category groups: Patterns, processes, and reducing intergroup bias. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *2*, 307–333.

Derks, B., Inzlicht, M., & Kang, S. (2008). The neuroscience of stigma and stereotype threat. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *11*, 163–181.

Dovidio, J. F., Gaertner, S. L., & Kawakami, K. (2003). Intergroup contact: The past, present, and the future. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *6*, 5–21.

Dovidio, J. F., Pearson, A. R., & Orr, P. (2008). Social psychology and neuroscience: Strange bedfellows or a healthy marriage? *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *11*, 247–263.

Eberhardt, J. L., & Prentice, D. A. (Eds.). (2008). Social neuroscience and intergroup behaviour [Special issue]. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *11*(2).

Faulkner, J., Schaller, M., Park, J. H., & Duncan, L. A. (2004). Evolved disease-avoidance mechanisms and contemporary xenophobic attitudes. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *7*, 333–353.

Gaertner, L., Hogg, M. A., & Tindale, R. S. (2005). Group and intergroup processes: An introduction. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *8*, 107–108.

Galinsky, A. D., Ku, G., & Wang, C. S. (2005). Perspective-taking and self–other overlap: Fostering social bonds and facilitating social coordination. *Group Process & Intergroup Relations*, *8*(2), 109–124.

Giles, H., Hajda, J. C., & Hamilton, D. L. (forthcoming, 2009). Harmony and discord: The music of intergroup relations [Special issue]. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *12*.

Giner-Sorolla, R. S., Mackie, D. M., & Smith, E. R. (2007). Special issue on intergroup emotions: Introduction. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *10*, 5–8.

Haslam, N., Bastian, B., Bain, P., & Kashima, Y. (2006). Psychological essentialism, implicit theories, and intergroup relations. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *9*, 63–76.

Hollingshead, A. B. (2000). Perceptions of expertise and transactive memory in work relationships. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *3*, 257–267.

Hoyt, C. L., & Blascovich, J. (2007). Leadership efficacy and women leaders' responses to stereotype activation. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *10*, 595–616.

Jayaratne, T. E., Ybarra, O., Sheldon, J. P., Brown, T. N., Feldbaum, M., Pfeffer, C. A., & Petty, E. M. (2006). White Americans' generic lay theories of race differences and sexual orientation: Their relationship with prejudice toward blacks, and gay men, and lesbians. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *9*(1), 77–94.

Kameda, T., & Tindale, R. S. (2004). Evolutionary/adaptive thinking as a meta-theory for systematic group research: An extended 'fungus-eater' approach. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *7*, 299–304.

Levin, S., van Laar, C., & Sidanius, J. (2003). The effects of ingroup and outgroup friendships on ethnic attitudes in college: A longitudinal study. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *6*, 76–92.

Levy, S. R., Chiu, C-y, & Hong, Y-y (2006). Lay theories and intergroup relations. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *9*, 5–24.

Lickel, B., Schmader, T., Curtis, M., Scarnier, M., & Ames, D. R. (2005). Vicarious shame and guilt. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *8*, 145–157.

Matheson, K., & Dursun, S. (2001). Social identity precursors to the hostile media phenomenon: Partisan perceptions of coverage of the Bosnian conflict. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *4*, 116–125.

McRae, K., Ochsner, K. N., Mauss, I. B., Gabrieli, J. J. D., & Gross, J. J. (2008). Gender differences in emotion regulation: An fMRI study of cognitive reappraisal. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, *11*, 143–162.

Miller, D. A., Smith, E., & Mackie, D. M. (2004). Effects of intergroup contact and political predispositions on prejudice: Role of intergroup emotions. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *7*, 221–237.

Navarrete, C. D., Kurzban, R., Fessler, D. M. T., & Kirkpatrick, L. E. (2004). Anxiety and intergroup bias: Terror management or coalitional psychology? *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *7*, 370–397.

Peterson, E., Mitchell, T. R., Thompson, L., & Burr, R. (2000). Collective efficacy and aspects of shared mental models as predictors of performance over time in work groups. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *3*, 257–267.

Platow, M. J., Reid, S., & Andrew, S (1998). Leadership endorsement: The role of distributive and procedural behavior in interpersonal and intergroup contexts. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *1*, 35–47.

Prentice, D. A., & Eberhardt, J. L. (2008) The neural underpinnings of group life. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *11*, 139–142.

Randsley, de Moura, G. R., Leader, T. I., Pelletier, J., & Abrams, D. (2008). Prospects for *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations* research: A review of 70 years' progress. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *11*, 575–596.

Rudman, L., & Ashmore, R. (2007). Discrimination and the Implicit Association Test. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *10*, 359–372.

Ryan, C. S., Hunt, J. S., Weible, J. A., Peterson, C. R., & Casas, J. F. (2007). Multicultural and colorblind ideology, stereotypes, and ethnocentrism among Black and White Americans. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *10*, 617–637.

Sani, F., & Reicher, S. (1999). Identity, argument and schism: Two longitudinal studies of the split in the Church of England over the ordination of women to the priesthood. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *2*, 279–300.

Shelton, J. N. (2003). Interpersonal concerns in social encounters between majority and minority group members. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *6*, 171–185.

Smith, C. M., Tindale, R. S., & Steiner, L. (1998). Investment decisions by individuals and groups in 'sunk cost' situations: The potential impact of shared representations. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *1*, 175–189.

Tam, T., Hewstone, M., Harwood, J., Voci, A., & Kenworthy, J. (2006). Intergroup contact and grandparent–grandchild communication: The effects of self-disclosure on implicit and explicit biases against older people. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *9*, 413–429.

Terry, D. J., & O'Brien, A. T. (2001). Legitimacy and ingroup bias in the context of an organizational merger. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *4*, 271–289.

Tindale, R. S., & Kameda, T. (2000). 'Social sharedness' as a unifying theme for information processing in groups. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *3*, 123–140.

Van Knippenberg, D., & Hogg, M. A. (2001). Editorial: Social identity processes in organizations. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *4*, 185–189.

Voci, A., & Hewstone, M. (2003). Intergroup contact and prejudice toward immigrants in Italy: The mediational role of anxiety and the moderational role of group salience. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *6*, 37–54.

Biographical notes

DOMINIC ABRAMS and MICHAEL A. HOGG are founding editors of *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*. Dominic Abrams is currently professor of social psychology and director of the Centre for the Study of Group Processes at the University of Kent. Michael A. Hogg is professor of social psychology at the School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences, Claremont Graduate University.