

European Science Foundation
Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)

**SCIENTIFIC REPORT ON THE ESF SCSS
EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP**

**New directions in the social
psychology of intergroup
emotions**



**Keynes College
University of Kent
Canterbury, United Kingdom, 8-11 September 2004**

**Convened by:
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Executive Summary

This Exploratory Workshop brought together a group of researchers from ten different countries to present summaries of recent research and discuss outstanding issues and new ideas in the area of intergroup emotions. This topic was defined as the emotional feelings held by individuals toward their own group, other groups, and their activities and relations.

Our goals were twofold: to increase collaboration and coordination among researchers in this emerging field; and to generate new ideas for intergroup research based on previously overlooked areas of emotion research and affective science. The first goal was achieved, as this was the first ever small-group meeting worldwide on this topic, bringing together numerous scholars working in similar fields who had not met to discuss these issues before. The workshop created a number of links and collaborations not previously existent, and served to strengthen existing communications and collaborations in the field. The second goal was also achieved, as all researchers considered more precisely the definition of the emotions they were studying and issues arising from that focus. In general, participants' response to the opportunity to gather such a concentration of interest together was overwhelmingly positive, and in particular the format of the workshop, as it encouraged discussion both in groups and one on one, was highly well received.

Scientific Content of the Event

Organization of the workshop. Participants were invited by the scientific organizer. The structure of the conference was arranged over three days. Those participants who were not giving talks or moderating discussion sessions were invited to submit brief research reports for prior reading and comment; these were distributed as e-mail attachments prior to the conference, and paper copies were also made available at the conference.

On the first day, all participants listened to fairly in-depth, 45 minute talks by leading researchers in the intergroup emotions field, which were followed by 15-20 minute intervals for questions and comment, all of which were taken full advantage of and led to interesting give and take. These talks were preceded by an orienting talk by the scientific organizer, taking advantage of an overview of current

emotion theory issues to raise several structural and methodological points about the state of research into intergroup emotions.

On the second day, participants broke into separate medium-sized group sessions (8-12 individuals each), three in the morning and three in the afternoon, which discussed such integrative themes as the application of intergroup emotions to prejudice change, cognitive automaticity and intergroup emotions, and guilt in the context of other emotions occasioned by one's own group's behavior. These groups were each moderated by a known researcher in the field, and their discussion variously touched on the content of the previous day's talks, the content of brief papers by other participants, and outstanding issues in the field.

On the third day, the moderator of each group gave a brief presentation on that group's topics of discussion and on any findings or innovations proceeding from the group. This was followed by a keynote speech by our guest of honor, Eliot Smith, a well-known pioneering figure in intergroup emotions theory and research. Dr. Smith gave not only an integrative summary of the state of the field and his impressions of the conference, but presented some new relevant data from research in his lab.

Additional, non-funded participants in the conference included approximately ten postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers, and five academics in social and forensic psychology at Kent. These participants attended talks and sessions, mingled with participants at lunch and coffee breaks, and made some very welcome contributions to the discussion. A side benefit, then, was to expose intergroup emotions research to a wider audience than just those already involved in it. As several of the invited participants were finishing their Ph. D., there was an excellent continuum and interaction between younger and more established scholars.

Assessment of the results

Immediate results. The conference proceeded without major technical problems. The level of organization was several times complemented by attendees, thanks in part to the efforts of three postgraduate student volunteers. All expected participants attended and contributed fully. The discussion sessions in particular were well received, offering a chance to trade ideas in a small seminar-like setting rarely seen in scientific conferences, and there was general satisfaction with their conduct and level of moderation. Many ideas, for example, appear to

have been generated in the discussion groups on the basis of an introductory presentation in which some basic questions related to emotion research (e.g., do verbal self-reports necessarily capture real emotions?) were raised. The range and extent of new ideas raised was made clear from the presentations on the conference's third day.

Network building and dissemination. Although several of the more established participants already knew each other from various European social psychology contexts, the main purpose of this meeting was to allow them to concentrate on one shared area of interest, and this went off extremely well. The main achievement in networking was to introduce a set of younger academics and Ph. D. candidates with similar interests to each other and to more senior figures, a process encouraged by the interactive format and easy social mingling. As a result of the conference, I was informed of at least one definite collaborative project starting, existing projects being strengthened, invitations to speak at institutions and upcoming symposia being given, and a general increase in awareness of what others are doing and in interpersonal contacts.

Long-term consequences. The event having generated such positive feedback, some of the participants have shared my desire to keep the intergroup emotion research "community" from this conference going. At this time, three definite community-building projects are envisioned: organization of an intergroup emotion small group meeting next year, under the auspices of the European Association for Experimental Social Psychology (Miles Hewstone, Oxford); planning of a special issue of *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations* in 2007, to invite contributions from many of the participants and other known figures in intergroup research outside Europe (R. Giner-Sorolla and Dominic Abrams, Kent); and inclusion of a strong social emotions component in a proposal for an ESF network on emotion research (Fischer, Yzerbyt & Giner-Sorolla).

Workshop programme

Thursday 9 September 2004

Theme of the day: Presentations on major themes in intergroup emotion research and beyond

- 0900-0915: **Presentation of the European Science Foundation (ESF)** (**Amelie Mummendey**, Standing Committee for the Social Sciences)
- 0915-1000: **Intergroup emotions: definitions and issues from emotion research** (**Roger Giner-Sorolla**, University of Kent)
- 1030-1130: **The ring of fellows: The impact of social categorization on group-based appraisals, emotions, and actions** (**Vincent Yzerbyt**, UCL)
- 1200-1300: *Lunch: KLT 4*
- 1300-1400: **Self-conscious appraisals and emotions: the case of intergroup guilt** (**Tony Manstead**, University of Cardiff)
- 1430-1530: **Perceptions of emotionality in outgroups and ingroups** (**Jacques-Phillippe Leyens**, UCL)
- 1600-1700: **Intergroup emotions and sectarian attitudes in Northern Ireland** (**Miles Hewstone**, Oxford University)
- 1900-???: *Dinner will be split into three groups, provisionally led by Giner-Sorolla, Brown and Rutland. Italian, Mexican, and Indian restaurant options will be provided.*
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Friday, 10 September 2004

Theme of the day: Group discussions of integrative and innovative issues

0900-1300: **First session, with 30 minute coffee break at 1100 in KLT4 for all groups.**

Theme: Integrative perspectives

Parallel session 1 (KLT 4): Linking perceived emotions with felt emotions (moderator: **Jeroen Vaes**).

Sample topics: If outgroups are seen as less likely to feel complex emotions, what will that mean in terms of our own emotions toward them? Is the perception of a common humanity, linked by shared complex emotions, a prerequisite for true intergroup empathy?

Parallel session 2 (Keynes seminar room 8): Mobilizing knowledge of appraisals of specific emotions to work for dynamic prejudice reduction (moderator: **Rupert Brown**).

Sample topics: Are some emotions based on more irrational appraisals and so harder to change than others? What can attitude and persuasion perspectives tell us about changing specific appraisals? What is the potential for intergroup emotions favourable to the out-group (e.g., pity), or unfavourable to the in-group (e.g., shame), to backfire and maintain discrimination between groups?

Parallel session 3 (Keynes seminar room 9): The interplay between emotions felt toward one's own group and toward other groups (moderator: **Russell Spears**).

Sample topics: Will feeling guilty about one's own group reduce, or increase, fear, hatred, or empathy toward another group? What implications might appraisals of out-groups based on relative status and power have for appraisals?

1300-1400:

All groups meet for lunch in KLT 4

Friday, 10 September 2004 continued

1400-1800: **Second session, with 30 minute coffee break at 1600 in KLT 4 for all groups.**

Theme: Integrative perspectives

Parallel session 1 (Keynes lecture theatre 4): Automaticity and group emotions (moderator: **Anton Dijker**).

Sample topics: In line with the body of work on the automatic nature of social cognition, it is time to consider the question of automaticity in social emotions. Are group emotions always automatic? If not, when, and for which emotions, will distraction or low motivation inhibit forming emotional appraisals and inferences?

Parallel session 2 (Keynes Seminar room 8): Bringing new emotions to the group context (moderator: **Roger Giner-Sorolla**).

Sample topics: This session will brainstorm for emotions that have up until now not been heavily studied in the group context. Some possibilities are: intergroup admiration and envy; emotions relevant to allied groups; the mobilization and moralization of intergroup disgust.

Parallel session 3 (Keynes seminar room 9): New directions in social identity and emotions (moderator: **Dominic Abrams**).

Sample topics: Given the emphasis in social identity theory on the fluidity and creativity of group membership construals, how will the emotional consequences of these construals influence individuals' social identity responses? How, in turn, will these construals influence emotion, overall affect, and well-being?

1830-2100: *Social session at the "Unicorn" and "Bishop's Finger" pubs, St Dunstons Street.*

2100-???: *Banquet dinner at The Goods Shed, Station Road West (Anglo-French country cuisine).*

Saturday 11 September 2004

Theme of the morning: Summing up (KLT 4)

Breakfast in Rutherford College from 0800-0900. Keynes will require check-out by 1000 as well; this should be completed before the session begins.

0900-1100: **Representatives of each parallel group will present to the general session a 20 minute summary of their findings.**

1100-1200: **Valedictory address (Eliot Smith, Indiana University):**
The past, present, and potential of research into intergroup emotions will be summarized.

Departure

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Statistical Information on Participants

Note that the participant list above includes organizers and observers. The statistical profile below refers only to our twenty-three official invitees.

Geography: The geographical profile below shows a wide dispersion, with concentrations representing the influence of important intergroup emotion research units in Belgium, the UK and the Netherlands.

Belgium: 5
France: 1
Italy: 1
Netherlands: 6
Spain: 1
Switzerland: 1
UK: 5
USA: 3

Countries refer to current place of work, rather than nationality.

Sex: Balance in this regard was exemplary, with only eleven of the twenty-three invitees being male.

Age: Although exact age was not requested of participants, eleven invitees were in their early career (pre-Ph.D. or first five years post-Ph. D), the remainder being about evenly split between mid-level and full professorial rank.
