



FACULTAD DE
PSICOLOGÍA
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**SJP Advanced
Internacional Seminar**

TRENDS, INSIGHTS AND CHALLENGES IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

September 29-30, 2022 | Facultad de Psicología, UCM



The event is free of charge, but attendants must register in advance via email: decanato@psi.ucm.es



For further information, please contact the organizers:

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PROGRAM

10.00 AM OPENING CEREMONY

Thursday, 29th September

10.30 AM ATTITUDE STRENGTH: WHAT'S NEW?



Prof. Richard Petty
Ohio State University

Abstract

It has been over 25 years since the initial Attitude Strength edited volume was published (Petty & Krosnick, 1995). This talk addresses three new directions work on the topic has taken. Attitude strength is important to understand because strong attitudes are associated with greater durability (e.g., resistance to change) and impact (e.g., prediction of behavior). Although the initial work distinguished structural indicators of strength (e.g., accessibility) from meta-perceptions (e.g., certainty; Bassili, 1986), both were assumed to be linked to tangible aspects of the attitude (e.g., more knowledge produced greater strength). Since then, research has discovered that attitude strength need not stem from tangible factors. For example, mere perceptions of knowledge can produce strength independent of actual knowledge. Second, new research has focused on how to change strong attitudes in ways that differ from the methods that are most effective in changing weaker attitudes. Finally, recent research has documented conditions under which weaker attitudes can be more impactful than stronger attitudes, reversing the original findings. In sum, this talk will update knowledge on attitude strength and also point to areas where additional research is needed.

11.15 AM THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES



Prof. Karen Douglas
University of Kent

Abstract

What psychological factors drive the popularity of conspiracy theories, that explain important events and circumstances as secret plots by malicious groups? What are the psychological consequences of adopting these theories? In this talk, I will review research that attempts to answer these questions. First, I will outline research which suggests that belief in conspiracy theories is driven by psychological needs that can be characterised as epistemic (e.g., needing to reduce uncertainty), existential (e.g., needing to feel autonomous and in control) and social (e.g., needing to maintain a high level of self-esteem). I will then talk about some of the consequences of conspiracy theories for individuals' well-being and for society.

12.30 PM THE ROLE OF IDENTITY FUSION FOR PREVENTING VIOLENT RADICALIZATION AND FOSTERING DE-RADICALIZATION AND/OR DISENGAGEMENT



Prof. Ángel Gómez
Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)

Abstract

Why are some people willing to die or kill on behalf of their group or values? Many researchers have tried to answer this question. However, there are few who have developed theoretical models for this purpose, less those who have applied these models to real contexts, and extremely few who have had direct experience of fieldwork with current terrorists. The goal of this presentation is to introduce research recently conducted in Spanish prisons including face-to-face interviews with jihadists and muslims non-radicals, as well as other prisoners, such as Latino gangs and delinquent bands. From a multi-theory (identity fusion-visceral feeling of oneness with a group-, sacred values-immunity to material or non-material trade-offs, and the 3N model of radicalization - including narrative, needs and network-), multi-method (qualitative and quantitative) approach, we will introduce results useful to develop intervention programs for preventing radicalization and fostering de-radicalization in prisons.



PROGRAM

Thursday, 29th September

15.30 PM PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS



Dr. Cameron Brick
University of Amsterdam

Abstract

A surprising range of psychologists are engaging with the climate crisis, whether doing primary research or reducing the environmental impact of departments and conferences. My group studies the motivations and social processes that predict pro-environmental behaviors such as political engagement and reducing meat consumption and flying. I will talk about public opinion on climate change including in Spain, social tipping points, and how to measure and think about pro-environmental behavior. Most previous studies assumed that pro-environmental behavior is a coherent latent variable, but our work suggests these behaviors are diverse and have different causes. I will share new laboratory tasks with repeated, consequential environmental dilemmas that have recently advanced the field. I also will discuss three ways to address bias in self-reported behaviors, and share a resource of free, open psychological datasets.

16.15 PM SELF-VALIDATION THEORY: IMPLICATIONS FOR POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY AND FOR DESIGNING WISE INTERVENTIONS



Prof. Pablo Briñol
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Abstract

Self-validation theory (SVT; Briñol & Petty, in press) postulates that thoughts become more consequential for judgment and action as the perceived validity of the thoughts is increased. In addition to considering the objective accuracy of thoughts, SVT focuses on a subjective sense that one's thoughts are appropriate to use. After introducing the key principles of SVT, the presentation will describe how SVT is relevant to understanding psychological change in applied contexts, focusing specially on potential implications for positive psychology. The talk will cover popular topics in positive psychology, such as building confidence and self-esteem (strengths, empowering, self-affirmation), promoting positive emotions (happiness, pride), looking to the future (hope, optimism), cultivating interest (curiosity, openness), allowing amusement (surprise, awe), and focusing on the present moment (mindfulness, self-distancing). Although some of these and other popular interventions (e.g., inductions of nodding, smiling, laughing, synchrony, secure attachment) thought to be universally beneficial can sometimes yield positive outcomes, at other times the outcomes can also be negative when examined from SVT (e.g., when they serve to validate initial negative thoughts). Understanding the underlying processes is key for specifying why, when, and for whom these practical initiatives are more likely to work or to backfire.



PROGRAM

Friday, 30th September

10.00 AM

THE MULTI-SITE REPLICATION: METHODOLOGICAL IDEAL, OR SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY'S SELF-DESTRUCT MECHANISM?



Prof. Roy F. Baumeister
University of Queensland

Abstract

This talk, originally developed in late 2021 while I was writing a review article, discusses the recent emergence of multi-laboratory replication attempts. These have a particularly dismal failure rate in social psychology. These investigations were originally seen as a hopeful advance to counter the so-called replication crisis, but they seem to make it worse. The complete set of published multi-lab replications in social psychology is used to evaluate multiple hypotheses about the roots of failure, including (1) original hypotheses being wrong, (2) manipulation failure leading to failure even to test the hypothesis, (3) systemic bias against successful replication, (4) lack of engagement of research participants, and (5) failure to adjust the methods to the sample. Some evidence is found of each, with (4) lack of engagement particularly reflected in high rates of discarded data and low effects on manipulation checks.

10.45 AM

MULTI-CULTURAL MINDS, MULTI-CULTURAL SELVES: SOCIAL, PERSONALITY, AND CULTURAL PROCESSES



Prof. Verónica Benet-Martínez
Universidad Pompeu Fabra

Abstract

Migration, globalization, media exposure, and the speed and ease of international travel and communication have made intercultural contact and multicultural experiences an everyday phenomenon; it has also led to individuals who identify with more than one culture. What are the psychological consequences of these acculturative and identity processes? Using a framework that integrates socio-cognitive, cultural, personality psychological approaches, and relies on laboratory experiments, survey and social network methodologies, this presentation will review a program of research conducted to examine the following questions pertaining to the multicultural mind (i.e., cognition) and the multicultural self (identity): how do multicultural individuals respond to differing cultural situational cues and demands? Can different --and sometimes conflictual-- cultural identities can be integrated into a cohesive sense of self? and are there unique social, cognitive and adjustment outcomes linked to having multicultural experiences and identities?

12.00 PM

HUMAN COOPERATION: A NEW LOOK AT STRONG AND SUBTLE MECHANISMS



Prof. Paul A.M. Van Lange
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Abstract

This talk addresses the ways in which people can be motivated to help others, especially members of outgroups. In the first part, I focus on the concept of trust, what it is, and what it is not. In second part I address social mindfulness, a new concept that focuses on seeing and acting upon opportunities to enact low-cost cooperative behavior. I report on the origins of the concept of social mindfulness, along with research on social class. Are people behaving more or less mindfully toward others from lower or higher social classes? In the third part, I discuss differences between countries in terms of social mindfulness and punishment of free-riders in social dilemmas. The bigger picture of this talk focuses on the importance of fairness and empathy, along with the more subtle mechanisms that foster trust between people.

13.30 PM

CLOSING CEREMONY