

Reports of Previous Meetings

Small Group Meeting On Conscious and Unconscious Attitudinal Processes

At La Cristalera (Madrid), Spain, 2nd-5th June 2004

Organisers: Geoff Haddock, Greg Maio, Pablo Briñol, and Rich Petty

Much recent research within the attitudes literature emphasizes the role of conscious and unconscious processes. For example, research on implicit and explicit measures of attitudes, conscious and unconscious processes of attitude formation and attitude change, automatic and deliberative processing of attitude-relevant information, and neuropsychological aspects of attitudes are all concerned with how conscious and unconscious processes influence individuals' attitudes. The aim of the meeting was to integrate the advances in theories and methods about these types of attitudinal processes, as well as consider basic and applied issues regarding the use of implicit and explicit measures of evaluation.

After a welcoming reception and dinner that included a lively demonstration of Flamenco dancing, the first day of talks included two sessions. The meeting commenced with an overview session that introduced the main themes regarding conscious and unconscious attitudinal processes. **Tony Greenwald** described recent conceptual and methodological issues regarding the IAT, highlighting how these developments have informed our understanding of the attitude concept. **Mahzarin Banaji** discussed recent research on the origins of attitudes, focusing on the relation between the IAT and cortical activation as well as developments in using the IAT to assess children's racial attitudes. **Tim Wilson** considered whether attitudes can truly be unconscious, discussing this overarching and important question from methodological, theoretical, conceptual, and historical perspectives. **Rich Petty** asked whether individuals can be unaware of their ambivalence about an attitude object, and described a series of studies regarding the sources and consequences of such implicit ambivalence. **Russ Fazio** discussed how the MODE model

offers a framework for understanding discrepancies between implicit and explicit measures of attitude. To complete the session, **Geoff Haddock** introduced some broad themes and oversaw a general discussion in which contributors raised a number of issues that helped set the stage for the remainder of the meeting.

The theme of the second session was implicit-explicit discrepancies.

Roland Deutsch focused on whether conscious and unconscious evaluative responses reflect common mechanisms, concluding that these types of evaluative responses are accompanied by propositional versus associative processing. **Kerry Marsh** addressed how implicit and explicit measures of attitude differentially influence impulsive and deliberate behavior regarding condom use. **Michael Olson** discussed how dissociations between implicit and explicit measures of self-esteem can be accounted for by conscious differences in self-evaluative tendencies. **Patrick Vargas** introduced research using implicit and explicit measures of sexual orientation, explaining how implicit-explicit relations on this dimension are associated with differences in psychological well-being. **Christian Jordan** described research addressing how inconsistency between implicit and explicit measures of self-esteem lead to prejudice, demonstrating that the highest levels of prejudice are expressed by individuals high in explicit and low in implicit self-esteem. **Yaël de Liver** described new developments in assessing the implicit associative structure underlying ambivalent attitudes. **Jeff Sherman** described the quadruple process model, which aims to estimate simultaneously the primary components of automatic and controlled processes in social judgment. To complete the session, **Gerry Clore** made some integrative comments about implicit-explicit discrepancies and chaired a stimulating question and answer session.

The second day of talks included sessions on group attitudes and implicit attitude formation and change. The first speaker in the group attitudes session was **Keith Payne**, who presented a series of studies that introduced the Affect Misattribution Procedure as a new implicit measure of attitude. **Robert Livingston** described evidence that implicit measures of attitude strongly predict deliberative decisions about legal sanctions against minority defendants. **Miguel Moya** described research in which the IAT was used to assess implicit stereotypes of groups that differ in

social power. **Bernd Wittenbrink** introduced research testing how racial attitudes and stereotype accessibility contribute to race biases in shooting decisions. He showed how such biases are affected by working memory and are difficult to overcome. **Ángel Gómez** presented research demonstrating that priming a meta-stereotype and rendering salient value similarity did not affect responses on a measure of implicit outgroup stereotypes. **P.J. Henry** described work that assessed status asymmetries in the effects of intergroup contact on explicit and implicit measures of prejudice, finding that variability in contact has different effects on these types of measures. **Greg Maio** discussed how ambivalence moderates the effect of anti-racism messages, such that potential ambivalence more powerfully predicts the effects of such messages on implicit measures of attitude than does subjective ambivalence. **Trish Devine** provided EEG evidence that individual differences in regulatory ability among low-prejudice people are associated with different error-related negativity patterns in response to race-based evaluations. To complete the session, **Christian Wheeler** introduced a number of themes common across the talks and oversaw the general discussion.

The session on implicit attitude formation and change involved eight speakers. **Ap Dijksterhuis** led off this session by discussing the role of conscious and unconscious processes in attitude formation, demonstrating that unconscious thought leads to more optimal decision making. **Melissa Ferguson** reported evidence that automatic attitudes toward a stimulus object represent not only the valence of salient information about the stimulus, but also the respondent's motivational status regarding the object. **Michaela Wänke** examined how implicit measures of brand attitudes are affected by persuasive appeals, finding that IAT scores are sensitive to different types of persuasive appeals. **Henning Plessner** also addressed the theme of consumer brands to test whether the attitude-behavior relation varies as a function of the processing components of direct and indirect measures of attitude. **Bertram Gawronski** drew upon the distinction between associative and rule-based processes to investigate the role of cognitive balance in the formation of implicit and explicit interpersonal attitudes. **Dominika Maison** reported research on implicit consumer ethnocentrism. Her findings demonstrated that individuals prefer foreign products on explicit measures and local products on implicit measures. **Rob Holland** discussed a series of

experiments in which the relation between an implicit measure of attitude and behavior differed as a function of an individual's mood. **Pablo Briñol**, who showed that implicit measures of attitude can be affected by thinking carefully about persuasive messages, even in the absence of change on explicit measures. **Bill Crano** ended the session by introducing a number of important questions and concerns that produced a provocative end to the working day.

The second day of the meeting ended with an evening in Madrid. After an enthusiastic bus tour of the city by our guide Maria and driver Kiko, it was time for another superb demonstration of Flamenco, this time at one of Madrid's clubs. As a result, many speakers later promised to demonstrate their own Flamenco. Alas, we are still waiting

The final day of the meeting consisted of a series of talks on methodological issues. **Jan de Houwer** discussed recent research on affective priming of pronunciation responses, showing that such effects are robust to the extent that the targets are processed at a semantic level. **Christoph Klauer** considered the mechanisms underlying affective priming effects, finding that response priming is stronger than attitude priming. **Miguel Brendl** introduced the Evaluative Movement Assessment, a new RT measure of evaluative responding that allows multiple attitude objects to be mapped on a single scale. **Marco Perugini** focused on the role of counterbalancing, arguing that while counterbalancing enhances internal validity, it diminishes predictive validity. **Dick Eiser** critically examined how social psychologists employ concepts and terms such as consciousness, automaticity, and determinism. **Greg Maio** ended the session by integrating the talks and leading a general discussion about the link between theory and method. To end the formal component of the conference, **Rich Petty** closed the meeting by addressing and synthesizing the major themes that were evident throughout the conference. He indicated that while we have made significant progress in developing our conceptualizations, theories, and methodologies of implicit and explicit social psychological processes, there are yet many important issues and questions that need to be resolved.

Individuals who attended the meeting were impressed by both the beautiful venue and local organization. The mountain locale was very

comfortable and the surrounding views were spectacular. From the organizational end, special thanks must be extended to graduate students from the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid: **Carmen Valle, Dario Diaz, Francisco Ordoñez, Ismael Gallardo, and Javier Horcajo**. Together with Pablo Briñol, they ensured that everyone's needs were met.

We would also like to thank the EAESP, Cardiff University, the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, and the Ohio State University for their support of the meeting.

Small Group Meeting On War and Peace: Social Psychological Approaches to Armed Conflicts and Humanitarian Issues

At Geneva, Switzerland, 9th-11th September 2004

Organisers: Juan M. Falomir-Pichastor, Daniel Muñoz-Rojas, & Xenia Chryssochoou

Our purpose in organizing this meeting was to bring together current research and theoretical perspectives in the field of social psychology in order to debate issues related to armed conflicts and associated humanitarian issues, and to highlight the social-psychology contribution to its understanding. In addition to providing this space to scholars we also wanted to confront our theoretical frameworks to some of the current difficulties faced by practitioners and workers on the ground. To our delight this challenge was taken up by the *International Committee of the Red Cross*, who significantly participated in the conference. Therefore, the meeting provided a unique opportunity for researchers to meet, exchange ideas and debate with members of the *ICRC* who participated and presented their experiences and concerns.

The meeting took place at the *University of Geneva* (Switzerland). Geneva is a city with a tradition in humanitarian concerns and with a specific position in the scene of international issues as exemplified by the presence