

Reports of Previous Meetings

Medium Size Meeting on the Psychology of Attitudes: Motivational Processes in Attitudes

May 25 – 27, 2012, Ghent, Belgium

Adriaan Spruyt, Jan De Houwer, Pablo Briñol, Geoff Haddock, Rob Holland, Greg Maio, Richard Petty

During the last weekend of May 2012, the Learning and Implicit Processes Laboratory of Ghent University (headed by Jan De Houwer) hosted the 4th EASP Meeting on the Psychology of Attitudes. The meeting took place in "Het Pand", a former Dominican Monastery, situated beside the river Leie in the historic center of the city of Ghent. Earlier EASP meetings on the Psychology of Attitudes focused on "Contemporary Perspectives on the Psychology of Attitudes" (2000, Cardiff), "Non-conscious and Conscious Processes" (Madrid, 2004), and "Affective Processes in Attitudes" (2008, Nijmegen). The topic of the 4th EASP meeting on the Psychology of Attitudes was "Motivational Processes in Attitudes". The organizing committee consisted of Jan De Houwer (Ghent University), Pablo Briñol (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), Geoff Haddock (Cardiff University), Rob Holland (Radboud University Nijmegen), Greg Maio (Cardiff University), Richard Petty (Ohio State University), and Adriaan Spruyt (Ghent University). The local organizing committee consisted of Jan De Houwer, Maarten De Schryver, Tom Everaert, Niclas Heider, Helen Tibboel, and Adriaan Spruyt. The meeting was attended by 48 researchers from various European (Belgium, Germany, Great-Britain, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, and The Netherlands) and non-European countries (Australia, Canada, Israel, and the United States of America). In total, more than 90 researchers authored or co-authored at least one presentation or poster.

The meeting started on Friday, May 25, at 10.00 am and ended on Sunday, May 27, after lunch. The scientific program consisted of 27 oral presentations and a poster session (17 posters). The oral presentations were grouped in 9 thematic (plenary) sessions, 4 of which were scheduled to take place on the first day. The first session focused on "Ambivalence" and consisted of presentations by Richard E. Petty (40'), Kenneth G. DeMarree (20'), Frenk van Harreveld (20'), and Jochen E. Gebauer (20'). The second session focused on "Spontaneous Evaluations and Controllability" and consisted of two 30-minute presentations: one presentation by Kate A. Ratliff (30') and one by Karl Christoph Klauer (30'). The third session, consisting of presentations by Bertram Gawronski (30'), Adriaan Spruyt (20'), and Nicolas Koranyi (20'), focused on the "Acquisition and Generalization of Spontaneous Evaluations". The fourth session focused on "Persuasion" and consisted of presentations by Pablo Briñol (20'), Jason K. Clark (20'), and Colin T. Smith (20'). Immediately after these 4 sessions, the poster session took place (90'). Simultaneously, the attendees were regaled with a cava reception in the beautiful patio of Het Pand. The first day of the meeting ended with a conference dinner in the restaurant of Ghent University, also located in Het Pand.

On the second day of the meeting, the scientific program consisted of 3 (plenary) sessions. The theme of the first sessions was "Automatic Evaluation". Presenters were Jan De

Houwer (40'), Torsten Martiny-Huenger (20'), and Russell H. Fazio (20'). In the second session, both Klaus Fiedler and Duane T. Wegener gave a 30-minute talk on "Motivation and Selective Exposure". Finally, in the third and last session of the second day, Geoffrey Haddock (30'), Jochen Gebauer (20'), and Emiko Kashima (20') focused on "The Self". Next, it was time for leisure. After a short walk through the historic city center of Ghent, the complete group was welcomed at the city brewery "Gruut". While tasting 2 different, home-made beers, the group was presented with a (rather funny) exposition about the historic origins of the beer-brewing process as well as the brewery itself. Next, the complete group traveled by boat to a restaurant outside the city center. During this scenic boat trip, the group was presented with historic (and funny) facts about the city of Ghent ... and more Belgian beer, of course. Officially, the social event of this EASP meeting ended with a short boat trip back from the restaurant to the city center around 10 pm.

On the third and last day of the meeting, there were 2 more sessions. The first session focused on "Group Processes" and consisted of presentations by Jeff Stone (20'), Kristof Dhont (20'), Adi Amit (20'), and Roger Giner-Sorolla (20'). The last session of the meeting consisted of two 20-minute presentations by Baruch Eitam and Rene Kopietz on "Motivation and fluency". The meeting ended with a closing discussion, moderated by Geoffrey Haddock. During this discussion, Duane T. Wegener launched the idea of founding a new research society, specifically devoted to the study of attitudes. Such a society would not only help promoting attitude research as a vibrant research area, it will also help intensifying the collaboration and exchange between attitude researchers across the globe. Geoffrey Haddock also announced that both him and Greg Maio, the initiators of this wonderful series of attitude meetings, are considering to organize the 6th EASP Meeting on the Psychology of Attitudes at Cardiff University. Everybody acknowledged that 2020 will be the perfect year to organize a meeting on 20 years of attitude research at the same location as the first meeting. The location of the 5th EASP Meeting on the Psychology of Attitudes (2016) is yet to be determined.

Adriaan Spruyt

Small group meeting on The societal meanings of minority influence
June 6-10, 2012, Delphi, Greece
Stamos Papastamou, Antonis Gardikiotis, Gerasimos Prodromitis

The processes of social change and innovation have been at the core of social psychological research since Moscovici's early theorizing in the late 1960s.

Research in the area has focused, among other things, on a number of key themes such as the interplay between minority influence and dual-process models of persuasion, the importance of indirect, as well as direct, influence, the dynamic character of minority influence in intra-group contexts and the diversity of minority sources (Martin & Hewstone, 2010). The common denominator of all these four themes is the need to bring out the societal dimension and significance of minority influence phenomena.

Within this context, the aim of the meeting was to explore the role of active minorities in the construction and deconstruction of social consensus, by focusing on the influence they exert as well as on the resistance processes triggered against it.