Social cognition, affect and motivation

1. Full title
Social cognition, affect and motivation

2. Research group
Social Psychology
Director: Joop van der Pligt

3. Members
Senior staff
Helma van den Berg, Bertjan Doosje, Agneta Fischer, Jens Förster, Matt Gailliot, Frenk van Harreveld, Gerben van Kleef, Roel Meertens, Joop van der Pligt, Mark Rotteveel, Russell Spears, Anneke Vrugt
Postdoctoral fellows
Dianne van Hemert, Sven Zebel, Anja Zimmermann
PhD’s
Luuk Albers, Laura Dannenberg, Skyler Hawk, Yaël de Liver, Janina Marguc, Loran Nordgren, Suzanne Oosterwijk, Sjoerd Pennekamp, Job van der Schalk, Michael Vliek, Clemens Wenneker, Daphne Wiersema, Martijn van Zomeren

4. Membership Research Schools and other Research Institutes
Nearly all staff are full members of the Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI), the inter-university research school for social psychology and its applications.

5. Research topics
The overall objective of this program is to conduct empirical (and typically experimental) research that advances theoretical knowledge about the antecedents and consequences of human social behavior. This knowledge is expected to also provide a basis for understanding behavior in applied domains, and these twin goals are seen as complementary. The program focuses on affective and motivational factors in both intra- and interindividud processes, as well as in intergroup processes. Moreover most of the research emphasizes the interplay between these factors and cognitive processes. Most of our research employs methods and paradigms derived from experimental research on (social) cognition.
A first line of research focuses on the interplay between affective and more cognitive factors in attitudes and decision making. Our research on decision-making investigates the role of value in judgment and decision making, as well as the impact of (anticipated) emotions in relation to more utilitarian considerations. This research also includes basic processes in approach-avoidance. The latter are also studied in the context of goal attainment.

A second line of research focuses chiefly on social and cultural aspects of emotion, the general objective being to show that the emotion process is influenced in important ways by the social and cultural context in which affect is experienced and expressed. Another line concerns the social antecedents and implications of more collective emotions such as guilt, and ‘Schadenfreude’. The program also addresses the role of emotions in interpersonal processes such as negotiating.

A third line concerns the interplay between cognition and motivational processes. This research addresses the impact of motivation on cognitive processes such as the activation and accessibility of goal-related constructs and behavior, perception and memory. This research also addresses self-regulation issues such as the causes and consequences of goal setting, content of goals and needs (e.g., growth versus security) and goal pursuit, and the causes and consequences of success and failure in self-regulation and self-control.

6. Program development

The year 2007 saw major changes in the composition of the group and its research profile. The most important change concerns the appointment of Jens Förster who decided to join the group. His previous position was at the International University of Bremen (now Jacobs University Bremen). We were able to create several additional vacancies and the aim is to rebuild the social psychology program in the period 2007-2008. In 2007 we also appointed Matt Gailliot who came from Florida State University.

In 2007 Helma van den Berg, Loran Nordgren, Yaël de Liver and Clemens Wenneker obtained their PhD. Three of these recent graduates took up positions elsewhere. Yaël de Liver won the ASPO dissertation award and moved to Utrecht where she joined the program of Henk Aarts. Loran Nordgren moved to the Free University in Amsterdam, and Clemens Wenneker took up a position at the research and statistics unit of the municipality of Amsterdam.
7. Composition of research input of academic staff in 2007

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RESEARCH OUTPUT

1. PhD Theses
   1.a Doctorates internally prepared

1.b Externally prepared

1.c Doctorates at other faculties/universities, co-supervised by program members

2. Academic Publications

2.1 In refereed journals issued in English


2.2 Abstracts in refereed journals

2.3 In refereed journals issued in other languages


2.4 Other academic publications


3. Professional Publications


http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme2/

4. Congress proceedings

5. Popular publications


OTHER PROOFS OF PRODUCTIVITY

6. Editorial positions

6.1 Editorships

Doosje, B.

Group Processes & Intergroup Relations (Associate Editor)

Fischer, A. H.

Cognition & Emotion (Associate Editor)

Förster, J.

Social Cognition (Associate Editor)
6.2 Membership of editorial boards

Spears, R.

*Bulletin of the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology (Editor)*

van der Pligt, J.

*Health Psychology Review (Editor)*

Doosje, B.

*Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*

Förster, J.

*European Journal of Social Psychology*

*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*

*Self and Identity*

*Social Psychology (formerly know as „Zeitschrift für Sozialpsychologie)*

Rotteveel, M.

*Emotion*

Spears, R.

*British Journal of Social Psychology*

*European Journal of Social Psychology*

*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*

*Self and Identity*

van der Pligt, J.

*British Journal of Health Psychology*

*Gedrag & Gezondheid*

*Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*

van Hemert, D. A.

*Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*

van Harrevelt, F.

*ASPO Jaarboek Sociale Psychologie*

van Kleef, G.

*International Journal of Conflict Management*

*Journal of Organizational Behavior*

*Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*
7. **Organisation of conferences and symposia**


8. **Scientific Awards**

de Liver, J. N. The ASPO dissertation award.


9. **Scientific Grants**


Förster, J. “Motivational Influences on Construct Accessibility” (German Science Foundation; FO 392/8-2), February 2006 – April 2008.

Ouwerkerk, J., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. Co-applicant of a 60.000 euro grant provided by the department of justice for research on the influence of procedural justice on law compliant behavior.

van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. Main applicants of a 30.000 euro grant provided by Achmea for research on risk perception.

10. **Membership of Scientific Committees**

Doosje, B.

* KLI-research committee

Fischer, A. H.

* Member of Scientific Board of KLI
  * President of International Society for Research on Emotion

Förster, J.

* Elected member of the program committee of Association of Consumer Research (ACR) 2007 in Memphis, USA
Elected Program Chair of the General Meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology 2008 in Opatija, Croatia

Spears, R.
- Member of the Advisory panel, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (UK)
- Member of Steering committee International Society for Self and Identity (ISSI)
- Secretary of the Executive Committee of the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology

van der Pligt, J.
- Member, National Health Council committee on large scale environmental change and public health
- Member, NWO Program Committee National Research Program ‘Climate Change: Vulnerability, Adaptation and Mitigation’ (NWO-MaGW)
- Member, NWO Program Committee National Research Program ‘Energy and Sustainability’ (NWO-MaGW)
- Member, NWO Program Committee National Research Program ‘Nutrition, Sustainability and Health’ (NWO-ZonMw)
- Member, NWO Advisory Committee on Risk Communication, National Council on Food Safety (VWA)
- Member, steering committee of research program on ‘awarding financial compensation for relatives of victims’, WODC, The Hague

van Kleef, G.
- Board Member, Associatie van Sociaal-Psychologische Onderzoekers (ASPO).
- Board member van International Association for Conflict Management (IACM)
- Member of Wetenschappelijke Advies Raad (WAR)

11. Visiting professorships and invited lectures

Visiting professorships
van Kleef, G. A. Visiting Professor University of California, Berkeley, Department of Psychology (January - July 2007).

Keynote speeches and invited lectures at conferences

Invited lectures at universities


Förster, J. (2007). Motivated Creativity. Invitation to the Motivation Meeting, Monte Verita, University of Zürich, March

Förster, J. (2007). *Novelty theory*. Invited lecture, University of Tel Aviv, Israel, April

Förster, J. (2007). *The automaticity of social norms: Adaptive or unsettling?* Invited lecture conference 100 years of Psychology at the Universiteit van Amsterdam, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, November.

Förster, J. (2007). *How perceptual processing styles affect assimilation and contrast effects in social judgment*. Invited lecture, University of Utrecht; Netherlands, November


Förster, J. (2007). *New is the forest - Old is the tree: How novelty changes global versus local processing styles*. Invited lecture Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands, December


