

16th Jena Workshop on Intergroup Processes, June 26th – 29th, 2014

Status relations: Their nature and management within and between groups

Researchers interested in participation are invited to send a 200 word summary of their proposed presentation to Jutta.Proch@uni-jena.de until February 28th, 2014.

Status relations mark the difference between higher and lower positions, dominance and prestige, coercion and power, advantages and disadvantages. We find status relations within groups including the rich and the poor, leaders and deviants as well as between groups such as superior and subordinate groups, the dominating and the oppressed, and sometimes even between groups with equal and mutually-beneficial relations.

In this workshop we aim to explore the expression of status relations and their management ranging from oppression, paternalism to social creativity and social change. Moreover, people and groups seem to strive for higher status, the maintenance of achievements, and the avoidance of lower status. This raises the question of whether higher status is an unequivocal good and lower status is an unequivocal bad. Or, do all strive for mutual recognition and legitimate relations?

This workshop will also explore further questions about status relations:

What are indicators for mutually-beneficial status relations? How do people and groups manage their relations? Are there subtle and indirect ways of managing status relations such as paternalism and outgroup emulation in addition to the more blatant strategies such as oppression and resistance? When do status differences become problematic and under which circumstances do we accept them (e.g., legitimize them)? Do people and groups involved in unequal status relations have to be treated equally or do they have different needs and therefore require unequal treatment in order to improve status relations and promote reconciliation and intergroup harmony? Does reducing prejudice and discrimination really solve the problem of social inequality?

The aim of the 16th Jena Workshop is to bring together researchers who are interested in status relations and their management. The workshop aims to stimulate further theorizing and empirical research on equal and unequal status relations, their management, and their implications for reconciliation and positive and mutually-beneficial intergroup relations.

Following the tradition of the Jena Workshops on Intergroup Processes, the format of this medium-size meeting is single-session with a strong focus on intensive discussion of unresolved underlying issues. We want to highlight that “work-in-progress” is greatly valued, and preferred to summaries of already published data. The meeting will have about 35 participants. A central purpose of this conference is to get together junior and senior researchers. Therefore, junior researchers are encouraged to submit presentation proposals. Two participants per paper are welcome (e.g., a PhD student and her/his supervisor). The meeting will take place from June 26th –29th 2014 at Schloss Oppurg (Germany), a picturesque historical castle close to Jena and Weimar.

Researchers interested in participation are invited to submit a 200 word summary of their proposed presentation by February 28th, 2014, to Jutta Proch (Jutta.Proch@uni-jena.de). A participation fee will be charged. In the preceding years, this fee was around 100€ for PhD Students, and 200€ for Post-Doc participants, including accommodation and full board. Jutta Proch (Jutta.Proch@uni-jena.de), and

Thomas Kessler (Thomas.Kessler@uni-jena.de) are happy to answer any inquiries related to the workshop.