

Do it the hard way: Causes and Consequences of Hard Treatment within and between Groups

EASP medium size meeting, June 25th – 28th, 2017, Oppurg (Germany)

No more fiendish punishment can be devised [...] than that one turned loose in society and remain absolutely unnoticed by all members thereof. (W. James, 1890, p.293)

Various forms of hard treatment or violence are seen as inappropriate and socially problematic behaviours under some conditions. However, other conditions may lead to a more favourable perception of hard treatment. Current intra- and intergroup research examines hard treatment as punishment, revenge, aggression, and other forms. This leads to a confusion of concepts on a theoretical and empirical level. In the upcoming meeting, we want to examine the factors that allow differentiating between the different forms of hard treatment. These differentiating factors could be the normative context, the constellation of actors, or the underlying intentions, purposes and goals. For instance, punishment may be the expression of collective disapproval, which is tied to collectively endorsed norms (Feinberg, 1965; Vidmar, 2001); revenge may restore the avenger's honour or reputation in the eyes of others (Nisbett & Cohen, 1996; Bies & Tripp, 1996); whereas aggression may be seen as the illegitimate infliction of harm, specially by victims or bystanders but less by the actors (Mummendey & Wenzel, 1999; Mummendey, Linneweber, & Löschper, 1984).

These ideas suggest that research on hard treatment would profit from clarifying these concepts, their antecedents and consequences. We would like to discuss the unique dynamics of these phenomena with a focus on intra- and intergroup relations.

The format of this medium size meeting is single-session, with a strong focus on intensive discussion of unresolved underlying issues reflected in the schedule. We invite junior researchers as well as senior researchers to submit a 200 word summary of their proposed presentation by February 28th, 2017, to Stefanie Hechler (Stefanie.Hechler@uni-jena.de). A participation fee will be charged. The fee will be around 100€ for PhD Students, and 200€ for Post-Docs and Professors, including accommodation and full board. Stefanie Hechler and Thomas Kessler (Thomas.Kessler@uni-jena.de) will be happy to answer any inquiries related to the workshop.