Call for Papers for Social Psychology

Call for Papers: “Culture as Process: The Dynamics of Cultural Stability and Change”
A Special Issue of Social Psychology

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There is often a temptation to treat culture and cultural differences as a “thing.” However, research in cultural social psychology and related disciplines has demonstrated that culture is better thought of as a process. Social psychologists have demonstrated that, even when cultural patterns appear to be relatively stable over time, culture is continuously produced and reproduced in the dynamic interaction between individuals and their social and natural environments. With individuals responding to contextual affordances, culture is both “within” and “outside” of the individual. A focus on cultural processes also makes clear that there is a great deal of variation between individuals in the same culture, as well as within each individual across different situations.

Yet however stable cultures may appear from the outside, the dynamic nature of cultural processes carry within them the seeds of change. Whether sparked by increasing intercultural contact, economic transitions, political changes, or new technologies, societies change in terms of the cultural values, beliefs, and behaviors of their members. More immediately, individuals who migrate to new cultural surroundings become acculturated, often requiring them to negotiate the demands by a newly acquired culture with those of their preexisting culture.

The goal of this special issue is to bring together contemporary research and theorizing that advance our understanding of cultural dynamics, broadly conceived. This includes theoretical and empirical contributions, regardless of whether they examine the individual level or societal level, as long as they highlight cultural processes. We also encourage submission of contributions that investigate cultural processes at a more basic level, such as the transmission of belief or the embodiment of cultural behavior.

Articles should be no longer than 6,000 words of basic text (including footnotes, but excluding the abstract, references, tables, and figures). If warranted (e.g., when reporting a coherent series of multiple studies) longer manuscripts may be considered, but authors wishing to submit longer manuscripts are encouraged to contact the special issue editors in advance. Manuscripts are expected to follow standard guidelines of the journal Social Psychology (see http://www.hogrefe.com/periodicals/social-psychology/advice-for-authors/) and will be peer-reviewed.

To ensure the suitability of a manuscript for the special issue, authors are encouraged, but not required, to send a 500-word abstract to Markus Kemmelmeier (markusk(at)unr.edu) or Ulrich Kühnen (u.kuehnen(at)jacobs-university.de) before submitting the complete manuscript. Manuscripts must be submitted in electronic form to either markusk(at)unr.edu or u.kuehnen(at)jacobs-university.de.

Deadline for submissions is June 30, 2011.

Papers acceptable for publication that cannot be published in this special issue may be considered for publication in a regular issue of Social Psychology, unless authors explicitly decline this option.

For detailed author guidelines, please see the journal’s website at http://www.hogrefe.com/periodicals/social-psychology/advice-for-authors/.