Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research

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President's Message

Terence Tracey

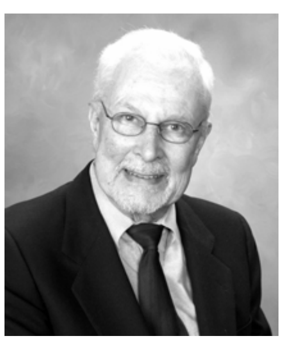
I am honored to serve as SITAR's President during the coming year. One of the tasks that accompany this position is that I have the opportunity, thrill, burden (pick one) of writing the President's Message in each newsletter. I would love to promise that it will be witty and profound, but I know that this is not to be.

I have just returned from our annual meeting, this time in beautiful Philadelphia. I was again struck by how vibrant our society is. It is the most exciting meeting that I attend on a variety of levels. First and foremost, I go and belong because I can count on being stimulated every year. There are exciting ideas and applications. The size of the conference ensures extended conversation about these exciting research ideas and applications. An added benefit of the conference is the very close contact and communication between students and faculty. I know of no other conference where this occurs. We had a wonderful meeting. I think all of those who came and participated. I encourage those of you who did not come this year to make plans to come to our next one in Madison, Wisconsin, next June.

Given the benefit of our meeting, I will echo a call issued by last year's President, Debbie Moskowitz. We should seek to involve colleagues who work in areas related to interpersonal processes to get involved in our group. The topics presented at our meeting do focus on interpersonal process, but this focus is quite broad and the breadth of content is impressive. While we do love our interpersonal circle, there were a variety of presentations covering a vast wealth of other topics. Court those colleagues outside our circle (groan). Now is the time to explore such relations. There is time to plan joint projects or travel for the coming year. I think that having these "outside" colleagues attend our meeting will further add to its excitement as well as, I am certain, benefit these individuals.

It has been a difficult year for us in that we have lost two individuals who have contributed to our meetings. G. Scott Acton, a productive member of our group and a very promising scholar, was killed this past spring in a traffic accident. In addition Michael J. Quek, a graduate student at McGill University and past presenter at our meetings, died of cancer. We will certainly miss both individuals. There is more included on each further on in the newsletter.

Jerry S. Wiggins 1931-2006



As the newsletter was going to press we learned that pioneering personologist and founding member of SITAR, Dr. Jerry S. Wiggins, died peacefully on June 15 after a long illness. He was 75. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife, Dr. Krista Trobst, and to his many students, colleagues, and friends. The next issue of the newsletter will contain more information about Dr. Wiggins and his career as a psychologist.

An Interdependence Theory Perspective on Interpersonal Theory and the Circumplex Model

by John G. Holmes, University of Waterloo

In my own way, I have been an "interpersonal theorist" my whole academic career. My graduate school mentor was John Thibaut at North Carolina, who, together with Hal Kelley, my later close colleague, wrote the most significant work in social psychology in that generation, "*The Social Psychology of Groups*" (1959). This work later became known as "Interdependence Theory" (IT), because of its focus on the nature of mutual influence of two persons on each other's social outcomes in dyadic interaction. IT examined the exchange structure of the "social situation," the dilemma or problem that a dyad encountered, and from the dynamics of that structure, predicted the pattern of social interaction that would occur.

This theory had a profound influence on the work of Robert Carson (1969), at nearby Duke University, who used the tools of IT to translate the ideas of Timothy Leary about interpersonal orientations into a social and personality analytical framework. Carson clearly recognized the natural fit between the two approaches – After all, circumplex theory (which has morfed into Interpersonal Theory), with its notions of complementarity and interpersonal "invitations," was the only other major theory to focus on the idea of the interdependence of people's goals in the dyad.

Many years have passed since then, and unfortunately, the early ties between the theories have not been maintained.

"Interdependence theory is a social psychological approach that focuses on the abstract structure of the particular social situations or "problems" that dyads encounter."

In this article, I will try to rekindle the connection by describing some recent developments in IT, developments that I believe could articulate aspects of modern Interpersonal Theory in potentially new directions. (Is the kinship of the theories not even evident in their acronyms?) Of course, this is a two-way street, and the recent review paper by Horowitz et al. (2006), which incorporates important Interdependence Theory ideas, shows how Interpersonal Theory can inform its sibling in significant ways. The ideas from IT that I will describe come from two lines of work. First, recent developments in the theory are depicted in the "*An Atlas of Interpersonal Situations*" (Kelley et al., 2003) and in collaborative work by Kelley and Holmes (2002; see Holmes, 2002) before Hal Kelley passed away in 2003. Second, a decade of research and thinking on goal or motive interdependence and risk regulation in close relationships is summarized in a *Psychological Bulletin* article by Murray, Holmes and Collins (2006).

Interdependence theory is a social psychological approach that focuses on the abstract structure of the particular social situations or "problems" that dyads encounter. Kelley et al. (2003) developed a six-dimensional taxonomy of such prototypical situations. Each type of "social dilemma" can be characterized by a subset of these dimensions, essentially forming categories or types of situations with shared features. Each dimension represents a different aspect of the problem posed by the situation. So for instance, a problem might involve a mixed-motive quandary, where the correspondence of outcomes (conflict of interest) dimension provides reasons for pursuing either a communal, cooperative agenda or instead, a more individualistic or competitive one. A young couple might face the issue of doing the week's housework, for instance, where sharing the work would complete the task more efficiently. The problem might also provide the opportunity for one of the actors to have more power to influence the outcomes of the other and to dominate the interaction, and more or less support for the other actor's ability to counteract such power. For instance, the husband might hope that his gender would excuse him from the ordeal (it's "women's work"), but the wife might counter that she earns more than he and thus should call the shots.

When they are confronted with such a problem, people's choice of behavior essentially involves selecting the "rules" that they will follow pertaining

to each of the communion (cooperative vs egocentric) and agency (dominant vs unassertive) dimensions. A person might decide to exert control and to act for the communal good of the pair, for instance. Such decisions seldom simply reflect the vicissitudes of the moment. Depending on their social interaction histories dealing with these types of situations, people typically develop preferred adaptations or orientations for dealing with each of these two features of social problems. Consistent with Interpersonal Theory, then, IT proposes that people form preferences for "ways of being" on both the communal and agency dimensions (as well as dispositions related to the four other dimensions).

A central idea of the theory is that situations vary in terms of the particular interpersonal dispositions *relevant* to coping with the specific problems they represent, linking personality to situations (parallel to the Mischel and Shoda, 1995, model). Thus the linkages between the situation and person domains are ones of logical relevance or *affordance*. Each situation logically implies the relevance of certain dispositions and thereby permits their expression. IT would suggest that the Circumplex Model has a similar functional, "ecological" basis and that coping with the important and common set of social situations where communion and agency are relevant would essentially "require" that people develop favored orientations on its two dimensions.

A unique aspect of IT is its focus on the interdependence or linkage of the two persons' goals or rules in the situation (Holmes, 2002). That is, a person's own goal orientation in a situation will often depend heavily on the expected goal orientation of the interaction partner. For example, a person's preference for behaving in a communal fashion may be contingent on expectations that the

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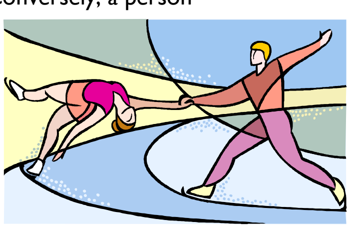
Holmes (cont.)

partner has similar, compatible goals. As Kelley and Stahelski (1970) demonstrated, people's genotypic preference for cooperation may eventually be transformed into a phenotypic choice of non-communal behavior in the face of expected competitive, non-communal goals by an interaction partner, for self-protective reasons. What sort of non-communal response is preferred to such a non-communal invitation? Miller and Holmes (1975) demonstrated that while communal persons faced with a non-communal other may initially try to maintain their preferred, cooperative stance, most eventually prefer to disengage and reduce interdependence with that person. They tend only to react in kind to the apparent hostility with hostile, competitive behavior of their own if they are constrained from leaving the relationship. Horowitz et al. (2006) have used this type of logic to deal with evidence by Tracey (2004) and others of a lack of complementarity in people's responses to non-communal initiatives.

Degree of interdependence or closeness is one of the major dimensions of IT and it parallels the notion of avoidance in attachment theory (See Holmes and Cameron, 2005, for a full discussion). I suggest that it needs to be incorporated into Interpersonal Theory logic, much as has been done by Horowitz et al. (2006). Essentially, regulating (inter)dependence with others is often an "output" that reflects the "success" of people's circumplex orientations in producing satisfying interaction outcomes. For instance, if a person's detached, controlling style results commonly in rejected "invitations," the person will probably retreat from close, interdependent relations where his or her goals are largely frustrated. Conversely, a person with a communal orientation may selectively reduce interdependence and closeness with others whose styles do not support its safe display.



Holmes (2002) contends that expectations about others' prosocial motivations have an "imperial" role in shaping people's own interaction goals, probably for evolutionary, functional reasons (Tooby & Cosmides, 1996). Kelley and Holmes (2002) viewed trust in others' motives as sufficiently critical that they considered whether it should be considered a personality trait in its own right. Indeed, Bowlby (1972) viewed expected responsiveness to needs by others (trust, or felt security) as the cornerstone of attachment theory. Focusing on the importance of trust raises an interesting conundrum. Surely, as McCrae and Costa or Goldberg have argued, trust is simply part and parcel of agreeableness? Agreeable people have been described as warm, generous, cooperative *and trustful*. In other words, if we have the concept of agreeableness or warmth in the circumplex, treating trust in any separate way is surely just redundant, failing the test of discriminant validity?

"... trust is a critically important, if not *the* most important component of agreeableness, one that has not been given much prominence."

At a minimum, I would argue that trust is a critically important, if not *the* most important component of agreeableness, one that has not been given much prominence. For example, in a recent set of studies, Perunovic and Holmes (2006) demonstrated that the impact of Big Five agreeableness on the quality of people's actual close relationships is completely mediated by their trust that the other values them. That is, once confidence in the other's motives is controlled, there was no residual effect of agreeableness on people's reported feelings of closeness and warmth with the significant other.

Indeed, Holmes (2002) and Murray, Holmes and Collins (2006), however, have questioned whether the logic focusing first on warmth and only secondarily on trust creates a "cart before the horse problem." In discussing the risk regulation system in relationships, they point out that at least in close relationships (such as families, friends or romantic pairings), people only allow themselves to feel attached and close to others when they are confident that their feelings are reciprocated. In a wide variety of experimental and longitudinal studies, they have demonstrated that people who feel insecure about how well they are regarded by another "pull back" from the relationship, becoming less close, less generous, and less cooperative in acting in ways that "promote" the relationship. The authors contend that such defensive reactions to felt insecurity are self-protective, regulating the perceived degree of risk the person experiences in being interdependent with another. That is, feelings of uncertainty about others often precede the display of a detached, distant interpersonal style.

This research could be interpreted as saying that trust or felt security is the more basic concept, one that controls whether people allow themselves to take the risk of being cooperative and close. So perhaps the focus on warmth and cooperation on the circumplex should instead be on trust and people's expectations about the motives of others? Perhaps when people take the initiative to be friendly and cooperative, the key aspect of the message the behavior conveys is that their motives are prosocial and trustworthy, and that is the impetus for a complementary response by others?

Which concept is primary, trust or agreeableness/warmth? Perhaps neither, given that there are certainly causes of a communal orientation that are independent of trust. But it could still be argued that the two concepts have a dynamic interplay that should not take a back seat in our theorizing. Essentially, the IT perspective on the communal dimension is that people's orientation on it is partly a statement about the nature of their beliefs about the social environment to which they must adapt. People low in communal orientation believe that others generally will not be responsive to their needs and that depending on others is too risky a proposition; their typical behavior leaves them less vulnerable and protects them from the whims of others. People high in communal orientation believe that there are people in their social worlds who can be trusted to take their needs into account and that they can safely depend on them. The holy grail, of course, is to find those persons who

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Scenes from SITAR's Ninth Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, May 19-20, 2006

Steve Strack and Debbie Moskowitz present Anthony Ruocco with a gift for his organizational efforts in Philadelphia

Post-conference dinner with Daniel Leising, Chris Hopwood, Mark Lukowitsky, Nicole Ethier, Ada Law, Aaron Pincus, Nicole Cain, Rachel Bachrach, and Aidan Wright.

Outgoing president, Debbie Moskowitz, with incoming president, Terence Tracey

Lynne Henderson and Daniel Leising with Richard Steffy in the background.

Marvin Zuckerman and Steve Strack at dinner after the first day of the conference.

Emily Ansell and Michael Gurtman

In Memorium: G. Scott Acton and Michael Quek

Very sadly this year, two highly valued members of our society passed away, Dr. G. Scott Acton, and Michael Quek. We remembered them as part of the program at the SITAR conference in Philadelphia, thanks to Marc Fournier's and Debbie Moskowitz' efforts.

G. Scott Acton *(written by Nancy Kim, Northeastern University)*

With great sadness, we report the untimely loss of our friend and colleague, G. Scott Acton, Ph.D. (October 14, 1970-February 6, 2006), who died at the age of 35 from injuries sustained in a highway accident.

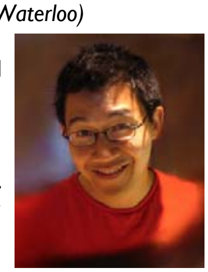
The valedictorian of his high school class, Scott received his B.A. in psychology from Duke University and Ph.D. in psychology at Northwestern University. In quick succession, he won a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, Ford Foundation Fellowship, and NIH Individual National Research Service Award. Following his NRSA postdoctoral fellowship at UCSF, Scott became an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

Scott's diverse portfolio of work on interpersonal approaches to personality, psychopathology classification, and health-related behavior can be found in such varied outlets as *Psychological Review*, *Theory & Psychology*, *Journal of Personality Assessment*, *Psychological Medicine*, *Addictive Behaviors*, and the *Journal of Mind and Behavior*. Recently, Scott developed the Generalized Interpersonal Theory of Personality (GIPT; http://www.personalityresearch.org/generalized.html), which he intended to be the focus of a book. Scott also wrote and maintained the website Great Ideas in Personality (http://www.personalityresearch.org), which at the time of his passing had been visited over 1 million times. In the section entitled "Papers," one can find a library of literature review papers, complete with peer commentaries and responses, that resulted from one of Scott's countless creative teaching ideas: to spin an undergraduate version of *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* out of his oft-taught Psychology of Personality course.

Scott was an energetic collaborator, flawless writer, creative thinker, dedicated teacher, and tireless discussant of all things personality and psychopathology. The degree to which he will be missed is inexpressible.

Michael J. Quek *(written by Debbie Moskowitz, McGill University, and Erik Woody, University of Waterloo)*

Michael J. Quek, son of Phoebe Quek and Jonathan Quek and brother of Brandon Quek, was born on November 28, 1980. Michael passed away of colon cancer on April 20, 2006 at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto.



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In Memorium (cont.)

As an undergraduate at the University of Waterloo, Michael completed honours programs in both computer science and psychology. His interests came together in the development of his honours thesis in psychology. Under the direction of Erik Woody, he developed a method in which an observer provides continuous impressions of an ongoing interaction by using a computer joystick. Michael's thesis addressed empathy, or the capacity of people to read changes in the emotional states of others, and how it is affected by culture. Hence, he developed the joystick method so that a participant could easily designate the target person's momentary emotional state on the emotion circumplex and show how it changed over time. Subsequently, with input from Pam Sadler, the technology he developed was adapted for tracking perceptions on the interpersonal circumplex. This joystick technology has since been used at several universities for analyzing social interactions.

Michael entered the doctoral program in clinical psychology at McGill University in September 2003 to work on research with Debbie Moskowitz. He had completed most of his course work and passed his comprehensive exams and had done clinical practica at several placements including working in an in-patient clinic, a sex and couples clinic, and a cognitive behavior therapy clinic. During his first two years in the program, he had again been working on a project which combined his interests in psychology and computers. He was developing neural network models of interpersonal relationships. More generally, he had demonstrated how event-contingent recording data and data from other ecological momentary assessment methods could be used to test neural network models of personality phenomena. Michael had presented this work at SITAR and other meetings. At the time of his death, he had a manuscript under review which described this research.

Michael was an outstanding teaching assistant for courses on abnormal psychology and on personality psychology. He won the award for best graduate teaching assistant in 2005. In honour of his memory and his contributions to teaching at McGill, the McGill Psychology Students' Association renamed the award for the best teaching assistant to be the Michael Quek Teaching Assistant Award.

Graduate Student Corner

Hi Everybody! It was great seeing all of you at the annual conference in Philadelphia. The conference was stimulating as always. Particularly impressive was the large number of students in attendance! There were a number of student presentations and posters, all of which were very well received by the audience. It is clear that we students are doing some great research and are going to make substantial contributions to the field in our time!

I'd like to take the opportunity now to introduce three students from the University of Waterloo (in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada), who have attended our SITAR conferences during the last few years. This is the first in what I hope to be a series of columns introducing different students and the type of research they are currently involved in. I will likely be in touch with some of you in the coming weeks, asking if you'd be interested in writing a short paragraph about yourselves to be featured in future SITAR newsletters. Thank-you Khush, Ada, and Nicole for agreeing to take the time to be the first in the series! I hope you all enjoy this new section of the newsletter. Please feel free to send me feedback at layearst@yorku.ca . If you'd like to volunteer to be featured in the next newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Hello, my name is Khush Amaria and I am currently finishing my fifth year in the Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Waterloo. Together with Dr. Jonathan Oakman, I have been investigating the interpersonal behavior of socially anxious and non-socially anxious individuals during interaction tasks. We are interested in learning about participants' ratings of partners' behavior as well as their own, and how these ratings compare to observers' perceptions. I presented some preliminary findings at previous SITAR Conferences in 2004 and 2005. As I head off to my full-year internship at the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto, Ontario this September, Jonathan and I plan to expand our investigations of perceptions and expectations of interpersonal behavior at the dyad- and individual-level of analysis. We expect to provide some interesting findings at the next SITAR conference.

My name is Ada Law and I'm a second year graduate student in clinical psychology at the University of Waterloo. I completed my Master's Thesis with Scott McCabe, and my research interests are primarily in personality vulnerability to psychopathology and anger in the context of depression. At the latest SITAR conference, I presented some preliminary findings on the association between relational perfectionism and anger expression. These findings indicate that holding perfectionistic standards about one's own or others' behaviour in a relationship may foster increased angry emotions. More broadly, the difference between self-directed and other-directed social expectations and their associated direction of anger expression may provide further insights about the underlying causes of various aversive interpersonal styles, even beyond those observed in depression.

My name is Nicole Ethier, and I am finishing my second year of the graduate program in clinical psychology at the University of Waterloo. My research is co-supervised by Erik Woody and Pamela Sadler and we are currently working on several research ideas in the area of interpersonal theory. One such idea is that the interpersonal traits of dominance and affiliation may be measured at a more implicit (or relatively unconscious) level, using measures such as the Implicit Association Test and the Thematic Apperception Test. Along these lines, we are currently investigating the interplay of both verbal (or relatively conscious) and nonverbal (or relatively unconscious) aspects of interpersonal behavior, and whether these different channels of behavior can be differentially predicted by implicit and explicit measures. At the most recent SITAR conference in Philadelphia, I presented research on two Implicit Associa-

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Exploring Gender Differences in Interpersonal Problems by Michael B. Gurtman, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

On average, men and women differ reliably on a number of important personality variables with the largest effect sizes generally related to those variables linked to social behavior (e.g., Eagly, 1995). Since 2000, I have been interested particularly in the issue of gender differences in *interpersonal problems* (Horowitz, Rosenberg, Baer, Ureño, & Villaseñor, 1988), and in showing how the interpersonal circumplex model (Wiggins & Trapnell, 1996) could serve as an analytic tool for exploring these differences and testing competing theoretical models. My recent talk at our SITAR conference in Philadelphia represents my latest efforts to explore gender differences through the clarifying lens of the circumplex model.

What is Known About Gender Differences in Personality and Problems?

Since the 1970's many studies have examined gender differences in personality, including meta-analyses that have cumulated research findings in targeted areas—for example in helping behavior (Eagly & Crowley, 1986), aggression (Eagly & Steffen, 1986), and self-esteem (Kling, Hyde, Showers, & Buswell, 1999). Most encompassing perhaps is Feingold's (1994) review, in which he reported the results of four extensive meta-analyses focusing mainly on studies involving self-report measures of personality. He concluded that men were generally more assertive and had higher self-esteem than women, with effect sizes typically not large. Women were relatively more nurturant (largest effect sizes), as well as (to a lesser degree), trusting, anxious, and gregarious.

Feingold's review, however, pertained to the broad expanse of personality traits. To my knowledge, there have been no comprehensive reviews of gender differences specifically on interpersonal problems. To address this issue, two of my students undertook a more targeted review, examining the research literature on 6 interpersonal problem variables— Aggression, Assertiveness, Attachment Style, Dependency, Loneliness, and Unmitigated Communion. Over 60 articles and reviews were consulted. The results, summarized at the SITAR conference, present a complex picture. On some variables, consistent differences were apparent across studies; for example, on average, men were higher on the Dismissive attachment style, and women on the Fearful style. On other variables (e.g., loneliness) no consistent gender differences were observed. On still others (e.g., dependency), differences varied according to the type of measure used (e.g., explicit vs. implicit). We believe (and will show later) that the circumplex can help bring order to at least some of those findings.

Gender Difference Models: M-F vs. M and F Models

Our exploration of gender differences inevitably led to a consideration of theoretical models, and to the debate about whether male and female differences are best captured by one-factor models or by two-factor models. Lippa (2001) presents an excellent summary of the particulars of this debate.

The one-factor, or M-F model, dates to the pioneering work of Terman and Miles (1936), who conceived of male-female differences as fundamentally aligned along a single bipolar continuum, termed *Masculinity-Femininity*, with masculinity on one end and femininity on the other. Thus, a person who scores high on F would necessarily score low on M, and vice versa. As Spence (1985) has pointed out, items comprising traditional M-F scales (such as the MMPI Mf scale) are typically heterogeneous in make-up and based simply on an item's ability to distinguish men and women in groups. In contrast, the two-factor model, which emerged in the 1970's, conceived of M and F as separate and orthogonal dimensions (e.g., Bem, 1974; Spence, 1985), and not as polar opposites. As reflected in measures such as Bem's BSRI and Spence's PAQ, M and F are theoretically well-defined, with items selected to conform to cultural stereotypes of desirable "male" and "female" personality traits; however, M and F are not necessarily related to actual gender differences.

More recently, M and F have been integrated into the broader study of personality and individual differences (Lippa, 2001). With this evolved view, M and F have been reconceptualized as fundamental interpersonal dimensions, and variously described as Agency and Communion (Bakan, 1966), Instrumentality and Expressiveness (Spence, 1985), Independent and Interdependent Self-Construals (Cross & Madson, 1997), or Individualism and Relatedness. The dimensions are theoretically gender-linked, descriptive of interpersonal differences, and potentially explanatory for observed gender differences in interpersonal problem patterns.

Role of the Circumplex in Testing Theory

The alignment of M and F with interpersonal dimensions suggests a role for the interpersonal circumplex model in exploring gender difference issues (see also Lippa, 1995, 2001). Not only does the circumplex provide a comprehensive model of the interpersonal domain (in the form of a circular array of interpersonal variables, e.g., problems), but it also suggests methods of analysis that exploit its unique structural properties. We believe that a circumplex-analytic approach (e.g., Gurtman & Balakrishnan, 1998) can provide new insights into gender differences. At the recent SITAR conference, I reported on two sets of studies that combine circumplex methods with meta-analytic techniques. Both sets of studies involved assessment of interpersonal problems with the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems (or IIP). The IIP is particularly useful because it provides a compressive list of self-reported interpersonal difficulties (e.g., "It is hard for me to trust other people," I am too aggressive toward other people") and can also be scored for the 8 octants of the circumplex.

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Gurtman (cont.)

Study 1.

In the first meta-analysis, I examined gender differences in four unpublished data sets (total N= 939). For each IIP item (i.e., specific interpersonal compaint), I computed a gender effect size, r (positive values indicating women>men). The mean effect size across studies was then plotted as a function of the item's estimated location on the circumplex.

Figure 1 reveals the pattern of effect size coefficients. A clear sinusoidal pattern is evident, which can be modeled by a three parameter cosine curve (solving for elevation, amplitude, and angular displacement). The simplicity of the curve (a single peak and single trough) suggests that a one-factor model can account for the pattern of gender differences (confirmed by an analysis of residuals). The displacement of the curve, indicating its peak value, corresponds to the point of maximum differentiation between men and women, and, at 320°, is a diagonally-oriented circumplex dimension running from Hostile-Dominance to Friendly-Submission.

Study 2.

For the second study, we searched the literature for research reporting gender differences on the 8 octants (summary scores) of the IIP. We located four studies (total N=1,599), including the normative sample described in the IIP-64 manual (Horowitz, Alden, Wiggins, & Pincus, 2000). Reported difference statistics were converted to a common metric (r), and the mean effect size was plotted as a function of the octant's theoretical location on circumplex.

Figure 2 shows a clear sinusoidal pattern of gender differences, and a nearly perfect fit to the cosine curve (accounted for perhaps by the greater reliability of octant than item scores.) Again, a single peak and trough occur, with an angular displacement nearly identical (319°) to that of the first data set.

"This '"gender axis" … is close (but not identical) in angular orientation to the projected location of the Five Factor dimension of Agreeableness."

Conclusions

Exploring gender differences from a circumplex perspective may help to clarify long-standing theoretical issues. At least for interpersonal problems, the results support a parsimonious, one-dimensional model of gender difference. This "gender axis" (Lippa, 1995) is close (but not identical) in angular orientation to the projected location of the Five Factor dimension of Agreeableness. The two-dimensional model, through not supported here, may ultimately prove correct for gender-role stereotypes rather than for actual differences. This has yet to be examined. In my SITAR talk, I also noted that the generalizability of the results may be affected by potential moderators, and that additional IIP data are needed for a more complete meta-analysis. I plan to work on that project next Fall, and perhaps present those results at our next meeting in Madison.

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Figure 1. Mean Effect Size as Function of Problem Location

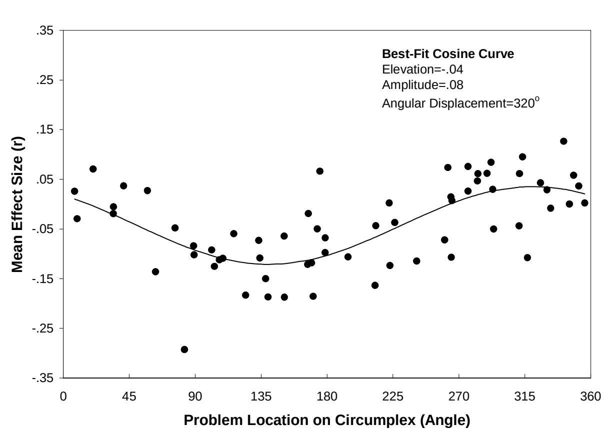
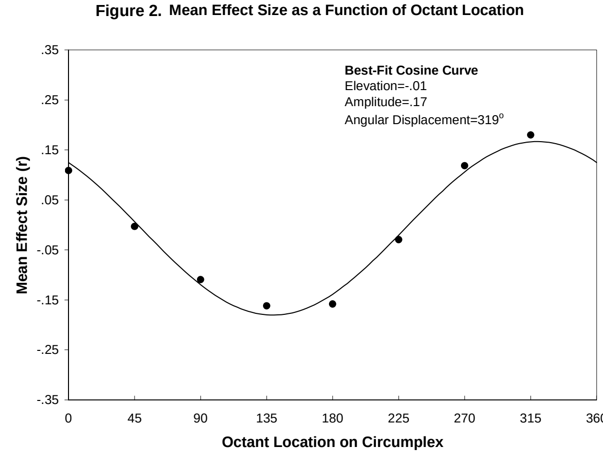


Figure 2. Mean Effect Size as a Function of Octant Location



Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research

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SITAR

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SITAR: Mission, Aims, and Activities

The Society is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific association devoted to interpersonal theory and research. By encouraging systematic theory and empirical research, it seeks to clarify the processes and mechanisms of interpersonal interactions that explain interpersonal and intrapersonal phenomena of normal and abnormal psychology.

The goals of the Society are (1) to encourage the development of this research, (2) to foster the communication, understanding, and application of research findings, and (3) to enhance the scientific and social value of this research.

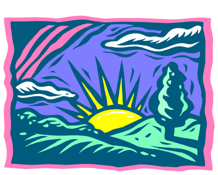
The activities of the Society include: (1) regular meetings for the communication of current research ideas, methods, and findings; (2) discussion of work in progress; (3) maintenance of an inventory of data and data-gathering resources available for use by members of the Society; and (4) facilitation of collaborative research.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In an effort to assure the long-term financial stability of the Society, SITAR's Executive Council (EC) agreed to increase annual dues for professional members from US$25 to US$35, and to add US$25 to the annual meeting registration fee for all attendees, except graduate students. The increased dues and fees went into effect June 1, 2006. Steve Strack, SITAR's Executive Officer, told those present at the Business Meeting in Philadelphia that in its 9 years of operation, SITAR has been unable to achieve a stable financial base, which he estimated at US$10,000. "The main reason that we have been unable to achieve our targeted goal is that SITAR's membership has remained steady at about 65-70 and the EC has been reluctant to increase dues and other fees," Strack said. "The EC expects the increased dues and conference fees to generate an additional US$800-1000 per year for the Society. If this estimate holds up, we should be able to reach our financial goal in 3 years." Strack also stated that Graduate Student Representative Lindsay Ayearst provided a strong voice for students while the EC was deliberating about how to raise revenue, and she was able to convince the EC to exclude students from the fee increases.

Graduate Students (cont.)

tion Tests (IATs) that we have developed over the past several years, which measure implicit dominance and affiliation. These two IATs were found to be reliable instruments that are independent of their explicit counterparts. In our structural equation models (SEMs), we demonstrated that the traditional way of scoring IATs, which involves constructing a difference score, may not always be appropriate, because the underlying construct being measured may not be bipolar. For example, our SEMs provided some preliminary evidence that, at an implicit level, the bipolar constructs of dominance and affiliation may actually be better characterized as four unidimensional constructs (e.g., dominance, submission, friendliness and hostility) that are independent of each other.



Holmes (cont.)

truly merit one's trust so that the genotypical desire to form a communal relationship can be allowed to take root.

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