

Open Call for Proposals

Journal of Social Issues (JSI)

Journal of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)
“*Violence by Any Other Name: The Interplay of Power, Perceptions, and Policies*”
Special Issue Editors: Adrienne R. Carter-Sowell, Texas A&M University, &
Sucharita Belavadi, Claremont Graduate University

How is violence categorized and labelled? Is violence categorized differently based on the source committing the act of violence? International calls and protests for racial equality following acts of violence raise questions about how violence is labelled, viewed, and the implications for different groups in society. Depending on the source of the communication – ingroup versus outgroup – the narrative framing and explaining violence - as either sanctioned (e.g., issued by the state) or censored (e.g., prohibited the state) - can shape social perceptions of violent acts. Thus, language used to frame violence plays an influential role in shaping who the perpetrators and victims are across different contexts of violence, and the language used to label acts of violence can thus come to have serious implications for intergroup relations and the cycle of violence that ensues. Framing of violent events and acts can also play a role in framing images of groups among third parties and shape power and status relations between groups.

The current call for papers focuses on how violence is construed and framed depending on the sources that shape narratives regarding violence. Depending on whether the narrative around a violent act shapes the group as perpetrators or victims can have important consequences. Lack of acknowledgment of victimhood and assigning superficial labels can unleash intergroup hostility that damages fragile intergroup relations. Themes of humiliation, uncertainty about the future of one’s group, its members, and one’s own future loom large. The policy implications for framing violent events deserves special attention as well.

Previous research has explored varied motives for extreme violence ranging from context-driven motives, such as societal and political factors (e.g., Bar-Tal, 2000; Fanon & Philcox, 2004; Kruglanski, Jasko, Webber, Chernikova, & Molinario, 2018) to personal and individual motives (Gray & Wichman, 2012) that explain why individuals within groups engage in violent behavior. The focus of this research has been on understanding what motivates individuals within a group to mobilize, organize, and behave in violent ways toward members of another group. Research on the quest for significance (e.g., Jasko, LaFree, & Kruglanski, 2017) examines the ways in which the need to rise above past humiliation and injustice drives individuals to seek meaning and a sense of worth. Similarly, research on uncertainty-identity theory has examined the ways in which the need to manage uncertainty about the self and gain control and make meaning drives extremism and violent behavior in specific contexts (Hogg, 2014; Hogg & Adelman, 2013; Hogg, Meehan, & Farquharson, 2010). Other research (Hales & Williams, 2019) has looked at contextual factors that can drive individuals to feel helpless and lack a sense of control and need meaning-making frameworks.

We seek papers centering on theoretical work, review papers, and papers reporting empirical research. Proposed papers may examine the systematic and sustained violence that is

enacted in the service of group glory, meaning making, and seeking significance for group members is of special interest. Also, authors can present the varied communications and contexts of violent behaviors, ranging from explanations of terrorist acts, gang violence, hate crimes, and other forms of intergroup violence. Additionally, studies of unconventional sources of violence, including agent provocateurs, child/youth activists, and counter-protesters are suitable submissions too.

Submissions should include the proposed title, list of co-authors with affiliations, short biographies, contact information, plus a detailed abstract of 3-6 pages and keywords. Detailed abstracts should conform to APA style and describe the purpose and conceptual basis of the work, the methodology, primary results and conclusions. Contributors should describe the theoretical underpinnings of their work and implications of the research for social policy, the social issue of Extremist Violence, or both. For empirical reports, the abstract should include descriptions of the sample, methodology, and primary results. Authors reporting qualitative research should consider COREQ or SRQR guidelines. For review articles, the abstract should include a discussion of criteria for inclusion and primary conclusion.

Abstracts should be forwarded to the attention of the Corresponding Guest Co-Editor, Adrienne R. Carter-Sowell, Ph.D., at acsowell@tamu.edu and should be received by **November 30, 2020** to be considered for inclusion in the special issue. Authors will be notified of acceptance in the special issue by **February 1, 2021**. Full length manuscripts are expected no later than **May 15, 2021**.

References

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