

Call for Papers—Special Issue: Europe’s culture(s): Negotiating cultural meanings, values, and identities in the European context

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Europe has recently been facing several unprecedented and deeply significant challenges to its identity: From the Charlie Hebdo murders and Paris shootings in France to the PEGIDA discussions in Germany, from the possibility of Grexit to the UK discussions to leave the EU, and from pro-independence movements within Spain and the UK to other countries working on reunification (Cyprus), and perhaps most importantly the current refugee crisis. In all these cases, the meaning(s) of European culture are being negotiated, sometimes forcefully and other times in a peaceful manner.

The proposed Special Issue has three general goals: (1) To showcase and interconnect the emerging, and yet already diverse, cultural and cross-cultural psychological research conducted within the European context, (2) To formally discuss how European-based findings might compare with previously observed findings based on research with non-European cultures, and (3) To shed light from a (cross-)cultural perspective onto the current challenges that European identity faces. In so doing, we hope to make a step ahead through innovative papers that propose evidence-based and theoretically meaningful discussions of Europe’s culture(s).

Below we outline two example questions to illustrate the scope of the special issue

How can we describe and understand European Culture(s)?

We invite contributions on the European meanings, values, and practices that define who we are, and how we relate to other people and other groups: What are the psychological processes that show variation amongst European cultures that have not been demonstrated before? What are novel expressions and components of well-established cultural dimensions (e.g., non-American forms of individualism and non-Asian forms of interdependence) that help explain cultural variation in Europe? How does the role of culture in the European context advance existing theoretical perspectives on culture and psychology?

What is a European perspective on acculturation and intercultural relations?

We invite contributions that describe the match/miss-match when two or more cultural groups interact or when individuals are socialized in multiple cultures: What are the cultural elements that shape intercultural interactions in the European context? How can we explain different trajectories of minority groups’ acculturation in light of the diverse historical and political contexts within Europe? What does acculturation-research from a European perspective add to the current theories and frameworks? How can (cross-) cultural psychologists contribute to a better understanding of divergent responses to the current refugee crisis (for example those by the UK vs. Germany vs. Hungary)?

Additional questions focusing on the European cultural meanings, values, and identities are also welcome.

We will welcome proposals for empirical papers across behavioural disciplines that (a) use quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods, (b) compare multiple (at least two but ideally more) groups either across or within nations OR focus on one culture but are clearly informative regarding the unique cultural psychological dynamics of that context (vs. merely descriptive), and (c) do not simply explore and document findings but interpret them on the basis of solid theoretical argumentation. Experimental studies are also welcomed.

To submit a paper for publication consideration in this special issue, please submit a 2-page (single-spaced) extended abstract to Matthias Gobel (matthias.gobel@sagecenter.ucsb.edu) **and** Ayse K. Uskul (a.k.uskul@kent.ac.uk) by July 15, 2016. The Editors of the special issue will review the abstracts and invite submission of the full manuscript for the selected papers. The deadline for submission of the full manuscript is November 15, 2016.

Contributors should note that this call is open and competitive; submitted full papers will be reviewed in the usual way via the Manuscript Central protocol employed by JCCP. Submitted papers must be original manuscripts that are not under consideration by any other outlet.

Guest Editors:

Veronica Benet-Martinez
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona
(Email: veronica.benet@upf.edu)

Batja Mesquita
KU Leuven, Belgium (Email: mesquita@psy.kuleuven.be)

Ayse Uskul
University of Kent, United Kingdom
(Email: a.k.uskul@kent.ac.uk)

Matthias Gobel
University of California, Santa Barbara
(Email: matthias.gobel@sagecenter.ucsb.edu)