**Ch. 14 Summary: Group Processes**

Burnette & Forsyth, 2010, p. 495-534

“A group is **two or more individuals** who are connected by and within **social relationships**” (Burnette & Forsyth, 2010, p. 496).

“Groups are the **key to understanding people** - why they **think, feel,** and **act** the way they do“ (Burnette & Forsyth, 2010, p. 524).

There are **four types of groups (primary, social, associations, and categories)** that have **entitativity** due to **similarity, frequency together,** and **shared outcomes.**

Groups can enhance our performance **(social facilitation)** or push us to mediocracy **(social loafing).** Zajonic (1965) found that **working in groups** is best for **dominant response tasks**, as it activates a response in the sympathetic nervous system (SNS), versus non-dominant response tasks, as these activate a stress response in the SNS. The process involves **arousal, evaluation apprehension,** and **distraction-conflict.**

**Groups help us to generate ideas.** The ideas generated are **impacted by a variety of factors**, from leadership style to time constraints, etc. **Polarization, groupthink,** and **shared information bias** can occur. **Groups should take steps to correct these errors of thinking and should not rush to conclusions.**

**We form groups because:**

* **Idea #1:** People **need** to be in groups (functional perspective).
* **Idea #2:** Groups **transform** individual members (systems perspective).
* **Idea #3:** Groups create **consistencies** among members (structural perspective).
* **Idea #4: Leadership** and **power** is **allowed** by the members.
* **Idea #5:** Groups/individuals **change** over time.

“The tendency to **join with others** is perhaps the **most important** single characteristic of humans” (Burnette & Forsyth, 210, p. 495).

**Ch. 15 Summary: Intergroup Relations**

Brewer, 2010, p. 535-571

**Intergroup relations:** “whenever **individuals belonging to one group interact,** collectively or individually, **with another group or its members** **in terms of their group identification,** we have an instance of **intergroup behavior**” (Sherif, 1966, p. 12).

**Social identity theory** and **self-categorization theory** provide a view of group behavior together: “group behaviors derive from cognitive representations of the self in terms of a shared social category membership, in which there is effectively no psychological separation between the self and the group as a whole” (Brewer, 2010, p. 538). It is **universal to categorize between groups** and **make we-they distinctions.**

The two theories of **intergroup conflict** are **Realistic Group Conflict Theory** (LeVine and Campbell, 1972; Sherif, 1966; and others) and **Integrated Threat Theory** (Croucher, 2016; Monterrubio, 2016; Stephan & Stephan, 2000).

In **socially unjust situations** (perception of being deprived or disadvantaged), **lower-status group members may seek change through individual mobility, social creativity,** and **social competition** (Trajel & Turner, 1986). These situations can be defined through **relative deprivation** (not getting what you think you deserve) and **fraternal deprivation** (comparing between groups).

**Cooperative contact** can change intergroup relations. Positive contact with the outgroup can help **disconfirm beliefs** and **change the belief of the outgroup as a whole.** It has many benefits, from reducing intergroup anxiety to cooperation, etc.

The **five theories of contact effect are:**

1. **Decategorization: The Personalization Model**
2. **Recategorization: The Common Intergroup Identity Model (CIIM)**
3. **Mutual Differentiation Model**
4. **Hybrid Model: Nested Dual Identities**
5. **Hybrid Model: Cross-Cutting Identities**

*Note: each theory has both problems and benefits associated with it.*

“The **tension between differentiation and integration** must be recognized and acknowledged in any **complex social system. Exclusive focus on either assimilation or separation as the solution to intergroup discrimination and conflict is neither desirable nor realistic**” (Verkuyten, 2006).

*Note: see PowerPoint for a full list of references and ideas.*