Towards a Second Generation of Power Theories:
Considering the Complexity and Dynamics of Social Power

Power is ubiquitous in social contexts and shapes social relations within them—be it, for instance, between a supervisor and subordinates, across nations, in sports, or education. Over the last two decades, work on social power has flourished and yielded important insights. This research mostly centered on major theories in the field—including the Approach Inhibition Theory of Power (Keltner, Gruenfeld, & Anderson, 2003), the Situated Focus Theory of Power (Guinote, 2007, 2017), and the Social Distance Theory of Power (Magee & Smith, 2013).

The benefits of these approaches and the evidence supporting them notwithstanding, research has mostly treated (experienced) social power as a static state that influences the thoughts and behaviors of those with high (relative to medium or lower) power. This does not do justice to the complexity and temporal dynamics evolving around power in social contexts. For example, holding and perceiving power do not necessarily go hand in hand and power (and its effects) might also change over time. Moreover, we still know relatively little about how power and its effects evolve in real-life settings or over time, which processes contribute to gaining or losing social power, how moderators of the effects of power can be theoretically integrated, or which mechanisms are at work especially among those low in power.

To inspire novel ideas and dialogue on these topics, this special issue seeks to introduce new theoretical approaches that take the complexity and dynamics of social power into account. Specifically, we are looking for approaches to understanding power (not limited to its effects) outside the theoretical box of the three main theories in the field and addressing questions that go beyond mere effects of having or lacking power. We are excited to receive submissions targeting questions such as those mentioned above, but contributions can (and should) clearly go beyond these examples.

In a special issue published in the *Journal of Theoretical Social Psychology*, we would like to bring together papers presenting novel theoretical approaches to social power, together with preliminary evidence in favor of them. The deadline for submissions is **January 31, 2021**.

The *Journal of Theoretical Social Psychology* aims to publish original research (and other types of contributions) that have the potential to stimulate advances in social psychological theory. Contributions should, thus, focus on the *earliest stage* of the scientific process—the generation of new theory. Consistent with the scope of the journal, we welcome research using a wide range of methodologies including quantitative reviews. More information on the general aims and scope of the journal is available here: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/24750387/homepage/productinformation.html

Manuscripts should be submitted using the regular online system, specifying that the submission is for the special issue on *Towards a Second Generation of Power Theories*. The submission website for the Journal of Theoretical Social Psychology is: https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jtsp

Please prepare manuscripts in accordance with APA publication guidelines as described in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Only English-language submissions can be considered. Contributions must be original (not published previously or currently under review for publication elsewhere). Detailed author guidelines are available at https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/24750387/homepage/forauthors.html

For any queries or additional information, please don't hesitate to contact Annika Scholl (A.Scholl@iwm-tuebingen.de) or Kai Sassenberg (K.Sassenberg@iwm-tuebingen.de).

Journal of Theoretical Social Psychology

References:

Guinote, A. (2007). Behaviour variability and the Situated Focus Theory of Power. *European Review of Social Psychology*, *18*, 256–295. doi: 10.1080/10463280701692813

Guinote, A. (2017). How Power Affects People: Activating, Wanting, and Goal Seeking. *Annual Review of Psychology, 68*, 353-381. doi: 10.1146/annurev-psych-010416-044153

Keltner, D., Gruenfeld, D. H., & Anderson, C. (2003). Power, approach, and inhibition. Psychological Review, 110(2), 265–284

Magee, J. C., & Smith, P. K. (2013). The Social Distance Theory of Power. *Personality and Social Psychology Review, 17*, 158-186. doi: 10.1177/1088868312472732