

EAPP Expert Meeting
on
SITUATIONS AND PERSON-SITUATION INTERACTIONS

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Source: http://www.examiner.com/images/blog/EXID4198/images/164175205_9951e05eb6.jpg

BACKGROUND: WHY AN "EXPERT MEETING"?

The science of personality can and should be complemented by a **psychology of situations** to unravel the complexities of dynamic person-situation transactions in the study of the "personality triad" (Funder, 2009): **persons, situations, and behaviors**.

However, it is up to now not clear what a "situation" (or associated terms such as occurrence, episode, environment, context, etc.) is, how we should (or even if we can) scientifically approach this concept, how we can make it measurable, or how a taxonomy of situations would look like. In short, there are still glaring **shortcomings with (a) the definition, (b) measurement, and (c) taxonomization of situations**.

The "old" interest in situations and person-situation interactions (see Magnusson, 1981) is rising with a recent increase in publications (e.g., Funder, Guillaume, et al., in press; Rauthmann, 2012; Reis, 2008; Sherman, Nave, & Funder, 2010, 2012; Wagerman & Funder, 2009; Yang, Read, & Miller, 2009) and a well-attended symposium at the ECP16 in Trieste 2012. That we need a psychology of situations has been emphasized often (Bem & Funder, 1978; Magnusson, 1981; Wagerman & Funder, 2009), and it is now time to tackle this issue with a clear, coherent, and viable **framework for person-situation research**.

SCOPE: WHAT IS THE POINT OF THE EXPERT MEETING?

The broad aim of the proposed expert meeting is **to gather different (expert) perspectives and stimulate lively discussion** on situations and relationships among persons, situations, and behaviors so that we can embark on new and sophisticated studies on person-environment transactions. Specifically, there are four grand points to be tackled, with an emphasis of Points 1 and 4:

- (1) Definition:** What is a situation?
- (2) Measurement:** How can we assess situations?
- (3) Taxonomization:** How can we order and structure situations coherently?
- (4) The person-situation nexus:** How exactly are situations relevant to personality?

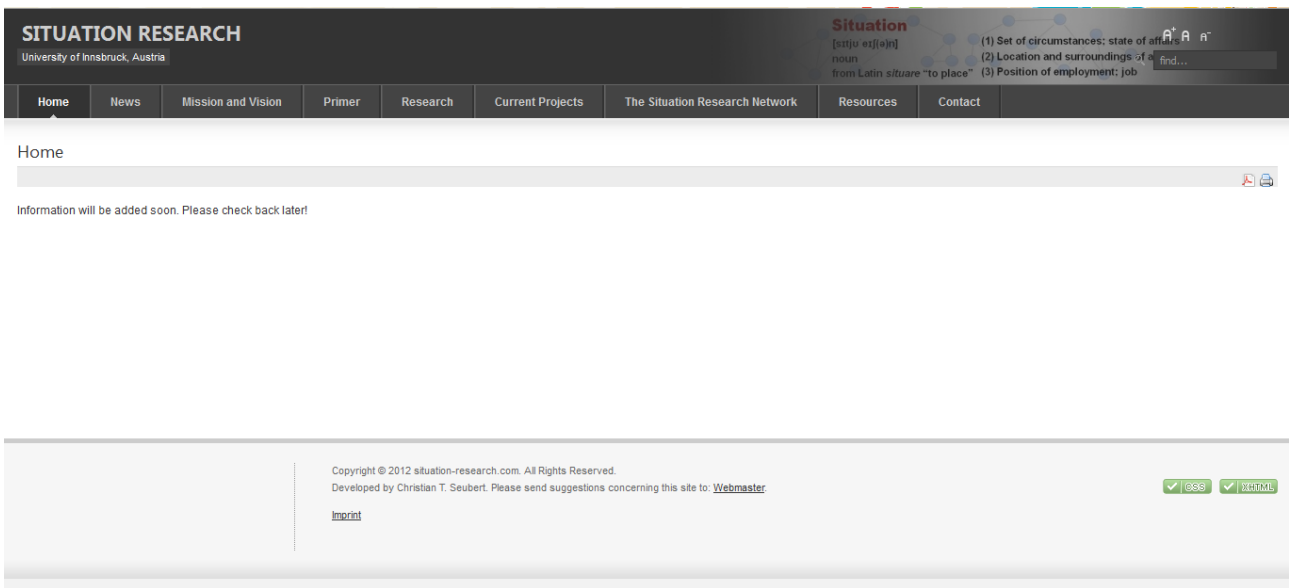
OUTCOMES: WHAT ARE WE AIMING AT?

Four broad outcomes could ideally be anticipated:

- (1) A **list of suggestions** for a clear definition of situations as well as approaches for their measurement, taxonomization, and associations with personality and behavior, summarized in a coherent **framework for future research on person-situation interactions**
- (2) Establishment of a firm **Situation Research Network (SRN)**
(see <http://www.situation-research.com/cms/>)

- (3) A **target article** (tentative title: Definition, Measurement, and Potential Taxonomies of Situations: A Synthetic Approach to Person x Situation Interactions) with commentaries for the *European Journal of Personality*, with insights, outcomes, and comments from the expert meeting
- (4) **Raising awareness** in personality/social psychology journals for situation research

Findings of the expert meeting will be published on the **SRN website**. The website is to provide a platform for (a) introductory and detailed information for people interested in situation research, (b) a synopsis of our expert meeting, (c) discussion with scholars from different backgrounds, (d) exchange of knowledge among each other, and (e) planning and organization of situation research and meetings.



Source: <http://www.situation-research.com/cms/>. The website is still under construction. More information to follow.

SCHEDULE: WHEN ARE WE DOING WHAT?

The EAPP expert meeting will take place from **August 23 to 25, 2013** in Berlin, Germany.

Day	Time	Agenda
Day 1: Friday, August 23	Open	Optional pre-meeting program: Informal "meet & greet" and chats
	2.00 PM – 3.30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming • Discussion of agenda (topics, goals, scope, schedules, logistics, etc.)
	4.00 PM – 7.00 PM (with one coffee break)	Topic 1: What is a situation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Discussions
	8.00 PM – open	Dinner

NIGHT 1		
Day 2: Saturday, August 24	9.00 AM – 12.00 PM (with one coffee break)	Topic 2: How can situations be measured? Topic 3: How can situations be taxonomized? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Discussions
	12.15 – 1.45 PM	Lunch
	2.00 PM – 7.00 PM (with two coffee breaks)	Topic 4: How do persons and situations relate? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Discussions
	8.00 PM – open	Boat trip + Dinner
NIGHT 2		
Day 3: Sunday, August 25	9.00 AM – 12.00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recapitulation and reflection of the meeting • Discussion of future projects • Farewell
	12.00 PM – open	Optional post-meeting program: Lunch and guide through Berlin

LOCATION: WHERE WILL WE MEET?

We will meet in Germany's beautiful capital city: **Berlin**. The meeting will be held in the **Ameron Hotel ABION Spreebogen Berlin** (Alt-Moabit 99, 10559 Berlin, Germany) where **rooms (3 days, 2 nights)** have been booked for all meeting participants.

► Hotel website for more information: <http://www.abion-hotel.de/en>

► The hotel in Google Maps:

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=Abion+Hotel&hl=en&ll=52.52319,13.345932&spn=0.001691,0.005284&sll=52.523828,13.347172&sspn=0.006763,0.021136&hq=Abion+Hotel&t=m&z=18>



Berlin

http://geeksonaplane.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Berlin_Mitte_by_night.jpeg



The Ameron ABION hotel (with boat trip)

http://www.hotel-insider-tip.tv/uploads/pics/Abion_Hotel_Villa_und_Aida_0633.jpg

FINANCIALS: WHAT IS COVERED, AND WHAT NOT?

The expert meeting is funded by the European Association of Personality Psychology who was generous enough to make this event happen.

- ▶ **Covered** are (for each participant) 2 nights in the hotel (i.e., 3 days of stay), dinner on Day 1, lunch and dinner on Day 2, and a boat trip on Day 2.
- ▶ **NOT covered** are any longer stays in the hotel as well as the lunch on Day 1 and Day 3. Also, we cannot cover the flight or any other travel expenses.

PARTICIPANTS: WHO IS ATTENDING?

Ten experts have confirmed their attendance.



Jens Asendorpf

http://www.gehirn-und-geist.de/fm/912/thumbnails/JensAsendorpf_MfGen.jpg.584298.jpg



Boele de Raad

http://profile.ak.fbcdn.net/hprofile-ak-snc7/c56.56.699.699/s160x160/304496_4263458379194_1393176890_n.jpg



William Fleeson

<http://inside.wfu.edu/files/2012/08/20100823fleeson5341-199x300.jpeg>



David Gallardo-Pujol

http://www.ub.edu/gdne/dgallardo/en/Home_files/shapeimage_1.png



Wendy Johnson

http://www.psychologicalscience.org/redesign/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Johnson_Wendy.jpg



Marco Perugini

<http://apollo.psico.unimib.it/shared/psychoscope/site/images/perugini.jpg>



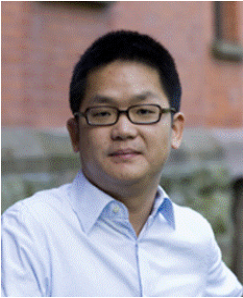
Manfred Schmitt

http://www.uni-koblenz-landau.de/landau/fb8/ddpme/faculty_and_staff/manfred-schmitt/manfred-schmitt/photo_normal



Ryne Sherman

http://pubweb.fau.edu/PORTRAITS/2011_PORTRAITS/110811/Sherman_Ryne.jpg



Yu Yang

<http://www.yu-yang.com/>



Matthias Ziegler

http://www.psychologie.hu-berlin.de/mitarbeiter/1682288/P_FOTO_normal



David Funder



John Rauthmann

The following nine experts are invited to bring **another graduate or PhD level researcher** as an expert meeting participant with them:

- Boele de Raad
- David Gallardo-Pujol
- Wendy Johnson
- Ryne Sherman
- Yu Yang
- Will Fleeson*
- Marco Perugini*
- Manfred Schmitt*
- Matthias Ziegler*

Please send us (jfraithmann@gmail.com) names and interests of the accompanying researchers **until May 1, 2013**. (Experts in gray with an asterisk * are exempted from this because they have already nominated their accompanying person.)

CONTENT: WHAT TOPICS WILL BE COVERED?

Apart from the definition, measurement, and taxonomization of situations, we should focus on how persons, situations, and behaviors are interlocked. We use the terms “**person-situation interaction**” and “**person-environment transaction**” as broad umbrella terms for following phenomena that we may elucidate further in our meeting:

- Situation perception
- Situation selection, evocation, and modification
- Person-environment fit
- Trait expression and manifestation
- Behavioral variability and consistency
- Motivational salience in situational affordances
- “Environment” in behavioral genetic contexts
- “Environment” in personality developmental contexts
- “Environment” in evolutionary contexts (ancestral presses and niche selections)
- Social environments (other people: peers, family, friends, groups, teams, etc.)
- Cultural environments (macro-entities: institutions, cities, countries, etc.)

Each expert (along with their accompanying person) may hold a **20-minute talk with a 20-minute discussion** on a topic of interest. Experts will be contacted individually. After gathering topics and speakers, a tentative schedule for the meeting will be published (probably in June).

ANY QUESTIONS, REQUESTS, OR PROBLEMS?

Please contact us at jfraithmann@gmail.com. We are happy to help!

References

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- Funder, D.C., Guillaume, E., Kumagai, S., Kawamoto, S., & Sato, T. (in press). The person-situation debate and the assessment of situations. *Japanese Journal of Personality*.
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- Reis, H. T. (2008). Reinvigorating the concept of situation in social psychology. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, *12*(4), 311-329.
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- Yang, Y., Read, S. J., & Miller, L. C. (2009). The concept of situations. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, *3*, 1018-1037.