

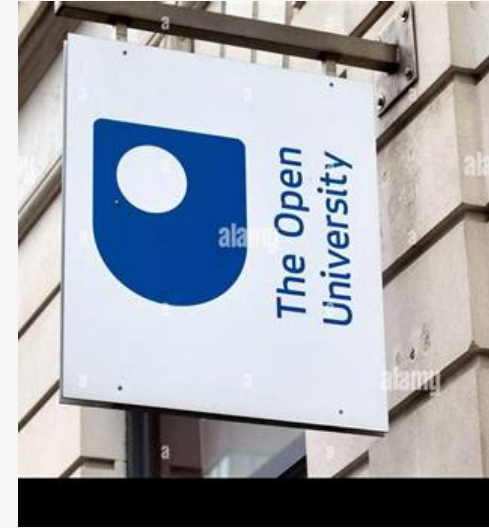


Joint Program Postgraduate Diploma on Peaceful Coexistence (2nd Ed.) - Working Group Sessions

United Nations – University for Peace
4 December 2025

Five central processes towards a Psychology of Peaceful Coexistence

Professor Kesi
Mahendran, The Open
University, UK



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Direction of the Working Session

Five key processes

Psychological Studies into Peaceful
Coexistence

Intergroup & Individual
Explanations

Understanding the persuasive role
of Political Narratives

Sustaining Dialogue

Political Attunement towards
Relational Multilateralism



1. Peaceful Coexistence

Intergroup explanations

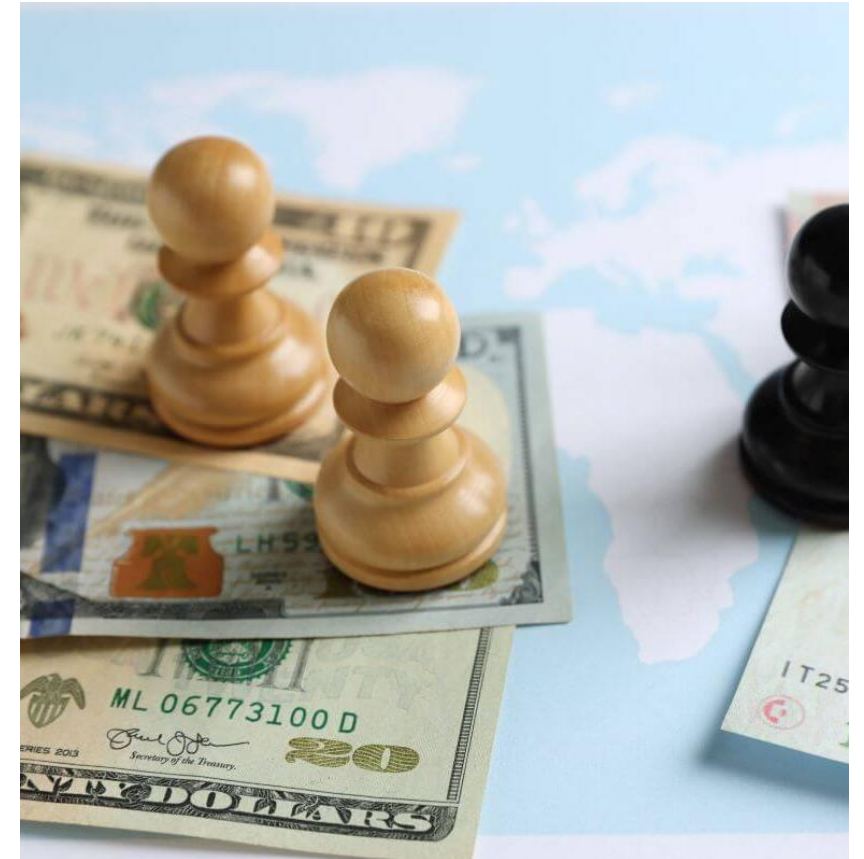
Intergroup – in-group/outgroup and that there are two routes

Common-ingroup Identity Model (CIIM) – the solution to coexistence is between the groups

Gaertner, Dovidio, Anastasio, Bachman, and Rust, 1993;
Gaertner, Mann, Murrell, and Dovidio, 1989.

Superordinate Identity Approach – the solution to coexistence is above the groups.

Identification with all humanity (IWAH) Scale – Sam McFarland



Individual explanations – conflict & prejudice

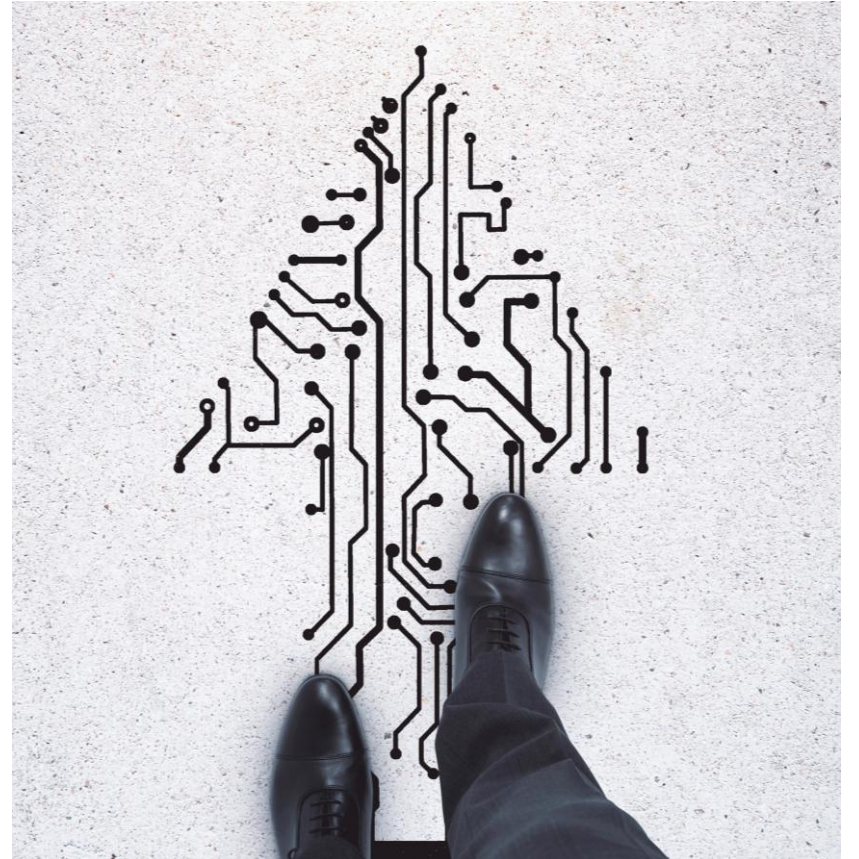
Two main theories:

System Justification Theory

John Jost and Mahzarin Banaji (1994).

Social Dominance Theory

Jim Sidanius & Felicitas Pratto – why some people have more power than others



Narrative Explanations



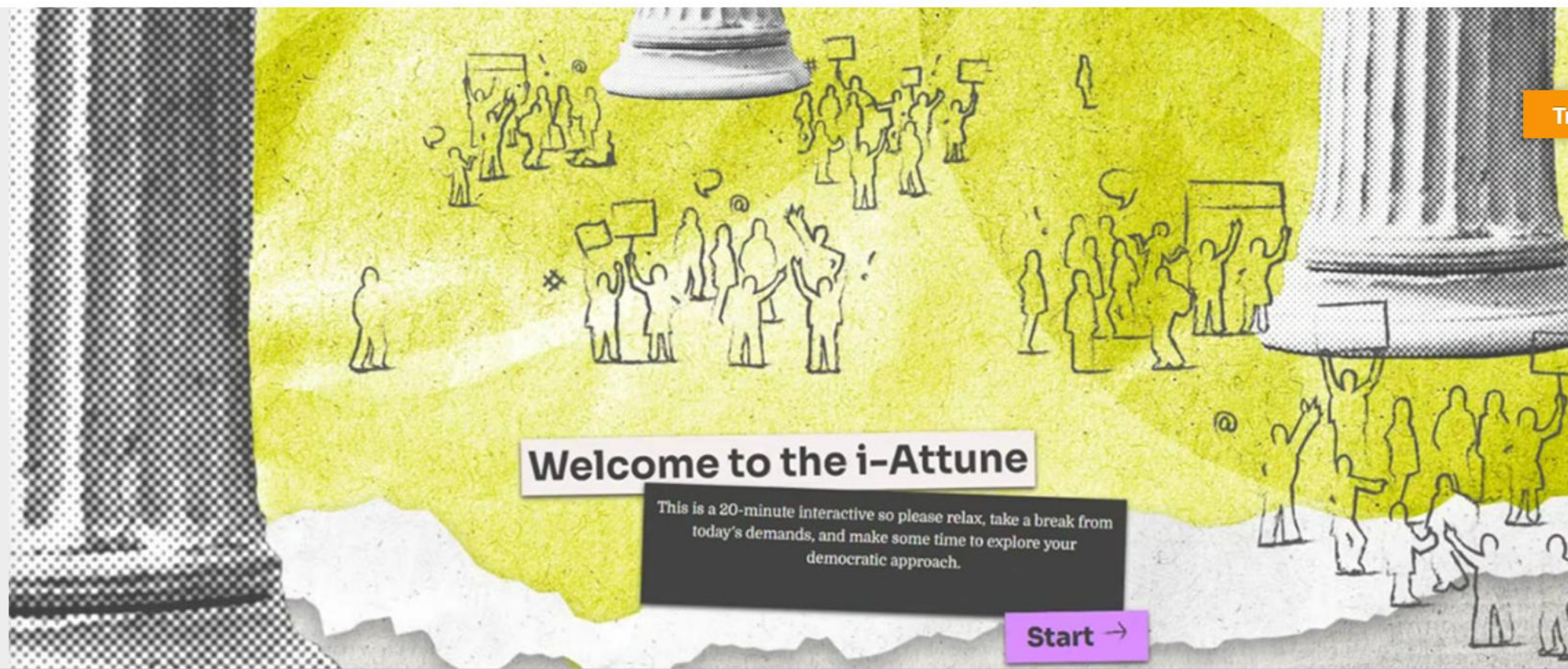
Political Attunement and the new public sphere





Examples of social attunement

- If I look to the window during this talk, it is likely you will do the same if you are attuned to the talk. Tuned in.
- Equally, the work you do before you answer a question you are asked – before you formulate the content, can be understood as attunement.
- Political attunement – proposes a more strategic game, where the stakes are higher, competing interests, disparate worlds, different worldviews.
- Golden Rule – do unto others Kant, Bakhtin challenged arguing that we should orient to their otherness.

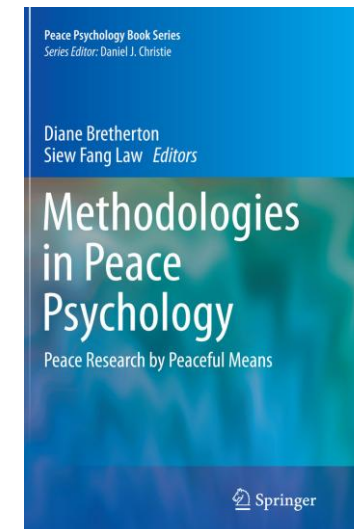
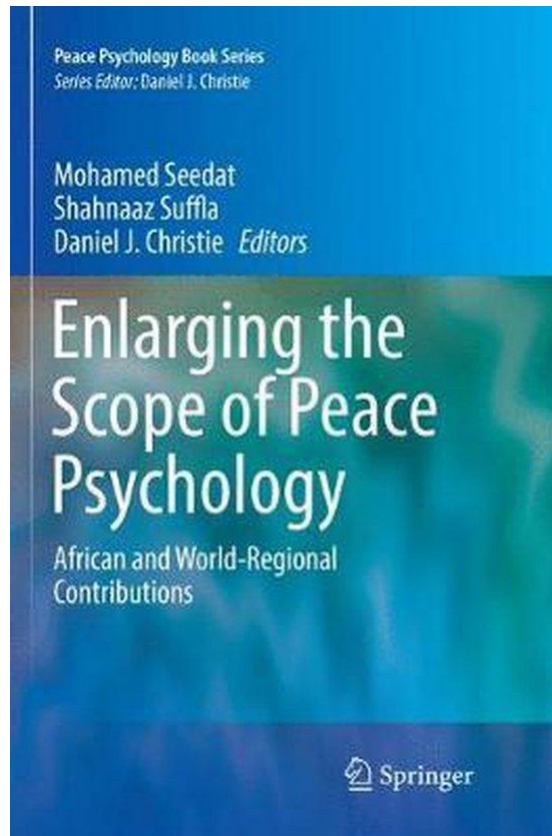
[Translate »](#)

Welcome to the i-Attune

This is a 20-minute interactive so please relax, take a break from today's demands, and make some time to explore your democratic approach.

[Start →](#)[Privacy - Terms](#)

Peace Psychology



Relational Multilateralism

**Title: Relational Multilateralism and World-Making
Social Representations: How refugees use their
geopolitical agency to rule the world.**

Short title: Relational Multilateralism and Refugees

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