

EXAMINING THE LONGITUDINAL EFFECTS OF RELATIVE DEPRIVATION

SEPARATING WITHIN- AND BETWEEN-PERSON PROCESSES

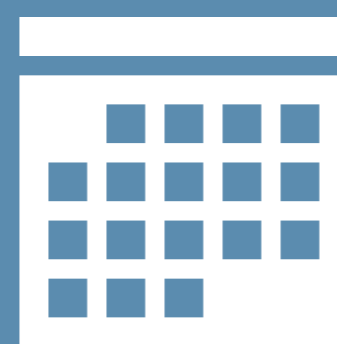
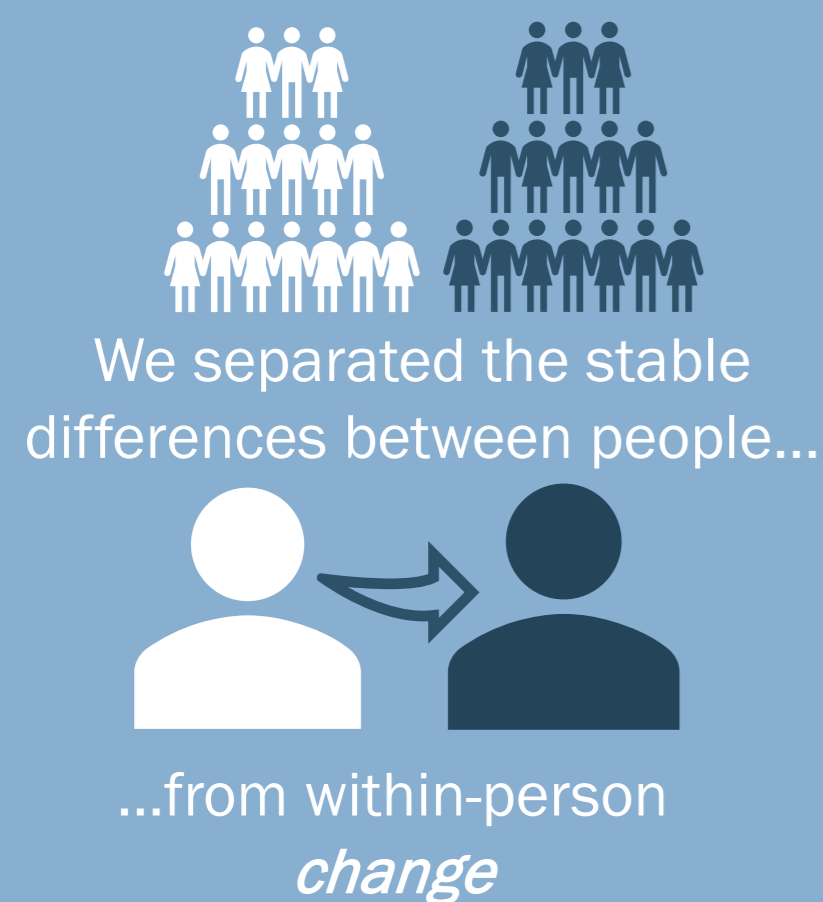
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BACKGROUND

- 1 Relative deprivation theory argues that people's *subjective* comparisons are **more predictive** than their objective circumstances (e.g., minority status or objective wealth) of how they respond to inequality.
- 2 People can feel advantaged or disadvantaged relative to other similar individuals (individual-based relative deprivation or IRD) or groups (group-based relative deprivation or GRD).
- 3 Research demonstrates that IRD is more associated with individual-based outcomes, and GRD is more associated with group-based outcomes (for a review, see Smith et al., 2012).

But most research is cross-sectional and understanding the longitudinal effects of relative deprivation is integral to understanding how and when people will respond to inequality.



7 annual assessments
from 2013 to 2019
N = 64,607

We examined the longitudinal associations IRD and GRD have with two quintessential outcomes in the literature:

- Psychological distress
- Collective action support

We separated the between- and within-person associations using random intercept cross-lagged panel modeling (RI-CLPM; see Hamaker et al., 2015)

We also tested for ethnic group differences using multigroup RI-CLPMs

METHODOLOGY

WHAT DID WE FIND?

- 1 At the between-person level, people higher in IRD and GRD were higher in psychological distress and collective action support, respectively.
- 2 At the within-person level, changes in IRD and GRD were more strongly associated with changes in psychological distress and collective action support, respectively...
- 3 ...but the temporal ordering of these effects suggests that within-person changes in IRD predict within-person changes in collective action support, and within-person changes in GRD predict within-person changes in psychological distress.

There were no significant group-based differences in the longitudinal effects of relative deprivation among ethnic majority and minority groups

Data from the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS)

Overall, we offer a novel investigation into the longitudinal effects of relative deprivation and provide a necessary springboard for future longitudinal research.



Our study is one of few longitudinal studies in the literature and the first to separate stable between-person differences from within-person change.



Our results corroborate previous research suggesting that IRD and GRD are associated with distinct individual- and group-based outcomes. The lack of ethnicity-based differences also demonstrates that *subjective* experiences of inequality do not always reflect *objective* circumstances.



Interestingly, our longitudinal findings demonstrate a “mismatch” IRD and GRD may have with group- and individual-based outcomes, respectively.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

¹Kieren is a PhD candidate in the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS) research group. His research focuses on social psychology, with an emphasis on relative deprivation, ideologies, and collective action.



References

- Hamaker, E. L., Kuiper, R. M., & Grasman, R. P. (2015). A critique of the cross-lagged panel model. *Psychological methods*, 20(1), 102. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0038889>
- Smith, H. J., Pettigrew, T. F., Pippin, G. M., & Bialosiewicz, S. (2012). Relative Deprivation: A theoretical and meta-analytic review. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 16(3), 203-232. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088868311430825>

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