

Peer Review

Review of: "The Psychology of Crowd Behaviour"

Anna Sieben¹

1. Forschungszentrum Jülich, Jülich, Germany

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review this paper. It is a very concise presentation of the social identity tradition in the field of crowd psychology. The paper is very clearly structured and contains both informative presentations of the current state of research and interesting new ideas. I also really like the fact that different contexts of crowds are addressed (protests, concerts, religious events, etc.) and that a bridge is built between science and practice. The text helps to counter outdated ideas about crowds by bringing together many important contributions in a very effective way.

My comments concern the selected scope of the paper.

I suggest adapting the title to reflect the focus of the content. "The psychology of crowd behavior" is too broad. In line with the first sentence of the abstract, "This review describes the social identity approach to crowd behavior," I would rename the title, for example, to "The social identity approach to crowd behavior."

In line with this focus, it would be helpful to clarify in the introduction that there are other texts that fall under the umbrella of crowd psychology but do not pursue a social identity approach and are therefore not presented here. Without such preliminary remarks and references to "crowd psychology," readers might be wondering why papers are not mentioned that also do crowd psychology. These include, for example, work on leadership and visual perception (Warren's group), work on helping behavior and the bystander effect in crowds by Levine and Philpot, and work on civil inattention, personal space, or perception in crowds. Older work, e.g., by Milgram, would also be part of a general crowd psychology. I'm not suggesting including all these papers but rather making the scope a bit clearer. I would find a short paragraph in the introduction helpful, describing exactly what the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review are (even if it is not a systematic review, so this section should of course not be too long).

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.