

# Review of: "Emergent Prefigurative Politics and Social Psychological Processes: A Systematic Review and Research Agenda"

Anne Gloger

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an excellent and important paper. The insights you raise/reference, especially about the psychological impact of prefigurative action, the importance of context, and history, are especially relevant and exciting opportunities for further research.

I have a few suggestions to make some of the concepts more understandable:

- It would be helpful to have a definition of what you mean by “politics” and “political,” especially since the studies you cite range from uprisings to community gardening. Is all collective action in your analysis considered to be “political”? Similarly, you use the word “activism” in the discussion, which I also think needs defining...is “activism” pushing back against the regime, or does it include other types of prefigurative actions? More than 50% of community contexts or projects seem to be more localized, asset-based actions rather than what one would normally associate with “activism. It would be helpful to define the differences.
- It would be great to signal theme 2 in the intro and abstract, as the context you mention here and the interaction between psychological and social implications of collective prefigurative actions should be signaled early on as important to the discussion. The question of the role of the relational nature of emergent processes on psychological outcomes is an important one.
- In your analysis of the three types of change (which is great), I would like to see the language used be more descriptive of what is actually changing for the individual: “sense of power (or empowerment),” “redefining of personal identity,” which would be consistent with the third “positive sense of community.”

And, on a final note, as an area for future study, it would be great to explore the intersection and implications of this work and the praxis emerging in various contexts, i.e., the practical application of the findings in a framework like the Connected Community Approach.