

# Review of: "“Same team, different colours”: Examining the association between shared identity and interoperability in multi-agency discussion-based exercises"

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The intention of the research to better understand why interoperability challenges might persist during multi-agency responses to crises situations, and what can be done to prevent them from re-occurring in the future, is a highly topical research and well worth the effort to engage with. There is huge evidence that working together in a spirit of effective collaboration and co-operation in such important situations offers far better overall results than working in isolated pockets of expertise. This paper brings this point to the fore and highlights the issue of the need for effective collaboration.

Using the Social Identity Approach was relevant and useful as a theoretical framework, and highlighted the importance of applying social psychological processes to the phenomenon researched and reported on in this paper.

I was especially impressed by the use of discussion-based exercises with emergency workers from the Police, FRS and Ambulance Services, in the form of focus group interviews, to continue existing research into the phenomenon of working together effectively in crisis times. Experiencing shared goals and principles, increased motivation to work with other groups of responders, increased confidence, trust and respect were highlighted research findings in this paper and added to the findings of previous research which highlighted the importance of different responder groups sharing a common purpose and threat and strategic enforcement of shared identity on the part of leadership. The point which stood out for me in the reported findings of this paper was the value of different groups of responders being able to share their experiences of various situations, which was effectively facilitated through the focus group interviews and discussion-based exercises.

This paper is well worth publishing and reading.

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