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| Forsyth, D. R. (2021). Recent Advances in the Study of Group CohesionGroup Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice. Vol. 25, No. 3, 213–228ISSN: 1089-2699 <https://doi.org/10.1037/gdn0000163>Verslaggever Willem de Haas |
| AbstractObjective: Group cohesion, as a central explanatory concept in the study of groups, hasprovided a foundation for explaining a number of group processes that have occupiedresearchers’ attention since the founding of the journal Group Dynamics: Theory,Research, and Practice 25 years ago. Method: This review summarizes that research,focusing on three specific topics: group performance, the effectiveness of grouppsychotherapy, and group-based identity processes. Results: Theory and research inthese areas have yielded substantial insights into cohesion and related group processes,but definitional, methodological, and theoretical uncertainties remain to be resolved.Conclusions: Seeking to resolve some of these uncertainties, an integrative model ofcohesion that defines cohesion as a group’s degree of unity—and distinguishes betweenthe causes (or antecedents) of that unity (such as attraction bonds or group pride) andindicators of cohesion—is described, as is a short inventory that can be used to assessmembers’ perceptions of the unity of their groups. |
| Highlights and Implications• The concept of cohesion is central to understanding groups and groupprocesses, and recent research has yielded substantial advances in understanding thenature, the sources, and the consequences of this key group-level process.• Specifically, recent research provides a clearer understanding of whencohesion facilitates team performance, cohesion’s influence on the outcome of grouppsychotherapy, and the relationship between cohesion and members’ social identities.• To resolve continuing issues of definition and assessment, an integrativeconceptualization of cohesion, unitary cohesion theory, is described; it definescohesion as the unity of a group, and so distinguishes between the causes ofcohesion, indicators of cohesion, and cohesion itself.• Recommendations for future research include identifying and documentingthe type of cohesion assessed in specific instruments and using methodsthat are appropriate when studying a group-level process.• A unitary cohesion index is described. This set of bipolar rating scales canbe used to directly assess members’ estimates of their group’s cohesion by separatingthe defining conditions of cohesion from the potential causes of cohesion. |
| Wat betekent dit voor de groepstherapie en de NVGPEindelijk weer een theoretische review over het onderwerp cohesie, vanuit het perspectief van de theorie van de groepsdynamica. De vorige review van betekenis stamt uit 2000 (Dion\*). De auteur maakt wat mij betreft de verwachto9ngen niet helemaal waar. Hij belooft een nieuwe algemene definitie, maar eindigt toch ook weer in een multidimensioneel verhaal met verschillende soorten cohesie. Helemaal onbegrijpelijk is dat niet. Cohesie is een van de belangrijkste maar ook moeilijkste begrippen uit de groepsdynamische theorie. Het is nog steeds niet uitontwikkeld. Ook niet na dit overzicht zegt ook de auteur, die we overigens kennen van zijn Leer en lesboek ‘Group Dynamics’. Om de vier jaar komt Forsyth met een nieuwe uitgave van dit boek waarin alle groepsdynamische onderwerpen en de research daarover op een rij zijn gezet. Op zich een prestatie van formaat\*\*. Met dit artikel wou hij zelf ook een keer onderzoeker zijn\*Dion, K. L. (2000). Group cohesion: From “field of forces” to multidimensional construct. Group Dynamics,4, 7–26. <https://doi.org/10.1037/1089-2699.4.1.7>\*\*[Forsyth](https://www.amazon.com/Donelson-R-Forsyth/e/B001HMKEJ2/ref%3Ddp_byline_cont_book_1), D. R. (2022). Group Dynamics 7th Edition. Cengage, Boston |
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