

# Beyond Schelling and Axelrod

– *The State of the Art of Simulation Models of Ethnocentrism and Diversity*

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## Purpose

This document is to inform authors about a potential Special Issue of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (JEMS). We are planning to propose this issue, but need a list of those that might submit to it. Thus we are asking for authors to inform us of this by the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016

## Topic

Compared to many other areas, agent-based simulation models have had a particular influence upon the thinking around ethnicity and migration. The Schelling 'checkerboard' model of the emergence of ethnic segregation (Schelling 1971) is often cited as the first agent-based social simulation. Since then there have been several highly influential papers in this area, including Axelrod's (1977) model of the dissemination and polarization of culture and Hammond and Axelrod's (2006) simulation concerning the possibly biological emergence of ethnocentrism. These papers alone have been highly cited and have inspired many others to attempt similar models or make new ones. However, these models have tended to be used in a suggestive, analogical manner – influencing ideas about these issues rather than demonstrating their veracity. Thus we feel that it is time for a review of the current research on this subject, collected together into a special issue, in order to move the field forward. Suitable papers for the special issue could include:

- Cutting edge simulations of ethnocentrism and diversity, showing some of the different ideas and processes that could be involved in such phenomena
- Studies that compare the results of such models to data and other evidence to evaluate their explanatory power in terms of specific cases
- Critical studies that analyse the assumptions behind the models and the thinking that is implied by them, maybe comparing different versions of simulations
- Reviews of simulation models to show their scope and any lacuna
- Ways of combining simulation models of ethnocentrism and diversity with other social science techniques to better illuminate the phenomena

## Special Issue Editors

- *Bruce Edmonds*, Professor of Social Simulation and the Director of the [Centre for Policy Modelling](#), Manchester Metropolitan University.
- *Laurence Lessard-Phillips*, Research Fellow, [Institute of Research into Superdiversity](#), School of Social Policy, University of Birmingham.

## What to do

If you want such an issue to occur and could imagine submitting a paper to such a special issue then please email [bruce@edmonds.name](mailto:bruce@edmonds.name) with your name, institution, country, and an indicative title of the kind of paper you might submit (we will not keep you to this!) by the end of the **12<sup>th</sup> October 2016**. If you have any queries about the topic please email the above. Thank you.

## A Notional Timeline for the Special Issue

- July/August 2017 deadline for submissions.
- Feedback to authors by October/November 2017
- Updated versions of selected papers by Jan/Feb 2018
- Publication some time in 2018.

## References

Schelling, TC (1971). Dynamic models of segregation. *Journal of Mathematical Sociology* 1:143-186.

Axelrod, R (1997) The dissemination of culture - A model with local convergence and global polarization. *Journal Of Conflict Resolution*, 4(2):203-226.

Hammond, RA & Axelrod, R (2006). The evolution of ethnocentrism. *Journal Of Conflict Resolution*, 50(6):926-936.