

Behaviour in Crisis Lab

Newsletter **#7**



In a world shaped by overlapping crises, understanding human behaviour has become more important than ever.

Over the past year, we have continued to develop this mission through research, international collaboration, public engagement, conferences, publications, and new projects. This newsletter offers a glimpse into the ideas, initiatives, and partnerships that shaped our work.

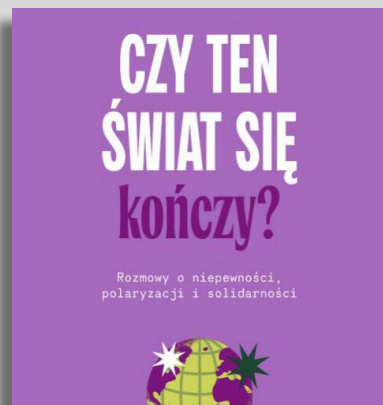
To begin, we would like to highlight



On 19 March 2026, the Charter of the Rights of Children of Incarcerated Parents was signed at the Ministry of Justice.

Among the signatories were Deputy Minister of Justice Maria Ejchart and Director General of the Prison Service, Colonel Renata Niziołek.

Małgorzata Michel is a co-author of the Charter and a member of the working group established at the Ministry of Justice.



Is This World Coming to an End? Conversations on Uncertainty, Polarisation and Solidarity

Małgorzata Kossowska and **Katarzyna Sroczyńska** launched their book on 7 April 2026. The authors explore how to cope psychologically in an era of overlapping crises, including the pandemic, wars and climate change, as well as how to understand the phenomenon of social polarisation.

#1 Conferences

we attended



22-24 June 2026

Re_Mind Psychological Congress and Festival

Małgorzata Kossowska and **Bernadetta Izydorczyk** were the invited experts on one of Poland's largest events devoted to psychology. The programme featured panel discussions on psychology, as well as workshops, artistic activities, and other initiatives focused on how psychological knowledge can be applied across all areas of social and economic life.

10-13 June 2026

18th International Conference of COPE – Children of Prisoners Europe

This year's conference, "Building Holistic Ecosystems for Children with a Parent in Prison - Across NGOs, Prisons, Schools, Media, and Society", brought together representatives of the Council of Europe and around 45 NGOs from 32 countries. **Małgorzata Michel** represented both the Jagiellonian University and Poland.



14-15 May 2026

13th Transdisciplinary Symposium on Qualitative Research

Małgorzata Michel presented "Empathic Reportage as an Evocative Tool for Autoethnographic Description: Transdisciplinary Contexts in the Journey of a Sensitive Researcher".





26-28 February 2026

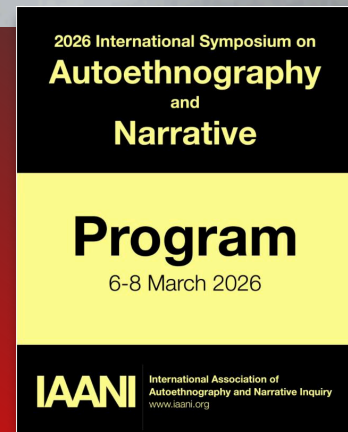
Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention (SPSP 2026)

SPSP Convention is the world's largest conference dedicated to social and personality psychology. Researchers from the Behaviour in Crisis Lab, **Małgorzata Kossowska** and **Katarzyna Jaśko**, presented their work during the Psychology of Extremism preconference.

6-8 March 2026

2026 International Symposium on Autoethnography and Narrative

Małgorzata Michel presented the paper "A Month Without a Home in Action Research: Cycleurism in the Narrative of Invisible Children". Her contribution formed part of an international discussion on autoethnography, care practices, and qualitative inquiry.



3-4 December 2025

Conference on the Social Psychology of Historical Distortion

Anna Potoczek presented research conducted together with **Katarzyna Jaśko**, **Marta Maj** and **Agnieszka Kuhny**, exploring the question: Is history written by the victors?

#2 Speeches and lectures

**“Beyond the Boycott:
Psychological Motivators of
High-Cost Solidarity-based
Collective Action Among
Third Parties”**

Zafer Özkan

11 June 2026
The Protest Lab,
The University of Gdańsk,
Poland

**“Why people protest?
Example of Solidarity with
Palestine Protests”**

Zafer Özkan

14 April 2026
Mardin Artuklu University,
Türkiye

**Conference Debut:
How to Write an Abstract?**

**„Conference Debut:
How to Prepare for Your
First Presentation?”**

Monika Gołąb and Regina
Skiba

10-12 April 2026
Congress of Young
Sociologists

**“What Shapes Political
Support? Psychological
Mechanisms Behind
Evaluations of Politicians
and Political Parties”**

Anna Potoczek

26 March 2026
the Zajonc Institute

**“Understanding and
Combating Prejudice via
Intergroup Contact”**

Zafer Özkan

13 March 2026
Adnan Menderes
University, Türkiye

**“Is Changing Views a
Virtue or a Vice?”**

Anna Potoczek,
Katarzyna Jaśko

17-18 February 2026
Winter Seminar on Social
Cognition and Intergroup
Relations 2026

#3 Projects and Grants



The Global Crises Project

Ewa Szumowska, Małgorzata Kossowska, Manos Tsakiris, Giovanni Telesca, Jesse Mehravar

Why do some people take action while others remain on the sidelines, even when they recognise the urgency?

The project investigates the psychological and cultural barriers that prevent engagement and pointing toward strategies to overcome them. The project is thought to support researchers, policymakers, and civil society organizations working to build more informed and responsive communities.



Healthy Academia

Hubert Kaszyński, Barbara Ostafińska Molik and team

The primary objective of the initiative is a comprehensive assessment of mental health and its underlying conditions in the academic community. Researchers analyze mental health across three complementary dimensions: psychosocial resources, socio-organizational resources, and systemic (institutional) resources. The findings will serve as the basis for developing recommendations aimed at supporting the well-being of academic communities in Poland.

The research is funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Seedcorn Grant EASP – European Association of Social Psychology

Monika Gołąb and Linnea Nöth from Leibniz University Hannover seek to examine the role of humour and entertainment in shaping how conspiracy theories are perceived, and disseminated.

#4. Media appearance

Facts Won't Save Us: Why Political Beliefs Are So Hard to Change

International Society for the Science of Existential Psychology

Małgorzata Kossowska and Anna Knorr's publication explores why people resist new knowledge, highlighting the role of group identity in shaping rigid beliefs.



Empathy or Fear? What Really Shapes Our Attitudes Toward Refugees?

Ewelina Krajczyńska-Wujec/**PAP Science in Poland** about the article of Zafer Ozkan, Małgorzata Kossowska, Ewa Szumowska, Jolanta Perek-Białas, Paulina Szwed

The Polish-Ukrainian Honeymoon Is Over

The New Republic

In the in-depth report "The Polish-Ukrainian Honeymoon Is Over," published in The New Republic (April 2026), Marta Zaraska cites Małgorzata Kossowska of the Behaviour in Crisis Lab, highlighting the shift from this extraordinary wave of solidarity at the onset of the war to a marked decline in public acceptance of refugees in subsequent years.

Human 2.0 – A World Without Certainty: How Radical Beliefs and Conspiracy Theories Emerge

Polish Academy of Sciences

In a conversation hosted by Jan Stradowski, Małgorzata Kossowska and journalist Katarzyna Sroczyńska explore how people think, feel, and act in an increasingly complex world.

#5 Publications

Books

Sroczyńska, K. & Kossowska, M. (2026) Niepewność we współczesnym świecie. Smak Słowa.

Book Chapters

Bonarska, K., Cacek, J., Kossowska, M. & Szumowska, E. (2026). Navigating Uncertainty: Cognitive Closure, Information Processing, Epistemic Authority in the Pursuit of Knowledge. In: Kenneth Vail, Daryl Van Tongeren, Becca Schlegel, Jeff Greenberg, Laura King, and Richard Ryan (Eds). Handbook of the Science of Existential Psychology. Guilford Publications, Inc.

Monograph

Michel, Małgorzata, Nieletni w pedagogii Stanisława Jedleńskiego. Refleksje (nie)domknięte, Kraków: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, 2025.

Articles

1. Blum, A., Czarnek, G., Berinsky, A.J. et al. After the Takeover: Rebuilding Trust in Public Media Through Institutional Reform. *Polit Behav* (2026). doi.org/10.1007/s11109-026-10127-w
2. Gorostiza-Cervio, A., Kossowska, M., Rodriguez, R., Cavas, S., Gołąb, M., Bonarska, K., & Di Cicco, G. (2025). 3NMark: A psychologist-annotated Twitter corpus on migration for 3N model analysis in Spanish and Polish. In Z. Vetulani, P. Paroubek, & I. Kardava (Eds.), *Human language technologies as a challenge for computer science and linguistics – 2025* (pp. 27–31). Adam Mickiewicz University Press. <https://doi.org/10.14746/amup.9788323245414.5>
3. Knorr, A., & Kossowska, M. (2025). Toward integration: A cognitive-motivational perspective on extremism. *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*, 1–22.
4. Knorr, A., & Kossowska, M. (2026). Understanding extremism: A cognitive-motivational perspective. *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*.
5. Kossowska, M., Szwed, P., Czarnek, G., Honcharowa, S., Domagalik, A., Doradzińska, Ł. (2026). Neural correlates of belief change in political and non-political domains among left-wing individuals confronted with counterarguments. *Scientific Reports*, 16, Article 35397. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-026-35397-6
6. Lin, H., Czarnek, G., Lewis, B., White, J. P., Berinsky, A. J., Costello, A., Pennycook, G., Rand, G. D. (2025). Persuading voters using human–artificial intelligence dialogues. *Nature*. doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-09771-9
7. Mužik, M., Knorr, A., Kossowska, M. (2026). The (not so) vicious cycle of national narcissism: emotional antecedents and outcomes. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 122, 104721. doi.org/10.1016/j.jrp.2026.104721
8. Tyner, A.H., Abatayo, A.L., Daley, M. et al. Investigating the replicability of the social and behavioural sciences. *Nature* 652, 143–150 (2026). doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-10078-y
9. Szumowska, E., Chan, H. W., Kossowska, M., & Hong, Y. Y. (2026). Sustaining humanitarian engagement: A reinforcement account of helping over time. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 259, 113867.

#6 Major Events of the Year



23 research talks.
25 speakers.
9 countries.
13 universities and research centres.

One international and interdisciplinary space for exchanging knowledge, developing new ideas, and building meaningful academic connections.

UJ Sociology Students' Summer Semester 2026 Field Workshop

On 5–7 June 2026, in Sucha Beskidzka, the Summer Semester 2026 Field Workshop for Sociology students of the Jagiellonian University took place. The event was organized by **Jolanta Perek-Białas**. Members of the PANEL UJ research team also participated in the workshop, presenting the project's objectives and sharing their experiences from its implementation. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity to promote the project among students interested in social research and in becoming actively involved in scientific initiatives.

#6 Major Events of the Year



“Inside the Lab: How to Study Crisis?”

16 December 2025

The event marked a fitting culmination of an extraordinary two and a half years. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us in celebrating this milestone. Your support, warmth, and friendship have strengthened our commitment to continuing our research, fostering dialogue, and sharing knowledge with the wider community.

Solidarity can be understood not only as a response to crisis, but also as a foundation for building more resilient, supportive, and humane societies. The conference welcomed contributions from a range of disciplines and provided a valuable forum for reflection on some of the most pressing social challenges of our time.



2026 Behaviour in Crisis Lab Annual Conference “Solidarity as a Social Response to an Era of Crisis”

19 June 2026

The background of the slide is a high-contrast, abstract pattern of thick, black, wavy lines on a white background. These lines flow across the frame in various directions, creating a sense of movement and depth. The lines vary in thickness and curvature, some forming broad, sweeping arcs while others are more jagged or angular.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the entire team for their hard work, commitment, and willingness to share knowledge. Together, we conducted research, developed new initiatives, and contributed to academic and public debate.