IWRM Action Hub

RESOURCE

Toward a Psychology of Social Change: A Typology of Social Change

|

Author(s)
de la Sablonnière, Roxane

Description / Abstract

Millions of people worldwide are affected by dramatic social change (DSC). While sociological theory aims to understand its precipitants, the psychological consequences remain poorly understood. A large-scale literature review pointed to the desperate need for a typology of social change that might guide theory and research toward a better understanding of the psychology of social change. Over 5,000 abstracts from peer-reviewed articles were assessed from sociological and psychological publications. Based on stringent inclusion criteria, a final 325 articles were used to construct a novel, multi-level typology designed to conceptualize and categorize social change in terms of its psychological threat to psychological well-being. The typology of social change includes four social contexts: Stability, Inertia, Incremental Social Change and, finally, DSC. Four characteristics of DSC were further identified: the pace of social change, rupture to the social structure, rupture to the normative structure, and the level of threat to one's cultural identity. A theoretical model that links the characteristics of social change together and with the social contexts is also suggested. The typology of social change as well as our theoretical proposition may serve as a foundation for future investigations and increase our understanding of the psychologically adaptive mechanisms used in the wake of DSC.

Publication year
2017

Publisher
PMC PubMed Central

Keywords
Social Change Social Structure Psychology of Social Change
Language English
View resource

Related IWRM Tools

Tool

Promoting Social Change

C5

Source URL: https://iwrmactionhub.org/resource/toward-psychology-social-change-typology-social-change