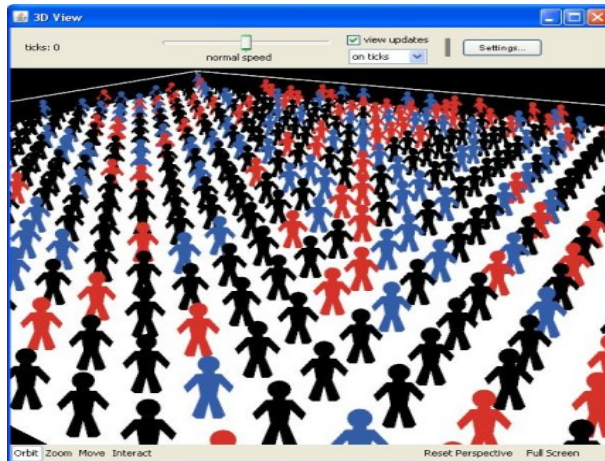


BlueBEAR provides a substantial computing resource that properly supports the research work of research staff and students at Birmingham. It provides a cost effective facility that optimises the effectiveness of research and ensures the University continues to be a world-class academic learning and research environment.

Simulating Social Stigmatisation



Challenges

Our initial challenge was to investigate the emergent effects of some existing psychological group level theories in a larger population, but this later developed into an effort to relate these theories to the contact hypothesis, in an attempt to demonstrate a relationship between previously disparate research traditions.

Background

Existing psychological investigations tell us a lot about the group behaviours that can be observed in small convened groups, but there has been less work with larger groups and many of the emergent effects of small group findings have not been considered. Our initial aim was to investigate these emergent effects, however it became quickly apparent that the groups behaviour was consistent with the contact hypothesis.

Our line of research was modified to examine this new finding in detail in order to investigate this new link in an attempt to relate this social theory (the contact hypothesis) with theories from other traditions (such as cognitive dissonance) by demonstrating that one can emerge from the other in simulation.

Results

Preliminary results indicate that contact is an emergent effect of our implementation of the other theories, however care needs to be taken in the interpretation of this result, especially before further results are available.



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Product Used

NetLogo

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