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**Title: Developing Positioning Theory as a framework for understanding an explaining behaviour**

The origins of Positioning Theory (PT) go back to two foundational texts published in the *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour* (Davies and Harré, 1990 and Harré and Van Langenhove, 1992) in which the concept of Positioning was introduced. PT is been defined as “an explanatory schema to understand and study discourse and its relation to different psychic and social phenomena” (Harré and Van Langenhove, 1999 p. 2). Furthermore, it is claimed that “a powerful use of positioning theory as an analytical tool is that not only persons and their identities, both individual and social, but also societal issues on a cultural level can be tackled with the same conceptual apparatus” (Harré & Van Langenhove, 1999, p. 12).

The original Davies and Harré (1990) and Harré and Van Langenhove (1991) articles contained seeds of thought that were further explored by Harré and his key collaborators continued to elaborate, expand, and apply principles of PT (e.g., Howie & Peters, 1996; Tan & Moghaddam, 1995; van Langenhove & Harré, 1994). Ideas pertaining to PT were also explored in a number of edited volumes, *Positioning Theory* (Harré & van Langenhove, 1999) and *The Self and Others* (Harré & Moghaddam, 2003a), which contained articles predominantly by scholars from psychology, linguistics, and sociology. In addition, Harré and his colleagues have continued to apply positioning theory to specific domains. Today, PT is widely used in many different disciplines. A Google scholar search revealed that are today more than 14.000 articles that refer to PT, many of them taking PT as a main theoretical framework. Moreover, since 2015 until today, one can count more than 7500 publications using PT. The curve seems to go exponential. However, In a review of more than 200 educational research articles, McVee (2017) found that even when claiming explicitly to use PT, researchers often built upon a general metaphor of positioning rather than specific tenets of PT, thus missing opportunities for deeper and targeted analysis, additional theory building, or transdisciplinary connections. Additionally, several of the co-founders of PT (e.g., Moghaddam, 2017; van Langenhove, 2017) have recently reiterated that PT is more than a metaphor—it is a set of theoretical principles that continues to emerge as a theory in its own right.

I welcome scholars from different social science disciplines that are interested to work with me on such a further (critical) development of PT. This includes (i) the application of PT in different disciplines (I am particularly interested in International Relations Theory), (ii) the development and assessment of suitable empirical methods to investigate the process of positioning, (iii) the conducting of critical meta-studies on PT and finally also the further elaboration of the theoretical and ontological dimension of PT.

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