

Salutogenesis beyond health:

Sense of coherence and **intergroup relations**

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New research questions

- How does a person with a strong sense of coherence relates to the members of the “other” group?
- Is the tendency to perceive the world as comprehensible, manageable and meaningful related to greater openness to “others”, or does it involve clinging to the rigid in-group identity and closeness, directed against the “other”?
- Can the salutogenesis paradigm help us not only to understand how group members live in the context of intractable conflict and stay healthy, but also how they can establish peaceful coexistence with people from the “other” sectors in divided societies?

The dilemma

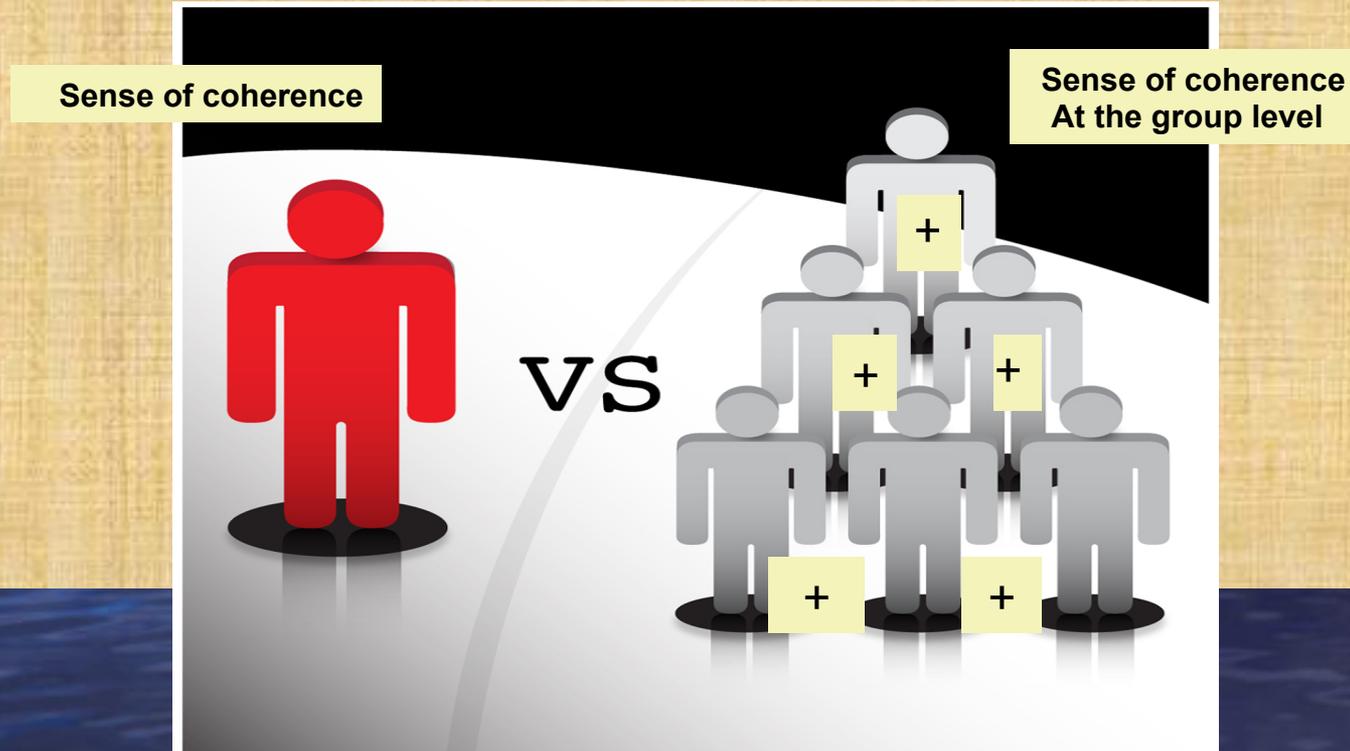
- Does the salutogenic orientation enable us to confront other social concepts beyond sense of coherence and health relations?
- Do researchers can ask new salutogenic questions and also develop new salutogenic concepts?

**What would Antonovsky say about
it?**



Methodological approaches to measured SOC in related to group level

SOC at the group level is measured by aggregation of data on sense of coherence of individuals in a specific group

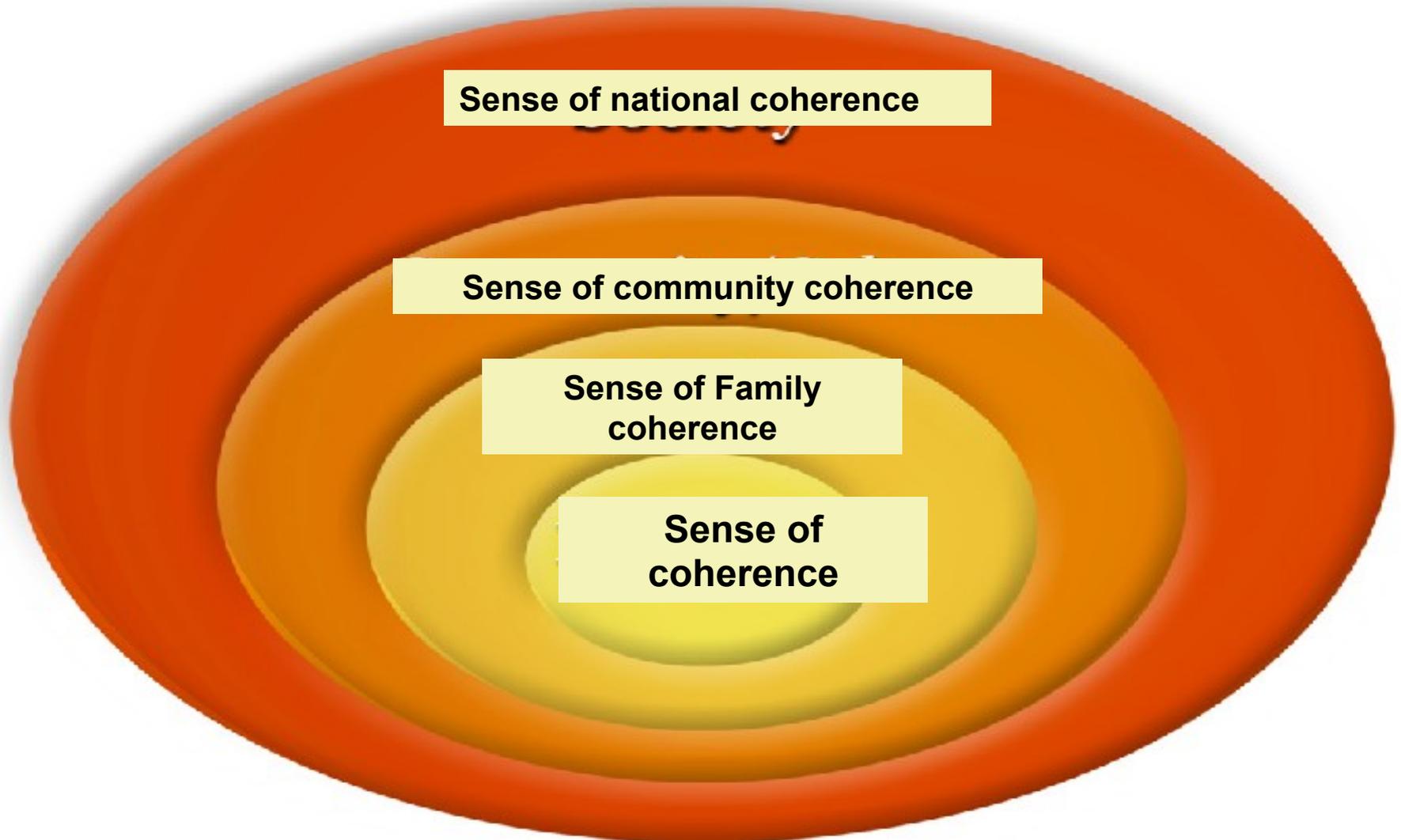


Methodological approaches to measured SOC in related to group level

SOC at the group level is measured by the cultural production of the group (for example, myths, rituals, ceremonies and narratives).



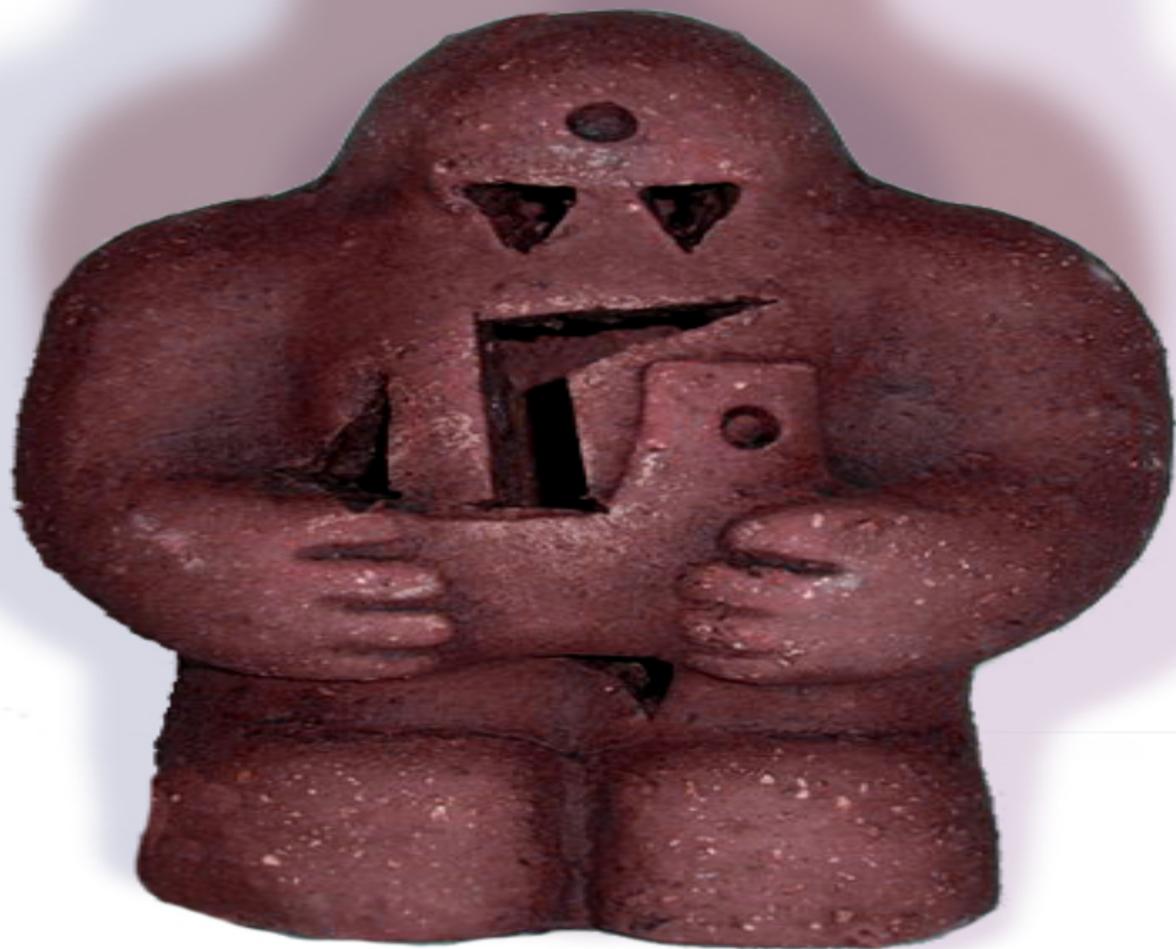
Methodological approaches to measured SOC in related to group level



"in the face of collective stressors the strength of the group, rather than of the individual sense of coherence is often decisive in tension management" (Antonovsky, 1987, pp. 178-179)







"I wish that I could have said something very different, but I am afraid that, if we are to be honest, we must say that both the pathogenic and the salutogenic orientations, in their focus on biological health, on functioning and on survival, on homeostasis and fitting into ecological niches, must acknowledge the power of the "Golem", of fundamentalist religion, of patriarchy, of a ruling class and, yes, even of the Nazis, to provide the basis for a strong sense of coherence for some"

(Antonovsky, 1991).



Sense of coherence and inter-group relations

Authors	The conflict zone	Group level	results
Mana, Sagy, Srour & Mjally Knani (2013)	Palestinians Muslim and Christian	community	Sense of community coherence was correlated with <u>higher</u> levels of acceptance of the <u>in-group</u> collective narratives, higher levels of separation and <u>lower</u> levels of acceptance of the <u>out-group</u> collective narratives
Mana, Sagy, & Srour (2014)	Palestinians who are Israeli citizens and Palestinians living in the West Bank	community	sense of community coherence was correlated with <u>higher</u> levels of acceptance of the <u>in-group</u> collective narratives, higher levels of separation and <u>lower</u> levels of acceptance of the <u>out-group</u> collective narratives

Authors	The conflict zone	Group level	results
Somech & Sagy (submitted)	Ultra Orthodox and national religious Jews in Israel	community	Ultra-orthodox: stronger sense of community coherence. Stronger connection of sense of community coherence with separation tendency.
Telaku & Sagy (2017)	Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo	community	Sense of community coherence was correlated with <u>higher</u> levels of acceptance of the <u>in-group</u> narratives, higher levels of separation and <u>lower</u> levels of acceptance of the <u>out-group</u> narratives
Mana, Sagy & Mana (submitted)	Israeli- Palestinian intractable conflict	nation	Sense of national coherence was correlated with religious grouping, right-wing voting behavior and <u>lower</u> levels of acceptance of the <u>out-group</u> collective narratives
Sarid & Sagy (in preparation)	Israeli- Palestinian intractable conflict	nation	Sense of national coherence was negatively correlated with readiness to reconciliation.



"America First" will be the major and overriding theme of my administration

AP Photo/LM Otero

זה אנחנו או הם

Translation:
It's us or them.

רק הם
רק בנייה.



New research questions:

- Is it possible that group members who are living in conflict zones can have a strong sense of in-group coherence and at the same time accept the "other" and be ready to reconcile with their enemy?
- and if so, under what conditions?

