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Understanding Hate Group Formation

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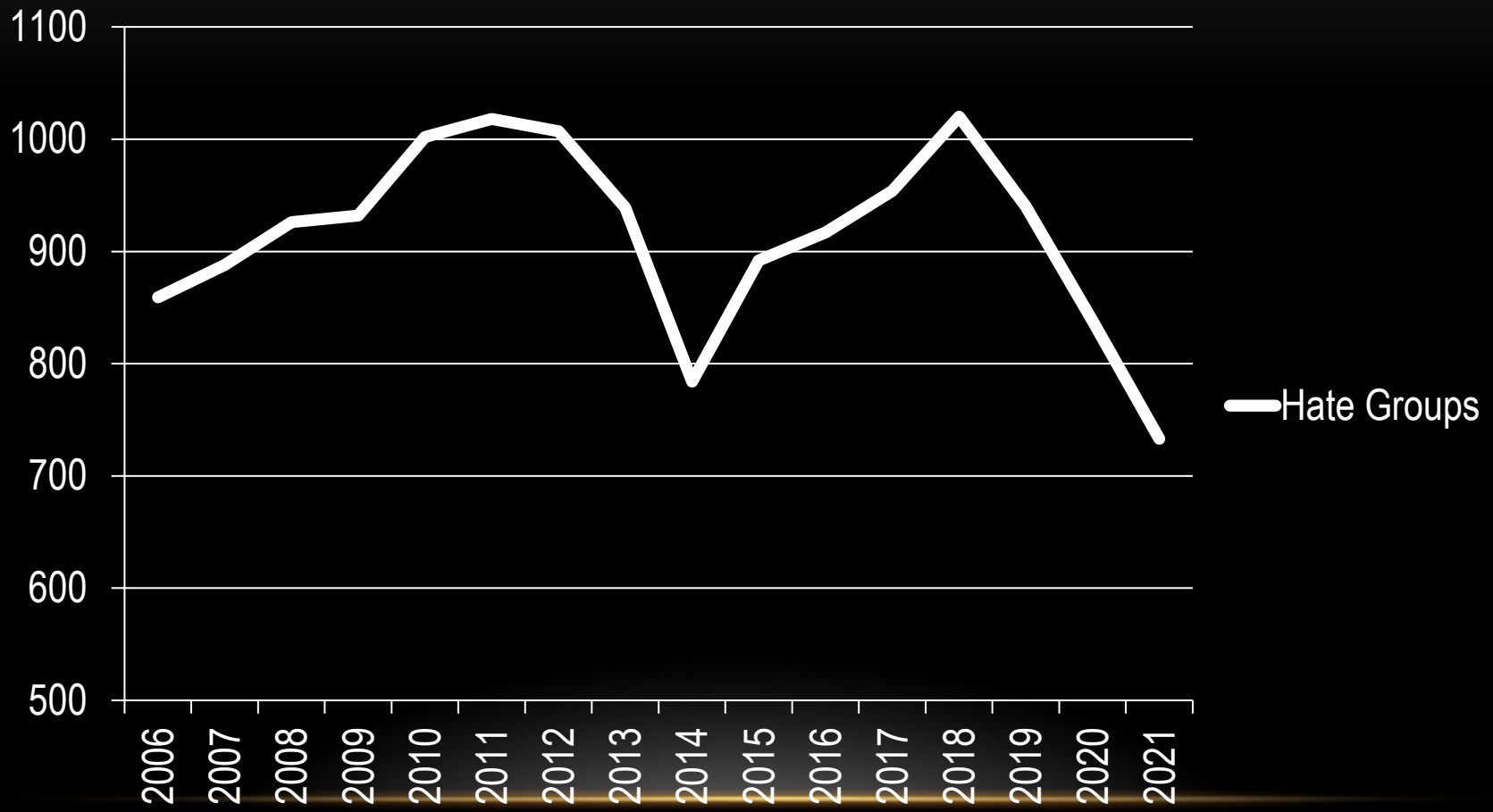
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TESTING CRIMINOLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF HATE GROUPS USING SIMULATION MODELING

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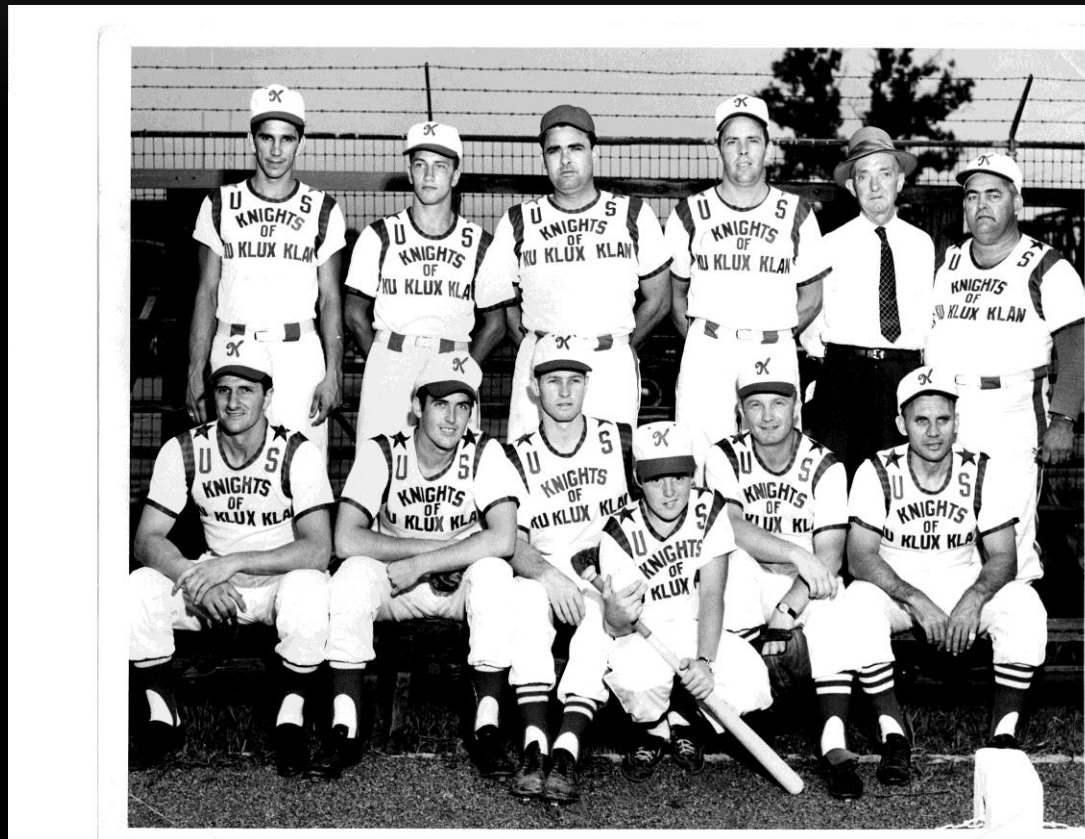
HATE GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES 2006-2016

Hate Groups



(Southern Poverty Law Center, 2010) – www.splcenter.org

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(Wade, 1987; Chalmers, 1981; Blee, 1996; Goldberg, 1981; McVeigh, 1999; Bohn, 1925)

THEORY

- Mark Hamm –
Collective Hate
 - Bonds can be created between individuals through a “common hatred of social out groups” (Hamm, 2004: 327)



SOCIETAL HATE

Low Societal Hate



High Societal Hate



CHALLENGES WITH STUDYING HATE GROUP FORMATION

- Ethical concerns
- Safety concerns
- Right time/right place
- Where does that leave us?



WHAT IS A SIMULATION MODEL?

- A simulation model
 - Distills a social or natural phenomenon down to its most essential working parts.
 - Makes it possible to unify theoretical and empirical elements present in studying phenomena at work in society today.
 - Looks at phenomenon from the ground up.

(Groff, 2007: Liu and Eck, 2008: Gilbert and Troitzsch, 2005: Epstein, 2006)

WHAT IS AN AGENT-BASED MODEL?

- Agent-based modeling is:
 - a computer based simulation technique that allows for the controlled study of phenomena not amenable to experimental manipulation
(Axelrod, 1997; Bosse, et., al., 2009; Brantingham and Tita, 2008; Epstein, 2006; Furtado, et. al., 2008; Groff, 2007; Gilbert and Troitzsch, 2005; Jordan, et. al., 2010; Kim and Xiao, 2008; Liu and Eck, 2008; Malleson, et., al, 2009; Mohler, Short, and Brantingham, 2010)

STEPS IN MODEL CREATION AND TESTING

- A phenomenon is Identified in the real world
- The most important factors are identified
- A base model is created
- Programming - JAVA
- Does the model generate the phenomenon ?
- Parameters manipulated/added
- Emergent behaviors
- Log files
- Interrogation of the model findings
- Comparison to what is known of the real world phenomenon

HYPOTHESIS 1

- H1: The greater the hate possessed by the agents; the greater the number of groups that are formed by those agents



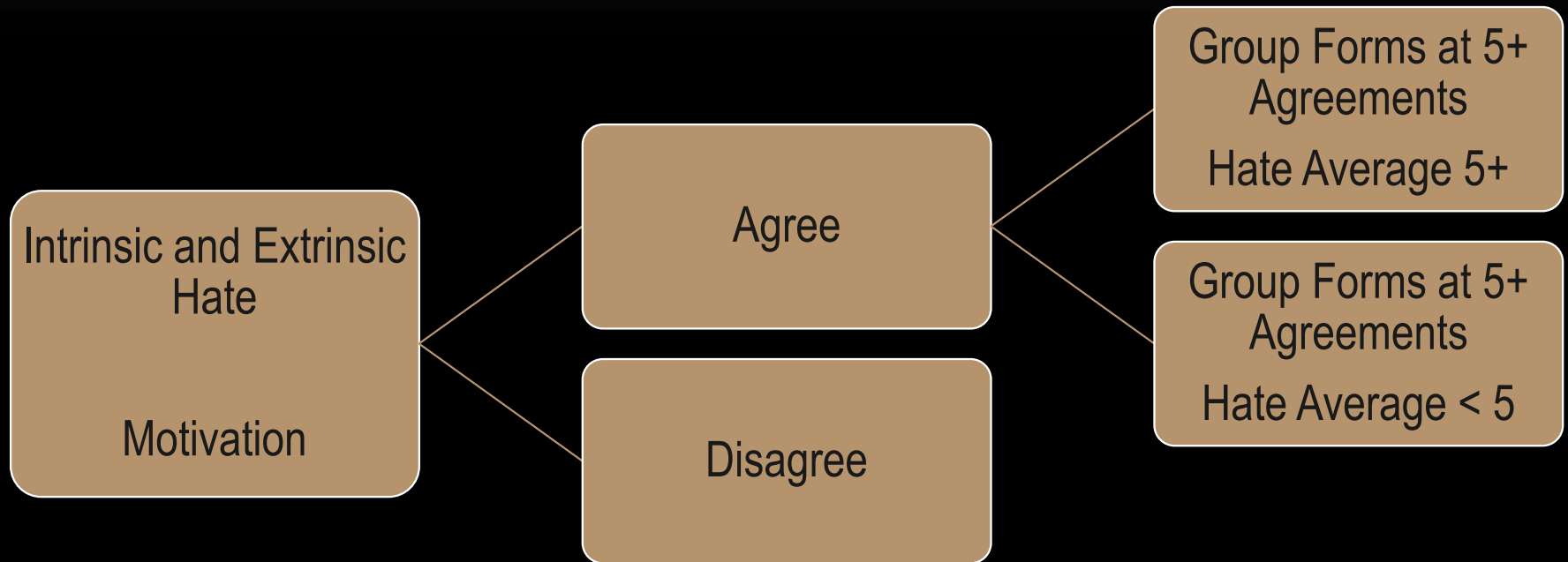
VARIATIONS

- H1b: The greater the hate possessed by the agents; the greater the speed at which groups form
- H1c: The greater the hate possessed by the agents; the greater the size of the groups that form

SOCIETAL HATE VARIATIONS

- H1d: The greater the level of societal hate; the greater the number of groups that form
- H1e: The greater the level of societal hate; the greater the speed at which groups form
- H1f: The greater the level of societal hate; the greater the size of the groups that form

COLLECTIVE HATE



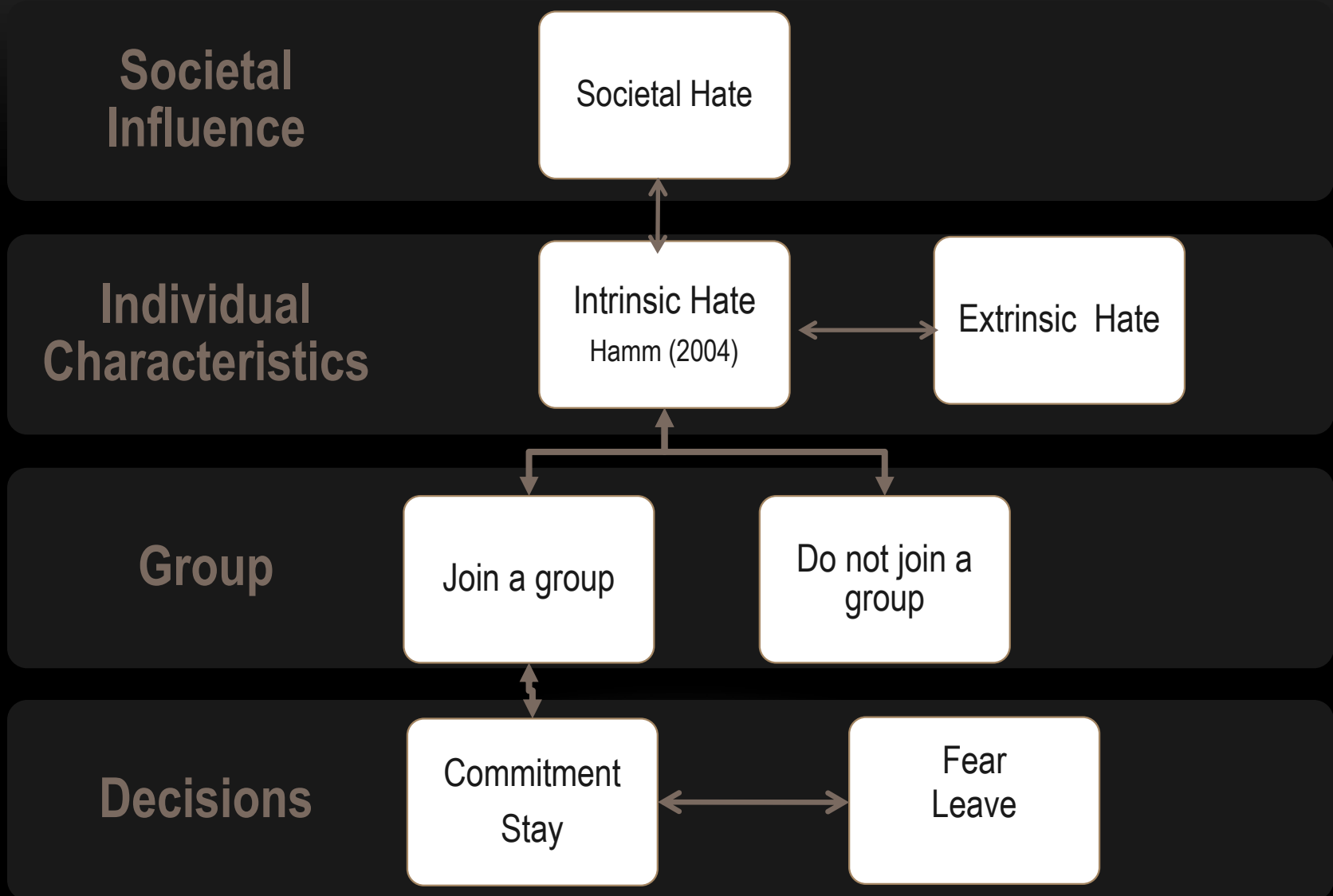
SIMULATIONS

- Each simulation looks at a year in the life of 500 potential members of a society.
- They are actively seeking out connections for at least 6 hours
- The other time is inactive – simulating work, eating, and sleeping
- Depending on who they come in contact with, they make the connections that may lead to the formation of hate groups.

MODELS

- Control Model
 - No Societal Hate Included
 - Societal Hate 2,4,6,and 8
- Collective Hate Model
 - No Societal Hate Included
 - Societal Hate 2,4,6,and 8

MODEL COMPONENTS



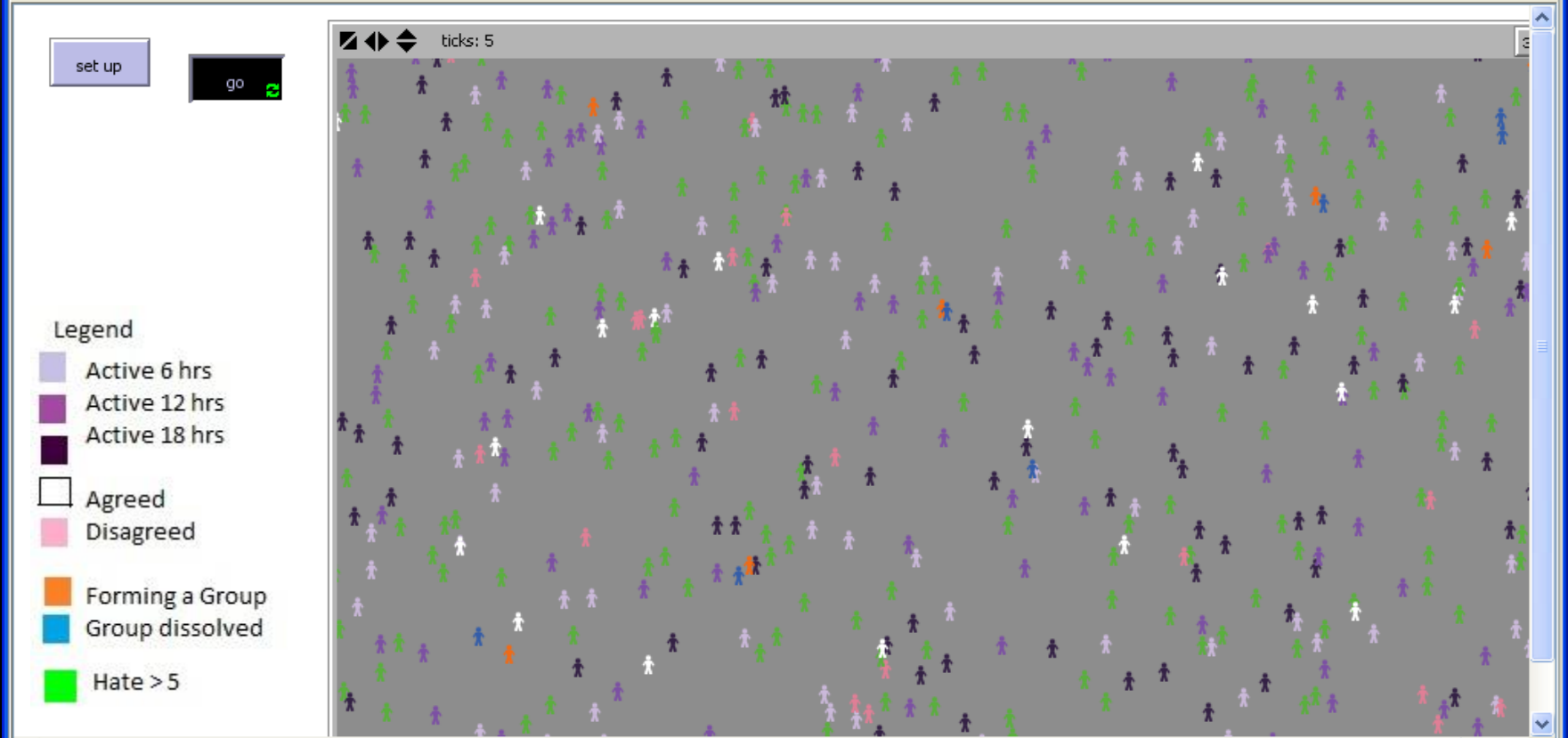
EXPERIMENTS

- Control Condition
 - No agent autonomy regarding levels of hate
 - Establish baselines for agent behavior
 - Baseline used for comparison to experimental conditions
 - Perfect theoretical world

EXPERIMENTS

- Collective Hate
 - Agent autonomy over both levels of hate in model
 - Extrinsic hate changes at will
 - Intrinsic hate
 - 100 days without agreement
 - 10 days in a group

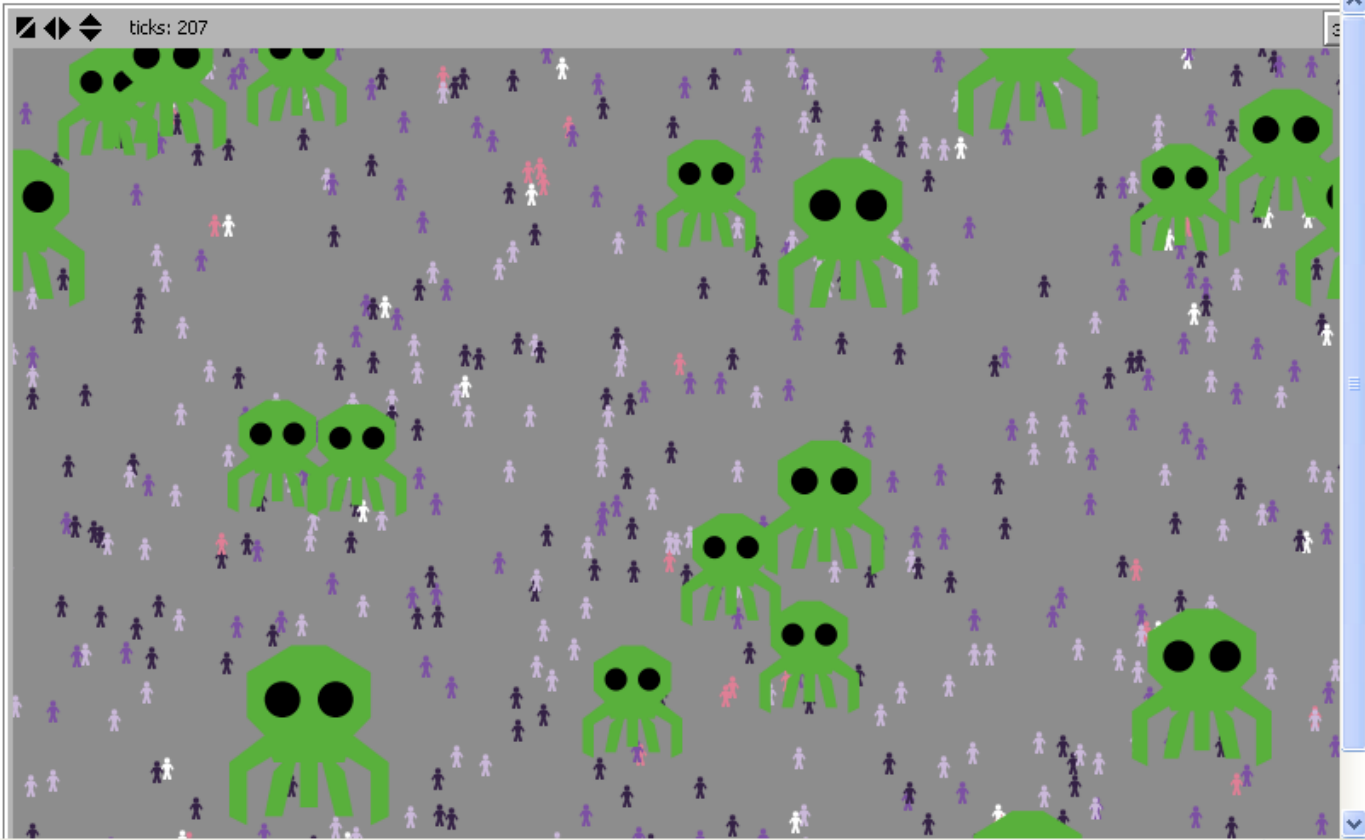
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MULTIPLE GROUPS FORMED

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ANALYSIS

Experiment	Hypotheses	Method	Included Factors and Covariates	Dependent Variable
Collective Hate	H1a-H1c	One-way ANCOVA	Experiment as between groups factor (Control v Collective Hate) Motivation as Covariate	H1a: Formation H1b:Speed H1c:Size
Collective Hate	H1d-H1f	2x4 ANCOVA	Experiment (Control v Collective Hate) and societal hate as between groups factor Motivation as Covariate	H1d: Formation H1e:Speed H1f:Size

RESULTS: H1A – H1F

Hypothesis	Control	Experimental Condition
Number of Groups	-	+
Largest Group	+	-
Number of Larger Groups	+	-
First Group Formed (Day)	-	+
Average Time of Formation	+	-
Societal Hate		
Number of Groups	+	-
Largest Group	+	-
Number of Larger Groups	-	+
First Group Formed (Day)	-	+
Average Time of Formation	+	-

KEY FINDINGS

- Hate groups formed in all model runs
 - Control
 - Collective Hate
- Hate groups formed in all situations
 - Low Societal Hate
 - Medium Societal Hate
 - High Societal Hate

IMPLICATIONS

- Expansion of Simulation Modeling as Method
- Strengthening and Sharpening Theory
 - Collective Hate
- Public Policy



LIMITATIONS

- It is always possible that the model oversimplifies the situation (Miller and Page, 2007: Gilbert and Troitzsch, 2005).
- Simulation cannot replace real world field observation (Miller and Page, 2007: Gilbert and Troitzsch, 2005: Groff, 2007).

CONCLUSION

- The Prevalence of Hate Groups
- Collective Hate
- Simulation Modeling



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