

## **EXPRESSING EMOTIONAL RESPONSES TO THE INJUSTICE OF OTHERS: IT'S NOT JUST WHAT YOU FEEL**

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Although many studies address emotional reactions to injustice, few address how perceptions of distributive injustice mediate between situational conditions and emotional responses. Moreover, no studies compare how those situational conditions may differentially affect emotional experiences compared to emotional expressions. Here we examine these issues focusing uniquely on observers' perceptions of distributive justice. We investigate how procedural justice, group identity, and the legitimation of the authority by group members affect observers' perceptions of an unfair outcome experienced by a co-worker. Hypotheses suggest that procedurally fair treatment and legitimacy decrease the severity of perceived injustice for another, which then attenuates negative emotional experiences. In contrast, group identity is predicted to heighten the perceived severity of injustice and to spur stronger negative emotional reactions. Legitimacy and procedural justice, however, may also suppress the expression of felt emotions. Student study volunteers (N=173) read a vignette describing a distributively unjust situation in a volunteer organization and answered a series of questions. Analyses provide support for hypotheses pertaining to procedural justice and to some extent, regarding legitimacy. Discussion of results focuses on the implications of the experience and expression of negative emotions for ensuring justice for others.