



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Jens Förster, PhD
Nora Liberman, PhD

CC: Jasper Simons, Executive Publisher

From: Rose Sokol-Chang, PhD, Journals Publisher
Publications and Databases

Date: July 12, 2017

Re: Second Appeal to Retractions of 2 Articles Published in APA Journals

In May 2015, the University of Amsterdam made a recommendation to retract four articles published by the American Psychological Association that were authored by Dr. Jens Förster, on the basis of “strong statistical evidence for low veracity”. APA Journals has since retracted two articles; the following two have not yet been retracted:

Liberman, N., & Förster, J. (2009). Distancing from experienced self: How global-versus local perception affects estimation of psychological distance. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 97(2), 203-216. doi:10.1037/a0015671

Förster, J., Liberman, N., & Shapira, O. (2009). Preparing for novel versus familiar events: Shifts in global and local processing. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 138(3), 383-399. doi:10.1037/a0015748

In a memo dated November 14, 2016, the University of Amsterdam reported that upon appeal by Dr. Nira Liberman and Dr. Markus Denzler, their decision to recommend retraction was upheld. In a memo dated December 4, 2016, Dr. Yaron Oz, Rector of Tel Aviv University, issued the recommendation that the articles not be retracted, a decision that followed a formal review by the University.

During its Spring 2017 meeting, the APA Publications and Communications Board discussed a second appeal to the retractions from Dr. Liberman and Dr. Förster, on the basis of the Tel Aviv University recommendation. The Publications and Communications Board is not a formal evaluating body, so relies on the host institution for any final decision regarding whether or not to retract an article when the author(s) do not agree to the retraction. In this case, there are two

host institutions for two of the co-authors, issuing different recommendations. On that basis, APA Journals will not be retracting the two articles in question. They will remain as published.