

**Name:** Christine M. Smith

**Institutional affiliation:** Grand Valley State University

**Area of specialization:** Social Psychology



**Brief (1 paragraph) summary of professional interests:**

I am broadly interested in social influence and group performance, and over the past several years my undergraduate research assistants and I have carried out a variety of studies that explore the manner in which groups escape experimentally induced states of fixation while working on problems requiring creative insight. The central question this research addresses is "Are groups at a distinct disadvantage, compared to individuals, when attempting to escape a mental rut?" Additionally, another stream of my research examines how numerical minorities affect the cognitive process of individual group members as well as the quality of collaboratively generated group products. The central question this research addresses is "Does the presence of a minority source of influence enhance the decision making/problem solving processes and outcomes of groups?"

**Representative publications (no more than five):**

Smith, C. M. (in press) Task performance in groups. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Psychology*, Oxford University Press.

Smith, C. M. , Dzik, P. & Fornicola, E. (2019). Threatened suicide and baiting crowd formation: A replication and extension of Mann (1981). *Social Influence*, 14, (3-4), 92-103.

Smith, C. M., Bushouse, E., & Lord, J. (2010). Individual and group performance on insight problems: The effects of experimentally induced fixation. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*.

Smith, C. M. & Tindale, R. S. (2009). Direct and indirect minority influence in groups. In R. Martin & M. Hewstone (Eds.) *Minority Influence and Innovation: Antecedents, Processes, and Consequences*. Psychology Press.

**Representative honors or awards (no more than five):**

Grand Valley State University Pew Teaching Excellence Award 2018

Grand Valley State University Distinguished Undergraduate Mentoring Award 2012

**Involvement in MPA:**

I have been a member of MPA since 1990 and became a fellow in 2019. I have presented at the conference (typically along with my undergraduate research assistants) more than 25 times. I have given one invited talk, and two of my students won the Psi Chi Best paper award in 1999. I served on the program committee for the past three years.