



Sense of belonging and social cohesion – what comes first?

Integration Foundation
conference

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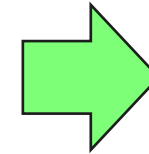
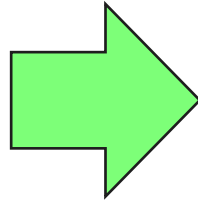
Dr. Anneli Portman
Finnish Institute for
Health and Welfare

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How do mosquitoes stay
in their own group?
How do they know which
group they belong to?

Each group
has a
unique
pitch!



Shared values create boundaries of belonging

- *“In order to belong to us, you need agree **this is an important/good/a worthy goal**”*
- **Times of crises** make them more solid and thus less easy to penetrate



How do we know what "our" values are?

- Values are made visible through recurring rituals, habits, rhetoric = what gets celebrated

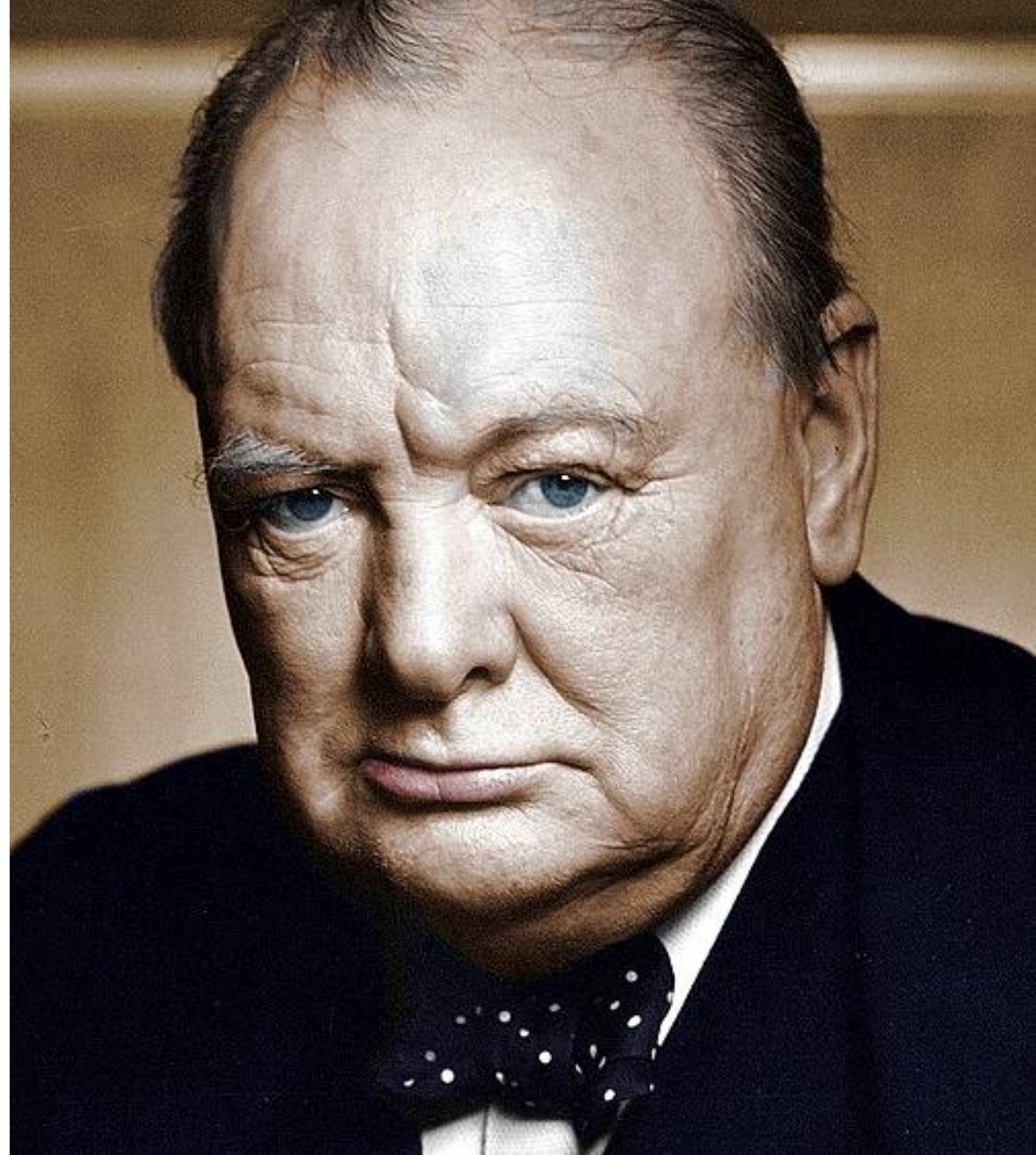


Leaders shape shared values and create cohesion

- Define and embody “us”
- Promote “our” values and interests
- Define societal threats and solutions to them
 - Who can (is allowed to) solve them?
 - Boundaries of who can belong



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Values – links to emotions

- We **like people** who have **similar values** to us...
 - And we assume people we like have similar values to us
- **Breaking/deviating from** shared values makes us **angry**
 - Especially if these are considered sacred, i.e. inviolable values



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In conclusion...

- Who defines who can belong?
 - **We do**, but use our leaders to formulate and express the boundaries of who we are and what we stand for
- **Values and emotions** are intrinsically linked, as values define what is good, important and worthy
 - We evaluate people's suitability to be part of "us" on the basis of their adherence to our values
- **Threats** and **crises** make value cohesion seem more central



A large flock of birds, represented by numerous small black dots, is shown in flight against a solid blue background. The birds are arranged in a dense, V-shaped formation, with the lead birds at the top and the flock tapering off towards the bottom. The overall shape of the flock is reminiscent of a large, stylized letter 'V' or a wing.

Birds of a feather
flock together



Thank you!

anneli.portman@thl.fi