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In one introductory essay and four empirical investigations, Per Henrik Hedberg addresses these and other questions underlying interpersonal society.

The unifying context for the empirical investigations is provided by the emergence and existence of shared beliefs among members in society. The establishing of shared beliefs gives rise to trusting social coordination (essay 1) and is associated with social standards, like fairness, which vary across cultures (essay 3). Society’s shared beliefs are so important that exclusion from the processes of social co-construction of such beliefs amounts to negative discrimination (essay 2). Social interdependency among people is an essential characteristic of society. To explain how individuals achieve different outcomes in identical situations, a theoretical framework is presented regarding social interdependence skill (essay 4).

The investigations have practical implications for market transactions, political influence, organizational practices like recruitment and reward systems, and leadership.
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