

2019 SPSSI-SASP Group Meeting

Advances in Intergroup Contact Research: Showcasing, Consolidating, Deconstructing and Innovating the Science of Social Integration

Monday 29th April-Wednesday 1st May, 2019

Newcastle, NSW Australia



Long Abstract Book

Organizing Committee:

Stefania Paolini (the University of Newcastle, Australia),
Miles Hewstone (the University of Newcastle, Australia; Oxford University, UK),
Fiona White (University of Sydney, Australia),
Fiona Barlow (The University of Queensland, Australia),
Linda Tropp (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA),
Liz Page-Gould (University of Toronto, Canada),
Rhianon Turner (Queen's University Belfast, UK)
Ángel Gómez (National Distance Education University, Spain)



WELCOME MESSAGE

We are proud to announce the 2019 SASP-SPSSI group meeting, entitled “Advances in Intergroup Contact Research: Showcasing, Consolidating, Deconstructing and Innovating the Science of Social Integration” held in Newcastle, Australia between Monday 29th April and Wednesday 1st May, 2019. This exciting gathering runs as a post-conference meeting to the annual conference of the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists, running Thursday 25th/Saturday 27th April 2019 in Sydney.

This is an exciting time for research on intergroup contact. With a strong delegation of international and national delegates of varied seniority and background, this specialized gathering showcases and advances the best research on the antecedents, dynamics, and consequences of intergroup contact across a multiplicity of research laboratories, research paradigms and methods, intergroup settings, and societies.

A breadth of emerging research themes are represented at this international gathering. Through its intimate single session format, the gathering includes the delivery of conference papers (blitz / longer length / posters) by junior and senior researchers and round table discussions (small / plenary), this SASP-SPSSI group meeting on intergroup contact aspires to offer an exciting platform to consolidate our understanding and interpretation of key findings, to discuss emerging research trends and methodologies and forge the research and the researchers of the future.

The meeting will also offer opportunities for interactions between social cohesion researchers, policy makers, and practitioners, including some networking segments and a keynote on research-policy-practice interactions.

THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

You are very welcome by an enthusiastic Scientific Committee that spans across three continents, including:

Stefania Paolini (the University of Newcastle, Australia),

Miles Hewstone (the University of Newcastle, Australia; Oxford University, UK),

Fiona White (University of Sydney, Australia),

Fiona Barlow (The University of Queensland, Australia),

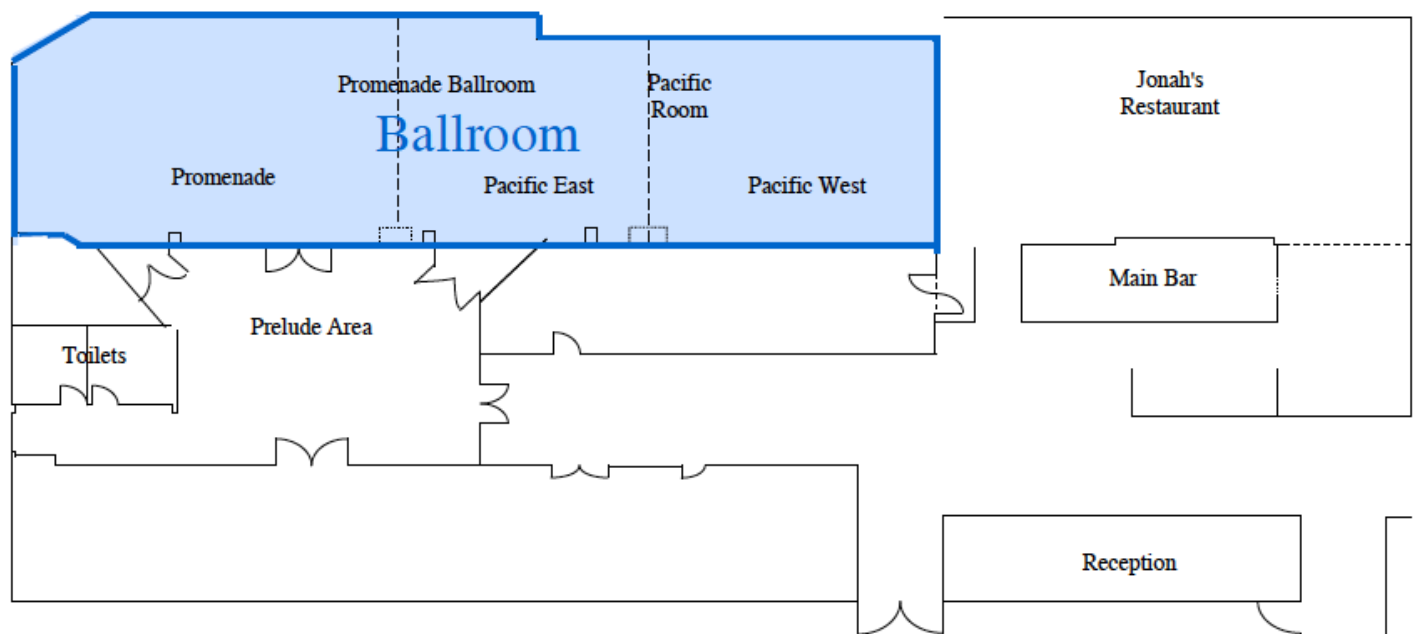
Linda Tropp (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA),

Liz Page-Gould (University of Toronto, Canada),

Rhiannon Turner (Queen’s University Belfast, UK) and

Ángel Gómez (National Distance Education University, Spain).

Conference Venue— Noha's on the Beach, Newcastle East—Reception Floor Layout



Prelude Area: Help-Desk, Registrations, and Office Facilities; **Promenade Ballroom, Promenade and Pacific East:** Main conference rooms

LEGEND

S and Blue colour denotes standard length presentation (15 minute talk plus 5 minute questions/transition)

B and Lilac colour denotes blitz presentation (7 minute talk plus 3 minute questions and transition)

P and Green colour denotes poster presentation (3 minute talk plus informal interactions)

ZOOM ID# denotes livestreaming and recorded sessions code (see conference website for full details of access methods from a variety of platforms). SASP-SPSSI will seek consent from presenters prior to posting; live audience and virtual users must be aware that their oral and/or written input during Q&A might be captured by the recording and thus might become public. ZOOM ID# denotes livestreaming and recorded sessions code (see <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting-> OR conference website for full details of access methods from a variety of platforms). NB. SASP-SPSSI will seek consent from presenters prior to posting; live audience and virtual users must be aware that their oral and/or written input during Q&A might be captured by the recording and thus might become public.

SASP, SPSSI and conference organisers assume no responsibility or liability for any injury, loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of partaking to any of the activities outlined in this conference program.

| | MONDAY APRIL 29 |
|------------------|---|
| 12.30pm | Lunch and Registration [Prelude Foyer + Promenade Ballroom] |
| 1.00pm (20 min) | Acknowledgement of Country and Formal Conference Opening <i>Facilitators: Stefania Paolini and Miles Hewstone</i> [Promenade Ballroom] |
| 1.20pm | Lunch and Registration (continues) [Prelude Foyer + Promenade Ballroom] |
| (1hr and 40 min) | Seeking Contact and Predictors of Contact – Talks Session 1 <i>Chair: Rhiannon Turner</i> ZOOM ID: 369836376 – https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/369836376 [Promenade Ballroom] |
| 1.40pm S | Patrick Ferdinand Kotzur: Intergroup contact opportunities lead to more frequent positive and negative contact, but also more outgroup rejection |
| 2.00pm S | Mathias Kauff: Social norms and willingness to engage in intergroup contact |
| 2.20pm B | Clifford Stevenson: Welcome to our neighbourhood: “Collective Confidence in Contact” facilitates successful mixing in residential settings [Delivered by Rhiannon Turner] |
| 2.30pm B | Alexander W. O'Donnell: Virtual reality intergroup contact: An examination of intergroup anxiety and willingness to approach a modern contact choice |
| 2.40pm S | Stefania Paolini: Self-selection processes moderate the contact valence asymmetries: Preliminary meta-analytical results from published contact data |
| 3.00pm B | Marta Beneda: Increasing openness to contact after intergroup conflicts: The moral-exemplars approach |
| 3.10pm | Extended Q&A and discussion |
| 3.20pm [20 min] | Coffee Break and Registration [Prelude Foyer] |
| (1hr and 20 min) | Emotions, Motivations, and Action in Contact – Talks Session 2 <i>Chair: Fiona Barlow</i> ZOOM ID: 128758915 – https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/128758915 [Promenade Ballroom] |
| 3.40pm S | Tabea Hässler: Multinational study on contact and support for social change |
| 4.00pm B | Özden Melis Uluğ: Are White women showing up for racial justice? How positive contact and closeness to others targeted by prejudice propel collective action |
| 4.10pm B | Mariska Kappmeier: Building trust: Does positive contact help to overcome distrust in the police? |
| 4.20pm S | Ángel Gómez: Identity fusion moderates the effect of negative contact on intergroup orientations |
| 4.40pm B | Giovanni A. Travaglino: Contact, culture and criminal groups: Endorsement of masculine honour predicts contact with criminal organisations in Italy |
| 4.50pm B | Tulsi Achia: Intergroup contact, allyship and uptake of diversity initiatives in a human services organisation |
| 5.00pm (1 hr) | Break and Registration |
| 6.00pm | Conference Meet and Greet, Cocktails and Tapas <i>Facilitators: Stefania Paolini and Miles Hewstone</i> [Promenade + Prelude Foyer] |

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| 6.30pm | Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony [outdoor: top of Newcastle Beach OR Elevated conference hotel parking area, depending on wind] |
| 6.50pm | Conference Meet and Greet, Cocktails and Tapas (continues) [Promenade + Prelude Foyer] |
| 7.10pm (30 min) | Key note address: Using our research to transform intergroup relations: Pathways to engaged scholarship Linda Tropp ZOOM ID: 751087884 – https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/751087884 [Promenade + Prelude Foyer] |
| 7.40pm | Q&A and discussion [Promenade + Prelude Foyer] |
| 7.50pm | Conference Meet and Greet, Cocktails and Tapas (continues) [Promenade + Prelude Foyer] |
| 8.20pm | Close |

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| | TUESDAY APRIL 30 |
| 7.45am (1hr min) | Mentor-Mentee Breakfast at Two [place of pair's own choice] |
| (1hr and 10 min) | Negative Contact and Valence Asymmetries – Talks Session 3 <i>Chair: Stefania Paolini</i> ZOOM ID: ID: 741042382 – https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/741042382 [Promenade Ballroom] |
| 9.00am B | Oliver Christ: Contextual effect of positive and negative intergroup contact: A registered report |
| 9.10am B | Mathijs Kros: Negative interethnic contact and the consequences of ethnic neighbourhood composition for trust, cohesion, and prejudice |
| 9.20am B | Sarina J. Schäfer: Dynamic contact effects: an individual's history influences effects of positive and negative intergroup contact. Results from a behavioural game |
| 9.30am S | Francesca Prati: The effects of recalling positive and negative contacts on linguistic bias towards migrant people |
| 9.50am B | Nicola Sheeran: Predicting attitudes towards teen mothers: The role of positive versus negative contact |
| 10.00am B | Timothy Lang: The relative frequency of positive and negative contact: A meta-analytic test of general trend and context-sensitivity from an ecological outlook |
| 10.10am (50 min) | Poster Session 1 and Coffee Break <i>Chairs: Fiona White (and Rhiannon Turner)</i> [Promenade Ballroom + Prelude Foyer] Poster presenters' 3 min speeches x 5 presenters (~ 20 min) Followed by poster display and informal interactions (~30 min) |
| P | Alexandra Vázquez: Categorization within a working class group reduces desire for contact in virtual teams |
| P | Rebekah Bolton: There's more than just contact: Investigating the role of volition in intergenerational contact |

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| P | Nuri Kim: Intergroup contact in deliberative contexts: A field experiment in Northern Ireland |
| P | Nadia Andrews: The effects of negative and positive virtual intergroup contact on outgroup prejudice in online poker |
| P | Isabeau Tindall: Cognitive anxiety and race: Do psychological symptoms affect face memory for other-race individuals? |
| (1hr and 30 min) | <p style="text-align: center;">Indirect Contact and Affect – Talks Session 4 <i>Chair: Ángel Gómez</i> ZOOM ID: 627418278 – https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/627418278 [Promenade Ballroom]</p> |
| 11.00am S | Fiona White: E-contact: Unlocking the key to real-world prejudice |
| 11.20am B | Viivi Mäkinen: Testing a school-based vicarious contact intervention in three countries: Does it matter how the students perceive the facilitator's engagement? |
| 11.30am S | Johanna K. Blomster: Moved by observing the love of others: Kama Muta evoked through media foster humanization of out-groups |
| 11.50pm S | Shelly Zhou: A meta-meta-analytic look at intergroup contact theory |
| 12.10pm B | Katherine J. Reynolds: Before and beyond contact: Expanding the theory and research horizon |
| 12.20pm | Extended Q&A and discussion |
| 12.30pm (1 hr) | <p style="text-align: center;">Lunch [Prelude Foyer + Promenade Ballroom]</p> |

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| | TUESDAY APRIL 30 |
| (1hr and 40 min) | Developmental and Intimacy-Building Processes in Contact – Talks Session 5 <i>Chair: Fiona White</i> ZOOM ID: 974153182 – https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/974153182 [Promenade Ballroom] |
| 1.30pm S | Shelley McKeown Jones: Beyond prejudice: contact and friendship effects on youth education and health outcomes |
| 1.50pm B | Rachel Maunder: Reducing internalised stigma with intergroup contact |
| 2.00pm B | Michael Thai: Cross-group friendships are associated with outgroup attraction |
| 2.10pm B | Marco Marinucci: Modulating responses to chronic social exclusion: How inter/intra-group social contacts shape asylum seekers' responses |
| 2.20pm B | Kiara Sanchez: From contact to content: Perceptions of race conversations within interracial friendships |
| 2.30pm S | Islam Borinca: (Mis)understanding pro-social intergroup contact. The moderating role of normative concerns |
| 2.50pm S | Rhiannon N. Turner: When Harry met Meghan: The role of direct and extended contact in receptivity to cross-group romantic relationships |
| 3.10pm | Extended Q&A and discussion |
| 3.20pm [20 min] | Coffee Break [Prelude Foyer] |
| 3.40pm | Discussion Session Shared Theme: What is the value of intergroup contact in the new millennium? (extra guide provided on the day) <i>Facilitators: Fiona Barlow and Linda Tropp</i> [Promenade Ballroom] |
| 3.50pm (30 min) | Small Group Discussion with Unique Sub-Theme <i>Facilitators: ECRs</i> [Promenade Ballroom] <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Positive and negative contact 2. Minority/majority contact-collective action 3. Affective ties between groups and cross-group friendships 4. Contextual effects of contact and on contact 5. The role of threat/anxiety in contact 6. Contact and hate crimes 7. How to encourage contact (...) |
| 4.20pm (40 min) | Small Groups Report Back plus Facilitated Plenary Discussion <i>Facilitators: Fiona Barlow and Linda Tropp</i> [Promenade Ballroom] |
| 5.00pm | Break |
| 5.15pm (~1hr) | Aussie-Style Sport, Beach Volley, and Fun-Activities [Newcastle Beach] |
| 6.00pm (2hr) | BBQ Aussie style [The Kiosk, Newcastle Beach] |
| 8.00pm | Close |

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| | WEDNESDAY MAY 1 |
| (1.30hr) | <p align="center">Generalization Processes – Talks Session 6 <i>Chair: Miles Hewstone</i></p> <p align="center">ZOOM ID:638833373 – https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/638833373 [Promenade Ballroom]</p> |
| 8.30am S | [live-streamed talk] Hermann Swart: Mediators and Moderators of the Secondary Transfer Effect of Direct and Extended Contact: Evidence from majority- and minority-status South Africans |
| 8.50am B | Sybille Neji: Perceived outgroup entitativity as a moderator of intergroup contact effects |
| 9.00am S | Olivia Spiegler: Antagonistic secondary transfer effects of positive and negative intergroup contact |
| 9.20am B | Jessica Boin: Secondary transfer effect of positive and negative contact: the role of intergroup discrepancies and individual differences |
| 9.30am S | Rupar Mirjana: Primary and secondary transfer effects of direct and mass-mediated contact on forgiveness after dyadic and multiethnic conflicts via intergroup trust |
| 9.50am | Extended Q&A and discussion |
| 10.00am (50 min) | <p align="center">Poster Session 2 and Coffee Break <i>Chairs: Rhiannon Turner (and Fiona White)</i> [Prelude Foyer & Promenade Ballroom]</p> <p align="center">Poster presenters' 3 min speeches x 4 presenters (~ 15 min) Followed by poster display and informal interactions (~40 mn)</p> |
| P | Katrín Árnadóttir: The interplay of positive and negative intergroup contact: A minority perspective |
| P | Yasser Saeedian: Towards an integrated taxonomy of motivations to engage or disengage in intergroup contact |
| P | Elise Boccanfuso: Using E-Contact to reduce transgender prejudice in men |
| P | Zoe Leviston: Social markers of acceptance: Majority-culture versus immigrant expectations of what it takes to be 'Australian' |
| (1hr and 20 min) | <p align="center">Technological and Analytical Advancements – Talks Session 7 <i>Chair: Linda Tropp</i></p> <p align="center">ZOOM ID: 790299652 -- https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/790299652 [Promenade Ballroom]</p> |
| 10.50am S | Maria-Therese Friebs: Intergroup contact development: Disentangling between-person and within-person processes |
| 11.10am S | Chloe Bracegirdle: The effects of ingroup and outgroup friends on the development of outgroup attitudes: A five-wave longitudinal social network study |
| 11.30am B | Susan Watt: From first contact onwards: Monitoring community attitudes during refugee settlement in Armidale, Australia |
| 11.40am B | Claudia Zúñiga: Longitudinal analysis of communicational confrontation during protest cycles: An indirect form of contact |
| 11.50am | Extended Q&A and discussion |
| 12.00pm (20min) | <p align="center">Lunch [Prelude Foyer + Ballroom Promenade]</p> |

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| 12.20pm (30 min) | <p>Key Note: Reflections on a field in ferment: Where we have been, and where we are heading</p> <p>Miles Hewstone</p> <p>ZOOM ID: 658216211 – https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/658216211 [Prelude Foyer + Ballroom Promenade]</p> |
| 12.50pm (40min) | <p>Awards Presentation, Thank-You session, Lunch (continues)</p> <p>[Prelude Foyer + Ballroom Promenade]</p> |
| 1.30pm | <p>Close</p> |

LEGEND

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P and Green colour denotes poster presentation (3 minute talk plus informal interactions)

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Times in this program are expressed as Sydney Australian Eastern times. To convert these times to your local times, try this easy time converter: <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html?iso=20190227T100000&p1=240&p2=136>

SASP, SPSSI and conference organisers assume no responsibility or liability for any injury, loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of partaking to any of the activities outlined in this conference program.

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SESSION 2 – Emotions, Motivations, and Action in Contact**Intergroup contact, allyship and uptake of diversity initiatives in a human services organisation**

Tulsi Achia (Relationships Australia Queensland (RAQ) – Research department; The University of Queensland, Australia),
Winnifred. R. Louis (School of Psychology, The University of Queensland, Australia), Jemima Petch (Relationships Australia Queensland (RAQ), Australia), Aditi Lohan (Relationships Australia Queensland (RAQ), Australia).

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SHORT ABSTRACT

The present study surveyed the positive and negative consequences of intergroup contact, in the context of a human services organisation (N = 185). Positive intergroup contact was associated with greater allyship, uptake of diversity initiatives, past upskilling and future intentions to upskill, and yet lower bias awareness. Null associations were found with group privilege acknowledgment. Implications for inclusive practice will be discussed.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Human services organisations implementing diversity and inclusion programs, often attempt to understand gaps in their practice, by surveying diverse client groups and their perceptions. Missing in this approach, is understanding how intergroup contact, as experienced by employees – both generally and on the job, impacts attitudes and behaviours within the work context. The present study sought to survey the positive and negative consequences of employee intergroup contact with four disadvantaged client groups – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples, LGBTIQ+, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people, and People with Disabilities. The survey was conducted in the context of a human services organisation about to implement a comprehensive diversity and inclusion program for employees and clients. The sample consisting of administration, middle management and clinical workers (N = 185), were overall found to be low on social dominance and high on egalitarian ideologies. A nuanced picture of frequency and quality of intergroup contact emerged. On the one hand, positive intergroup contact was associated with both greater ideological allyship as well as demonstrations of allyship requiring sacrifice or discomfort, low intergroup anxiety, uptake of diversity initiatives in the organisation, past efforts towards focused upskilling and future intentions to upskill. On the other hand, null associations were found with group privilege acknowledgment. Further to that, it was associated with such blindspots as poor bias awareness. Implications for further theorising and application in real world settings will be discussed.

KEYWORDS

organisational intergroup contact, supportive contact, allyship, diversity and inclusion, skill development

The effects of negative and positive virtual intergroup contact on outgroup prejudice in online poker

Nadia Andrews (University of Canterbury, New Zealand),
Kumar Yogeeswaran (University of Canterbury, New Zealand), Kyle Nash (University of Alberta, Canada), Stefania Paolini (University of Newcastle, Australia)

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Participants experienced negative, positive, or no contact from an outgroup player whilst playing an “online” poker game specifically designed for this research. Results revealed that those who experienced negative virtual contact displayed more explicit outgroup prejudice relative to the other two conditions. However, participants in the no contact (control) condition displayed less implicit prejudice c.f. other two conditions.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Each day, hundreds of millions of interactions take place online between people from around the world. One context where millions of intergroup interactions take place is in online poker, where nationality is typically the only salient social identity. This provides a unique opportunity to examine how experiencing valenced contact from an anonymous outgroup player can affect outgroup attitudes and beliefs.

Method. An online poker game was specifically designed for this research, where we could play and chat with participants. Participants (N = 179) were recruited under the guise that they were going to play real online poker to learn more about judgement and decision making in the game. In actuality, the primary researcher posed as an outgroup player and would either make no comments in the chatbox (control condition), or make comments that were negatively, or positively valenced, directed towards the participants. After participants played the game, they completed manipulation checks, measures of explicit attitudes and beliefs, followed by an IAT to assess implicit attitudes, while wearing an EEG headset to examine the underlying psychological processes involved in virtual intergroup contact.

Results. Participants who experienced negative virtual intergroup contact had significantly less favourable explicit outgroup attitudes and beliefs compared to both the positive and control conditions. However, there were no differences in explicit attitudes and beliefs between those in the positive and control conditions. For implicit attitudes, there was significantly less prejudice in the control compared to both the negative and positive conditions, but no difference between the negative and positive conditions.

Conclusions. This study demonstrates that even brief negative virtual intergroup contact is sufficient for increasing negative explicit attitudes and beliefs towards an outgroup nation. For implicit prejudice, it may be that a cognitively demanding task increases implicit prejudice regardless of the valence of virtual intergroup contact.

KEYWORDS

negative contact, e-contact, implicit bias, explicit bias, online poker

The interplay of positive and negative intergroup contact: A minority perspective**Katrín Árnadóttir** (University of Leuven, Belgium)

Karen Phaet (University of Leuven, Belgium), Judit Kende (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands), Linda R. Tropp (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA), Thomas O'Brien

E-mail: katrin.arnadottir@kuleuven.be**SHORT ABSTRACT**

This study examines the interplay of two distinct forms of positive contact (intergroup friendship and less intimate friendly contact) with negative contact (discrimination) and their consequences for minorities' intergroup orientations. While intergroup friendship is robustly associated with positive intergroup orientations, friendly contact with outgroups is associated with less positive intergroup orientations when coupled with discrimination experiences.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Research indicates that among majority-group-members, positive intergroup contact may not only buffer the effects of negative intergroup contact (Paolini et al., 2014), but that the latter can potentially facilitate the benefits of positive interactions (Árnadóttir, Lolliot, Brown, & Hewstone, 2018). This study takes a less understood minority perspective on the interplay of positive and negative contact. Experiences of prejudice and discrimination may lead devalued-minority-group-members to enter intergroup interactions with less positive expectations (Tropp, 2003). By contrast, intergroup friendship – which is by definition more intimate in nature – tends to be associated with positive intergroup outcomes even in the presence of negative contact (Tropp, 2007; Voci, Hewstone, Swart, & Veneziani, 2015). We therefore predict that intergroup friendship will be associated with positive intergroup orientations, even in the face of negative contact experiences. However, less intimate forms of positive contact, such as generally friendly contact, may not be sufficient to promote positive intergroup orientations when intergroup experiences are more mixed, such as when friendly contact has been experienced alongside discrimination.

Method. 126 Latinx (10-14 years, Mage = 11.68), recruited from 53 classrooms in Massachusetts completed a questionnaire. We ran multilevel regression analyses controlling age and gender (individual-level), and majority-proportions (classroom-level).

Results. As expected, the positive effects of intergroup friendship on intergroup orientations were consistent and not affected by levels of discrimination. However, friendly contact with outgroups was associated with less positive intergroup orientations, such as increased anxiety and more ambivalent contact attitudes, among those who reported some personal-discrimination-experience.

Conclusions. Mixed experiences of intergroup interactions, including friendly contact as well as discrimination, may harm positive intergroup orientations among minority-members. By contrast, intergroup friendship was robustly associated with positive contact orientations. This suggests the importance of reducing discrimination and enabling intergroup friendship for minority-members, over and above friendly interactions, for mutually positive intergroup relations.

KEYWORDS

positive intergroup contact, negative intergroup contact, intergroup friendship, discrimination, intergroup orientations

SESSION 1 – Seeking Contact and Predictors of Contact

Increasing openness to contact after intergroup conflicts: The moral-exemplars approach

Marta Beneda (University of Cambridge, UK),

Marta Witkowska (University of Warsaw, Poland), Michal Bilewicz (University of Warsaw, Poland)

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Intergroup contact has been demonstrated to foster reconciliation among historically adversarial groups affected by violence. However, contact is very rare in post-conflict settings. In this research, we tested an intervention aimed at increasing openness to contact among historical perpetrators and victims in the context of the Armenian Genocide and WWII atrocities. The intervention employed narratives about historical moral exemplars.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Intergroup contact has been demonstrated to foster reconciliatory processes among historically adversarial groups affected by violence. However, contact is very rare in post-conflict settings, as both historical perpetrators and victims tend to engage in contact avoidance. Therefore, research looking at potential interventions, which could increase the openness to contact among former historical adversaries, seems to be of great importance.

Method. In the research to be discussed, we aimed to test whether an intervention based on an exposure to written narratives about moral exemplars (i.e., members of a perpetrator group who acted morally and in opposition to the passive or aggressive majority) would increase declared openness to contact among members of perpetrator and victim groups in the context of the Armenian Genocide and WWII atrocities.

Results. In Study 1 ($N = 73$), it was found that exposing Turkish students to information about ingroup members who saved Armenians during the Genocide led to a decrease in prejudice towards Armenians, which, in turn, resulted in higher openness to contact with members of that group. In Studies 2 ($N = 100$) and 3 ($N = 92$), Polish students were presented with narratives about German and Russian moral exemplars, respectively, in context of WWII, which resulted in an increase in openness to contact with members of these two groups. This effect was mediated by a decrease in prejudice (Studies 2 and 3) and by an increase in trust towards historical perpetrators (Study 2).

Conclusions. The current research suggests that moral-exemplars narratives have the potential to decrease prejudice among historically conflicted groups deprived of intergroup contact and, as an effect, promote readiness to engage in such contact.

KEYWORDS intergroup contact, moral exemplars, reconciliation

SESSION 4 – Indirect contact and Affect

Moved by observing the love of others: Kama muta evoked through media foster humanization of out-groups

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Interacting with out-groups through media has shown to improve intergroup relations. We investigated the emotions felt during parasocial contact on out-group humanization. More specifically, how kama muta (being moved by a sudden increase in interpersonal closeness) felt by watching out-group members interacting increases individual- and group-level humanization. We found that feeling kama muta, compared to amusement, increased out-group humanization.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Some media content is heart-warming, and leaves one feeling touched or moved. This positive social emotion, kama muta, is evoked by a sudden increase in interpersonal closeness (the relational model of communal sharing; A. P. Fiske, 2004). Because forming strong, close bonds exemplifies valued human qualities, and because other humans are our primary target partners of communal sharing, we predicted that feeling kama muta in response to observing communal sharing among outgroup strangers would increase humanization of them, through the process of parasocial intergroup contact.

Method and Results. We tested this in three studies showing videos of out-group members enacting communal sharing. In Study 1 we employed a two-step analysis approach: First, we used the formal data-driven procedure Random Forest to select which variables, from a pool of theoretically relevant variables, best predict humanization. Second, we obtained a SEM model that showed that videos depicting out-group members enacting communal sharing evoked kama muta and increased protagonist humanization. This, in turn, led to decreased blatant dehumanization of the entire out-group via perceived out-group warmth and motivation to develop a communal sharing relationship with the protagonist. The pre-registered Study 2 replicated this model using confirmatory analyses. The pre-registered Study 3 provided experimental, longitudinal evidence that 1) the relationship between protagonist humanization and kama muta is bidirectional such that baseline humanization of the protagonist also increases feelings of kama muta in response to moving videos; 2) watching moving videos, as compared to funny videos, increased protagonist humanization; and 3) moving videos, compared to funny videos, decreased out-group blatant dehumanization through the mediator out-group warmth.

Conclusions. Watching out-group members becoming closer evokes kama muta, which increases humanization of the group being presented, mediated through out-group warmth. These results indicate that the emotions evoked through parasocial contact contribute to intergroup harmony.

KEYWORDS moved, parasocial contact, media, out-group humanization, kama muta

Using e-contact to reduce transgender prejudice in men

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Rates of harassment, discrimination, and violence against transgender people are alarmingly high rates across the world. In such a context it is critical to reduce intergroup prejudice. The present research investigated quantity and quality of prior contact with transgender people, gender differences, and the effectiveness of experimental Electronic Contact in reducing transgender prejudice.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Transgender people experience significant discrimination compared to the cisgender population, marked by higher rates of harassment, violence, mental health problems, and suicide. While intergroup contact has been shown to effectively reduce prejudice, there is still limited experimental research on effective strategies to reduce prejudice towards transgender people. The present research explored both cooperative E-Contact on transgender prejudice in both undergraduate and community samples.

Methods. A novel procedure was developed to allow the E-Contact interaction to be completed online (instead of in the lab), allowing 77 cisgender, heterosexual First-year psychology undergraduates and 37 community members Australia-wide ($N = 114$) to complete the half-hour online experiment. Under a cover story about quality of life in Australia, personality, and social views, participants completed a male role norm endorsement scale, the E-Contact interaction with a transgender or cisgender virtual confederate, then measures of prior contact, and behavioural intentions and views towards transgender people.

Results. Most participants (60%) reported not personally knowing a transgender person. Of those knowing at least one, most reported their closeness and frequency of seeing each other as poor. This justifies the necessity of the research. Participants who had E-Contact with a transgender virtual confederate, controlling for quality of prior contact, reported significantly more positive behavioural intentions/views towards transgender people than those in no E-Contact conditions, and this improvement was significantly more marked for men.

Conclusions. Results indicate the importance and necessity of facilitating contact interventions, and the need to target prejudice-prone populations, such as men, in transgender prejudice reduction interventions.

KEYWORDS

intergroup contact, transgender, prejudice reduction, intergroup relations, gender differences

SESSION 6 – Generalization Processes

Secondary transfer effect of positive and negative contact: The role of intergroup discrepancies and individual differences

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SHORT ABSTRACT

We investigated the presence of the Secondary Transfer Effect originating from positive and negative contact and the psychological processes involved in its emergence. Alongside the presence of STE, we found evidence of moderation and mediation processes, involving respectively intergroup discrepancies and primary outgroup attitudes, as well as of moderated mediations. These effects were still present when controlling for individual differences.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. According to Secondary Transfer Effect (STE), contact experiences with a primary outgroup may be related to attitudes toward other groups not directly involved in the interaction. Although the presence of the STE was demonstrated in many studies, further investigation is needed concerning the differential effects of positive and negative contact experiences, the intergroup perceptions that favor the presence of the effect, and the possible role of individual dispositions usually related to contact and intergroup relations.

Method. 364 Italian adults completed a questionnaire measuring their positive and negative contact experiences with, and attitudes toward, immigrants in Italy (primary group), as well as their attitudes and quantity of contact in relation to three secondary groups (i.e., drug addicts, mentally ill people and homeless people). Participants were also asked to evaluate primary and secondary outgroups on 16 traits, in order to obtain a “discrepancy” measure (i.e., how much the secondary outgroups are perceived as different from the primary outgroup). Finally, the questionnaire included measures of individual differences relevant for intergroup relations (i.e., Social Dominance Orientation, Need for Closure, Agreeableness, values of Benevolence and Universalism).

Results. STE was found for all the three secondary outgroup, originating from both positive and negative contact. Moreover, intergroup discrepancies moderated the associations between positive contact with primary outgroup and attitudes toward secondary outgroups, as these associations were reliable only when the discrepancies between groups were low. Moderated mediation processes also emerged, as the association between positive contact and secondary outgroup attitudes was mediated by attitudes toward immigrants, and this effect was different as a function of discrepancy. These effects were still present after controlling for individual differences.

Conclusions. Our findings support the presence of the STE, providing at the same time new insights concerning the psychological processes involved in its emergence.

KEYWORDS

STE, positive and negative contact, attitudes, moderated mediation, individual differences

There's more than just contact: Investigating the role of volition in intergenerational contact

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SHORT ABSTRACT

This theoretical paper discusses the implications of volition in intergroup contact. Drawing from sparse findings from existing literature, we extend predictions about the impact and mechanisms of volition in intergenerational contact and present prospective studies to test these predictions.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Intergenerational contact can improve negative attitudes and stereotypes that young people hold toward older individuals, but in a world that is becoming age-segregated, this contact might be progressively less viable. A reduction in contact is known to play a role in maintaining ageist attitudes, thus increasing segregation. This impasse however might be overcome by determining the individual variables that play a role in engaging in intergenerational contact with volition. Volition is an internal process where individuals autonomously choose and initiate their actions; as a result, individuals become responsible for their chosen actions. However, what happens if an individual's autonomy, willingness, ability and degree of control is limited or influenced by another agent (e.g. a parent or employer) and is forced into contact? We expect that having volition/a lack of volition when engaging in intergenerational contact, will likely impact on the valance/pleasantness of the contact and also on group level attitudes held toward older individuals.

Method. This paper reviews existing research about the implications of volition in contact (e.g., voluntary contact is typically positive and moderates contact effects). Drawing on these findings, we advance predictions about the mechanisms of volition in intergenerational contact and put forth prospective studies to test these ideas.

Volition must be measured as a multi-dimensional construct and, if possible, experimentally manipulated to assess its (causal) role in influencing contact seeking, contact quality and attitudes post-intergroup contact. To measure volition, an individual's autonomy, willingness and ability to engage and degree of control the individual has when engaging in contact must be measured (Haggard, & Lau, 2013; Złotowski, Yogeewaran, & Bartneck, 2017). This proposed research will include web-based correlational studies (Study 1 and 2) as well as lab-based studies (Study 3, 4 and 5), with young adults from the University of Newcastle and those employed in aged-care facilities.

KEYWORDS

intergenerational contact, volition, ageism, workplace contact, aged care

SESSION 5 – Developmental and Intimacy-Building Processes in Contact

(Mis)understanding pro-social intergroup contact. The moderating role of normative concerns

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SHORT ABSTRACT

We investigated how intergroup norms influence how people in need understand intergroup contact situations in which ingroup vs. outgroup members offered to help them. Results show less pro-ingroup bias regarding attributed empathy and altruistic (vs. instrumental) motives, and willingness to accept the help, when ingroup norms were tolerant towards the outgroup and when the outgroup apologized for past misconduct.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Intergroup expectancies not only shape how people perceive and react towards others during intergroup contact situations but also how they believe others (Frey & Tropp, 2006) perceive them —meta-perception. When these expectancies are negative, research has shown a classical pro-ingroup bias, surprisingly even in pro-social interactions such as helping. Whereas past research has focused only on the helper's perspective, this research investigated how helpers understand and react to the help offered by ingroup versus outgroup members. Furthermore, past research indicates that intergroup expectancies and interactions are shaped not only by ingroup norms but also by outgroup norms. Accordingly, we hypothesized that people in need will understand and react more positively to pro-social intergroup contacts (i.e., an offered help) when ingroup norms are more positive towards the outgroup and the outgroup presents normative apologies for past intergroup misconduct.

Method. Five studies were conducted in Kosovo with Kosovar-Albanian participants (ingroup) . and Serbians (outgroup). In all studies we experimentally manipulated helper categorization (ingroup vs. outgroup). We additionally manipulated ingroup norms (negative vs. positive, Studies 2 & 4, control vs. positive, Study3) and outgroup apologies (normative vs. institutional vs. control; Study 5).

Results. Results showed that help receivers attribute less empathy and more instrumental motives to the outgroup (vs. ingroup) helper (Study 1), but this pattern was reduced both when ingroup norms are positive towards the outgroup (Studies 2, 3 & 4) and the outgroup offered normative apologies.

Conclusions. This research increases our understanding of the mechanisms by which people misunderstand intergroup contact situations such as outgroup prosocial behaviors, which might help to improve not only the quality of intergroup contact, but also intergroup relation and reconciliation in general.

KEYWORDS

intergroup contact, intergroup expectancies, ingroup norms, outgroup norms, intergroup reconciliation

SESSION 7 – Technological and Analytical Advancements

The effects of ingroup and outgroup friends on the development of outgroup attitudes: A five-wave longitudinal social network study

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SHORT ABSTRACT

We conducted a five-wave longitudinal social network study (N = 1170) to examine how outgroup and ingroup friendships influence the development and socialisation of outgroup attitudes in two diverse secondary schools. The findings demonstrate the importance of taking outgroup and ingroup contact into consideration when examining intergroup relations, and showcase what can be achieved using innovative social network analyses.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. An extensive body of research shows that outgroup contact improves intergroup relations, yet the corresponding influence of ingroup contact has been largely ignored. The few studies that have examined the effects of ingroup contact suggest it may decrease outgroup contact, increase ingroup bias and intergroup anxiety, and underlie prejudice socialisation. Our research provided a necessary holistic investigation of the development of outgroup attitudes by considering adolescents' social experiences with both ethnic ingroup and outgroup members. This was achieved through the use of longitudinal social network analysis.

Method. Five waves of data were collected over the academic year 2017-2018, in two diverse secondary schools in North West England. The 1170 respondents (829 Asian, 341 White; 558 male, 612 female; aged 11 to 14 years) were nested in 67 classes across three year-groups in the two schools. Students completed surveys approximately every eight weeks, which contained both network and self-report measures. Friendship networks within each school year group were elicited using peer nomination procedures, and contact was operationalised as the number of nominated ingroup and outgroup friends. Outgroup attitudes were measured via self-report.

Results. Cross-sectional and longitudinal network analyses (RSiena) revealed high levels of ethnic segregation and homophily, despite each school's diverse student body. As expected, we found outgroup attitudes to be similar among friends. We used multilevel models to estimate the divergent effects of ingroup and outgroup friendships on students' attitudes. We used RSiena co-evolution models to determine to what extent attitudinal similarity among friends resulted from friendship selection or socialisation processes. Together these analyses provided insights into the importance of friendships for spreading and shaping adolescents' outgroup attitudes.

Conclusions. The present research demonstrates the importance of taking ingroup contact into consideration when examining intergroup relations, and illustrates the value of innovative social network analyses in understanding prejudice development.

KEYWORDS

social network analysis, ingroup contact, peer influence, development, outgroup attitudes

SESSION 3 – Negative Contact and Valence Asymmetries

Contextual effect of positive and negative intergroup contact: A registered report

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SHORT ABSTRACT

The extended contact hypothesis suggests that social contexts, in which people have in general frequent positive intergroup contact, lead to positive intergroup attitudes over and above the effects of individual contact experiences with outgroup members. We aim to replicate and extend the findings of Christ et al. (2014) testing the contextual effect for both positive as well as negative intergroup contact using recent longitudinal survey data from the UK.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. The extended contact hypothesis suggests that social contexts, in which people have in general frequent positive intergroup contact, lead to positive intergroup attitudes over and above the effects of individual contact experiences with outgroup members. Christ et al. (2014) provided evidence for the contextual effect of positive intergroup contact based on survey data from a diverse range of social contexts. Moreover, these researchers showed that this effect can be partly explained with differences in social norms about intergroup relations. We aim to replicate and extend the findings of Christ et al. (2014) testing the contextual effect for both positive as well as negative intergroup contact.

Method. We will use recent longitudinal survey data from the UK that includes both a majority (White-British respondents) as well as a minority (British-Asians respondents) and will test the contextual effect for both positive and negative intergroup contact using latent-variable contextual models that integrate structural equation models and multilevel models.

Results. Data will be available in January 2019. Therefore, this presentation is a registered report.

Conclusions. We aim to replicate and extend the results of Christ et al. (2014) using recent longitudinal survey data from the UK that includes measures for both positive and negative intergroup contact.

KEYWORDS

intergroup contact, contextual effect of intergroup contact, positive and negative intergroup contact, social norms, multilevel analysis

SESSION 7 – Technological and Analytical Advancements

Intergroup Contact Development: Disentangling between-person and within-person processes

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Longitudinal data on intergroup contact and attitudes are essential to identify potentially causal effects. However, many analytical approaches modelling longitudinal effects (e.g., cross-lagged panel models, latent growth curve models) do not differentiate within-person processes and between-person differences, which might affect the models' results and interpretation. This presentation gives an empirical example of different modelling approaches and discusses their implications.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Longitudinal research analyzing potentially causal effects of intergroup contact on outgroup attitudes and vice versa has often relied on analytical approaches that have recently been criticized for not disentangling stable between-person differences and within-person processes over time (e.g., Curran, Howard, Bainter, Lane & McGinley, 2014 for latent growth curve models; Hamaker, Kuiper, & Grasman, 2015 for cross-lagged panel models). Thus, results of conventional models remain imprecise as to whether change relates to altered rank-orders between participants or shifts in experiences within individuals, and may lead to biased interpretations.

Method. A German representative large scale four-wave survey on positive and negative intergroup contact experiences and outgroup attitudes for four separate outgroups ($n_s > 800$) are analysed with structure equation models using conventional cross-lagged panel models (e.g., Little, 2013) and a recent advancement disentangling within-person and between-person variance (random-intercept cross-lagged panel models; Hamaker et al., 2015). Results of these nested models are compared.

Results. Models disentangling within-person and between-person variance consistently show better fit than conventional models. Moreover, the advanced models indicate the absence of numerous stability and cross-lagged effects observed in conventional models, indicating that the effects observed in conventional models often result from stable differences between participants rather than within-participant processes over time.

Conclusions. While these findings do not question the general assumptions about the relations between positive and negative intergroup contact and outgroup attitudes, disentangling within-person processes over time and stable between-person differences is essential for correctly interpreting coefficients between these constructs and drawing adequate conclusions. This appears specifically relevant in the evaluation of intergroup contact interventions and other settings that intend to provoke changes in intergroup contact and outgroup attitudes on a personal level.

KEYWORDS

longitudinal contact development, cross-lagged panel model, intra-personal processes, stability, structural equation modelling

SESSION 2 – Emotions, Motivations, and Action in Contact

Identity fusion moderates the effect of negative contact on intergroup orientations

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Identity fusion -a visceral feeling of oneness with a group- predicts extreme pro-group behavior that represent efforts to protect the ingroup rather than harm the outgroup. Five studies provide evidence that strongly fused only display negative orientations toward the outgroup when they perceive a threat to the group in the form of negative types of intergroup contact.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Identity fusion is a visceral feeling of oneness with a group. Although fusion predicts extreme pro-group behavior such as fighting and dying for the group, such behaviors represent efforts to protect the ingroup rather than harm the outgroup. Support for this possibility comes from evidence that strongly fused transform their allegiance to the ingroup into harming the outgroup only when negative experiences with the outgroup are salient.

Method. Two correlational studies and 3 experiments examined Spanish participant's perceptions of members of two outgroups, gypsies (1a) or immigrants (1b). Studies 1a-1b examined the effects of fusion, contact experiences, negative attitudes toward the outgroup, and perception of the outgroup as a threat. Studies 2&3 tested whether the valence (positive or negative) of depersonalized extended contact (learning that ingroup members in general have outgroup friends, DEC) moderated the effects of fusion on attitudes toward the outgroup, perceived unsafety, and willingness to fight against the outgroup. Study 4 tested the effects of negative extended contact (EC) on attitudes and willingness to fight against the source of threat. Studies 2-4 controlled these effects for prior contact.

Results. Fusion was unrelated to negative attitudes toward the outgroup and perception of the outgroup as a potential threat (Studies 1a&1b). Positive DEC reduced negative attitudes towards immigrants for weakly fused (Study 2), whereas negative DEC increased negative attitudes toward immigrants and perceived unsafety for strongly fused (Study 3). The effect of negative DEC on attitudes for strongly fused was mediated by perceived unsafety. Finally, negative EC increased negative attitudes and willingness to fight against the outgroup, but not against other outgroups (Study 4).

Conclusions. Our research provides evidence that strongly fused only display negative orientations toward the outgroup when they perceive a threat to the group in the form of negative types of intergroup contact.

KEYWORDS

identity fusion, intergroup contact, extended contact, depersonalized extended contact, outgroup aggression.

SESSION 2 – Emotions, Motivations, and Action in Contact

Multinational study on contact and support for social change

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SHORT ABSTRACT

This preregistered study spanning 10,977 participants from 23 countries found that contact is associated with more support for social change among advantaged group, but with less support among disadvantaged groups. Moreover, satisfaction of group-specific needs was positively associated with support among all groups. Yet, specification curve analysis revealed variability in effect sizes.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Using a wide net of measures and applying specification curve analysis, this study surveyed participants from 23 countries ($N = 10,977$) in the context of ethnicity and sexual orientation/gender identity. We found support for the preregistered hypotheses that intergroup contact is associated with more support for social change among advantaged group, but with less support for social change among disadvantaged groups. However, adding on previous analyses, the current work found that the size and even the direction of the effect varied substantially depending on the measures of contact and support for social change. In addition, satisfaction of need for empowerment was positively associated with support for social change among disadvantaged groups.

Thus, this study supports the balanced view that despite its demobilizing effects, contact might facilitate social change through increasing willingness to work in solidarity among both groups. However, if the aim is to encourage a wider range of behaviors to promote and support social change among disadvantaged groups, it seems essential that the contact is not just pleasant but addresses structural inequalities and group-specific needs.

Moreover, application of specification curve analysis in this large and heterogeneous sample did not only provide answers regarding the reliability and robustness of the relations between contact and support for social change. It also allowed us to detect systematic patterns which establish a more complete understanding of societal phenomena. Approaches similar to ours could help advance social sciences, make them more transparent, increase the credibility of results, and refine theories.

KEYWORDS

WEDNESDAY MAY 1 – 12.20 pm

KEY NOTE PRESENTATION

Reflections on a field in ferment: Where we have been, and where we are heading

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SESSION 2 – Emotions, Motivations, and Action in Contact

Building trust: Does positive contact help to overcome distrust in the police?

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Can positive contact between police and minority members improve distrustful relations predicted by the perceived bias of the police? This research, conducted in the USA, surveyed three neighborhoods of different racial compositions, regarding their trust and experience in the police. It was found that non-racial bias could be ameliorated through positive contact, but not perceived racial bias.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. When it comes to trust in the police, group membership matters: Previous research shows consistently that members from minority communities trust police less than members from majority communities. Perceived bias of the police predict some of the lower trust of the minority members.

Empirical findings indicate that trust is multidimensional and it can be conceptualized through the five dimensions competence, integrity, compassion, compatibility and security. Trust in the police can be eroded and strengthened through any of these dimensions. This study examines, if positive contact with the police can improve trust and if such interactions hold the potential to ameliorate predictors of lower trust and which dimension of trust is affected.

Method. 350 participants were surveyed in three Boston neighborhoods of differing racial composition.

Results. Black participants trusted the police less than Whites. The perceived bias of the police predicted both minority and majority trust. Mediation analysis showed that positive interaction with the police can ameliorate the impact of perceived non-racial related bias but not the impact of perceived racial bias. Positive contact affects different dimensions of trust, depending on group membership: compassion-based trust for Black American, but competence-based trust for Whites.

Conclusions. The findings indicate that positive contact can ameliorate to some extent distrust, which is embedded in the larger societal context of group asymmetries. Furthermore, this work replicates previous findings, minorities and majorities experiences different types of trust in the police, which has implication for interventions.

KEYWORDS

intergroup trust, contact, police, minority majority asymmetries

SESSION 1 – Seeking Contact and Predictors of Contact

Social norms and willingness to engage in intergroup contact

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SHORT ABSTRACT

We portray a research program addressing the relationship between social norms and intergroup contact. Applying a multilevel approach, we studied whether equality-oriented social norms transported by institutions can move individuals towards intergroup contact. We present results from one cross-sectional study conducted in different British neighbourhoods ($N = 650$), one cross-national survey study ($N = 30,000$) and one experimental study ($N = 1,000$).

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. A plethora of studies has shown that intergroup contact reduces prejudice. Comparably less is known about predictors of intergroup contact. Building on the proposed importance of institutional support for intergroup contact we argue that equality norms transported by institutions such as state governments or local councils predict majority members' engagement in intergroup contact. Put differently, we expect that individuals are more likely to engage in (positive) intergroup contact if institutions in their social context convey egalitarian norms.

Method. In Study 1, we used multilevel modelling to investigate whether ethnic minority members' perceptions of equal treatment by institutions on a neighbourhood-level predict frequency of ethnic majority members' positive intergroup contact with minority members. In Study 2, we combined data from the 2014 European Social Survey with objective migration policies on a national level to study the relationship between policies and ethnic majority members' frequency of positive contact. Aiming at addressing the causal effect of institutional norms on intergroup contact, Study 3 experimentally investigated the effect of vignettes describing local institutional behaviour towards ethnic minority members and ethnic majority participants' contact intentions.

Results. Results indicate that equal treatment by institutions on a neighbourhood-level, liberal migration policies on a national level, and descriptions of egalitarian institutional behaviour positively affect majority members' frequency of contact with members of ethnic outgroups. Results were robust when controlling for contact opportunities and other relevant individual- and contextual-level controls.

Conclusions. Our research underlines the role of social norms for intergroup relations in general and intergroup contact specifically. Based on our findings we discuss future avenues for research on predictors of intergroup contact.

KEYWORDS intergroup contact, social norms, extended contact, diversity, multilevel analysis

Intergroup contact in deliberative contexts: A field experiment in Northern Ireland

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Structured intergroup communication that occurs in a deliberative discussion setting can be an effective method for improving intergroup relations. This paper follows an earlier attempt (see Kim, Fishkin, & Luskin, 2018) to conceptualize this unique kind of contact as deliberative contact, and examines its effectiveness in a field experiment in Northern Ireland. Differences between minority and majority groups are highlighted.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background: Along a spectrum of contact experiences lies one particular kind of contact that might occur during deliberative discussions. Deliberative discussions are public consultation exercises that sometimes take place prior to important policy decisions. It gathers ordinary citizens together to discuss their views based on facts and reason. Encountering outgroup members in such contexts is a unique form of contact, as it is not organic (i.e., does not occur naturally) and typically short-term. Yet it may be a positive platform for intergroup contact since well-designed deliberation interventions closely resemble optimal contact conditions. This study examines deliberative contact effects among Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.

Method: This study utilizes pre-existing data collected from a deliberative intervention that took place in the Omagh district of Northern Ireland in January 2007. Catholic (n=79) and Protestant (n=44) parents were invited to attend a deliberation session to discuss policies regarding the local school system. Discussions were held in randomly assigned small groups, some of which afforded an opportunity for intergroup contact while others did not.

Results: Results show significant positive contact effects among the Catholics, who were the numerical majority group in Omagh, but not among Protestants. Catholics who deliberated together with Protestants showed greater support for school integration, as compared to Catholics who did not have deliberative contact. In addition, Catholics who had deliberative contact showed greater argument repertoire—a measure of opinion quality—compared to those who did not have deliberative contact. However, deliberative contact did not affect their perceptions toward the outgroup.

Conclusions: This study finds that contact that occurs in deliberative settings can help overcome tensions and generate support for more integrative solutions, at least for the majority group. Given the growing interest and implementation of structured encounters, greater research is needed to better understand the processes and effects of this unique form of contact.

KEYWORDS

intergroup contact, deliberation, structured intergroup communication, Northern Ireland, field experiment

SESSION 1 – Seeking Contact and Predictors of Contact

Intergroup contact opportunities lead to more frequent positive and negative contact, but also more outgroup rejection

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Latent-growth-curve and parallel-process-modelling showed that the frequency of positive and negative intergroup contact with refugees increased with increased contact opportunities; yet so did outgroup rejection. The changes in contact were largely unrelated to the changes in outgroup rejection. This highlights that increased contact opportunities can contribute to worse intergroup relation, despite of changes in the frequency of valenced intergroup contact.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Around the globe, increased forced migrations provides receiving society members with increased opportunities for contact with forced migrants. In this research, we investigated the dynamics of increased opportunities for contact with forced migrants, positive and negative contact experiences, and outgroup rejection.

Method: We investigated our research question with two three-wave longitudinal studies (Study 1, N = 183; Study 2 N = 758) conducted in Germany using latent growth curve and parallel process analyses.

Results. In both studies, the rejection of forced migrants increased with increased contact opportunities. Although the frequency of positive and negative intergroup contact increased with increased opportunities, these changes were largely unrelated to the increases in outgroup rejection. Outgroup rejection increased less when participants had frequent positive, or frequent negative intergroup contact experiences prior to increased contact opportunities, although not consistently across all rejection domains we examined. Similarly, participants rejecting forced migrants less before contact opportunities increased reported more positive, and less negative contact experiences later, yet not robustly across rejection variables and studies.

Conclusions. This was the first study that tested these postulations using latent growth curve and parallel process modelling. Our findings highlight that increased contact opportunities can contribute to increased outgroup rejection, and that further mechanisms beyond mere frequency of positive and negative intergroup contact need to be considered for explaining the increases in outgroup rejection that follow from increased contact opportunities.

KEYWORDS

intergroup contact opportunities, frequency of valenced contact, latent growth curve modelling, refugees

SESSION 3 – Negative Contact and Valence Asymmetries

Negative interethnic contact and the consequences of ethnic neighbourhood composition for trust, cohesion, and prejudice

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SHORT ABSTRACT

With data on White and Asian British, we show that neighbourhood composition indirectly influences cohesion, trust, and prejudice, via positive contact; that positive and negative contact do not occur in the same neighbourhoods; and that negative contact does not increase with outgroup size as positive contact does. Ethnic segregation, economic deprivation, and ethnic threat are controlled for.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Results on the relationship between ethnic neighbourhood composition and cohesion, trust, and prejudice remain inconclusive. In an important contribution, recent studies have gone beyond direct, neighbourhood-level effects of composition, and included positive interethnic contact as an individual-level mediator. We further extend on this research by also including negative interethnic contact.

Method. We employ multilevel SEM with individuals nested in neighbourhoods, on a newly collected dataset in the UK which consists of 1520 White and 1474 Asian British participants. Neighbourhoods are operationalized as MSOAs. We further include neighbourhoods' ethnic segregation and economic deprivation, and individuals' levels of perceived ethnic threat.

Results. Negative interethnic contact is not affected by ethnic neighbourhood composition; not for White nor Asian British people.

For White British, living in neighbourhoods with a relatively high percentage of Asians is related to more positive interethnic contact, in a quadratic, bell-shaped manner; and is thereby indirectly associated with more cohesion, more trust, and less prejudice.

Although not a function of neighbourhood composition, Asian people who have more positive contact also score higher on trust, cohesion, and lower on prejudice. Conversely, White and Asian people who have more negative interethnic contact score lower on trust, cohesion, and higher on prejudice.

Both White and Asian British people are generally trusting, not prejudiced or threatened, and perceive their neighbourhoods as cohesive. Living amongst neighbours with a different ethnicity does not directly undermine this.

Economic deprivation, ethnic segregation, and ethnic threat generally do not influence cohesion, trust, or prejudice.

Conclusions. Living in neighbourhoods with outgroup members only indirectly affects White British people's sense of cohesion, trust, and prejudice because it positively influences the amount of positive interethnic contact they have. Negative interethnic contact is not a function of neighbourhood composition, but people who have more negative interethnic contact do score lower on cohesion, trust, and outgroup attitudes.

KEYWORDS negative interethnic contact; neighbourhood composition; cohesion; trust; prejudice

SESSION 3 – Negative Contact and Valence Asymmetries

The relative frequency of positive and negative contact: A meta-analytic test of general trend and context-sensitivity from an ecological outlook

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Through a meta-analysis of published research we assessed the relative frequency of positive (vs. negative) contact and moderation by contact type, country-level government orientation, media market concentration, and economic inequality. Preliminary findings detected an overall positive valence asymmetry in prevalence that is more pronounced for direct (vs. indirect) contact, in countries that have greater media pluralism, and are economically unequal (not equal).

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background: Intergroup contact research is broadening toward cross scales of inquiry; this research aimed to contribute to this trend. We capitalised on recent assessments of negative contact alongside positive contact to posit a metric for harmony, in terms of the relative frequency of these contact valences (Graf, Paolini, & Rubin, 2014). Drawing from the information ecology approach (Fiedler, 2007), we expected to detect an overall positive asymmetry in prevalence across studies that is attenuated when contact is indirect (vs. direct), takes place under conservative governments, and contexts characterised by greater media concentration and economic inequality.

Method: A meta-analytic test of positive valence asymmetry in contact prevalence was carried out aggregating research published between 2009 and 2018. Moderation by contact type (direct/indirect), national government orientation (conservative/liberal), national media market concentration (Herfindahl-Hirschman Index), and economic inequality (Gini index) was also assessed. Studies including self-reports of positive and negative intergroup contact frequency were identified via targeted search of PsycINFO (28 individual samples, $N = 7,469$), coded and analysed in Comprehensive Meta-Analysis (CMA-3). A cross-national comparative approach was used to explore macro-level effects.

Results: We observed an overall positive asymmetry in prevalence characterised by significant heterogeneity. As expected, positive asymmetry was larger for direct than indirect contact and in national contexts with less media concentration. Contrary to predictions, government orientation had no moderation effect and economic inequality displayed a positive, not a negative, pattern of association with positive asymmetries.

Conclusions: Results suggest that socially-mediated processes can contribute to the salience of negative contact and group stereotypes, and that concentration of media markets is detrimental to intergroup harmony. Our observations were consistent with information ecology, a theoretical framework untested in contact research; they also demonstrate that cross-national comparative approaches are a useful addition to the toolkit of contact researchers to discern macro-level effects.

KEYWORDS

negative contact, information ecology, scales of inquiry, indirect contact, media, media ownership

Social markers of acceptance: Majority-culture versus immigrant expectations of what it takes to be ‘Australian’

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SHORT ABSTRACT

What characteristics, or markers, make someone Australian? And is there consensus between what ‘locals’ think makes one Australian, and what immigrants think makes one Australian? We present two studies (N=1357; N=191) on majority-culture and immigrant perceptions of the importance of a range of social markers and probe their relationship with immigrants’ perceived ‘fit’ and self-reported stress.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. ‘Social markers’ are the attributes or characteristics that are seen as important for immigrants to have or to do, in order to be accepted like a local-born citizen. Markers might include cultural, social, linguistic, economic, and other content. Here we present findings from our ongoing research into social markers of acceptance in Australia in order to better understand i) what is expected of immigrants by majority-culture members ii) what immigrants think is expected of them iii) immigrants’ perceived degree of ‘fit’ with these markers, and iv) how lack of fit relates to immigrant stress.

Method. In two online studies, we examined perceptions of 53 social markers among 1) a representative sample of majority members (people identifying as “White”, “Australian”, or a variant thereof; N = 1357) and 2) a sample of immigrants (students who were born overseas and were Australian citizens or Permanent Residents; N = 191).

Results. We found a high degree of consistency of endorsement of the social marker items across the majority and immigrant samples. Despite indicating a high degree of fit with the markers overall, there was a significant negative correlation between degree of perceived fit (total) and stress for immigrant participants. Moreover, several markers deemed as having a low degree of fit by immigrants are important to majority-culture members; most notably, the markers ‘behaves like an Australian’, ‘participates in local politics’, and ‘gives up foreign cultural norms or behaviours’.

Conclusions. Our findings suggest that some characteristics of ‘what makes one Australian’ are consensually agreed upon, yet difficult for immigrants to attain. The results will be discussed in terms of majority members’ expectations of immigrants, and how this might impact on immigrants’ wellbeing.

KEYWORDS social markers, acculturation, immigrant wellbeing

SESSION 4 – Indirect Contact and Affect

Testing a school-based vicarious contact intervention in three countries: Does it matter how the students perceive the facilitator's engagement?

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SHORT ABSTRACT

The study tested the effectiveness of a vicarious contact intervention implemented in three different national settings and examined the extent to which the students' perceptions of the facilitator's engagement have an effect on the intervention. The results showed that students who perceived the facilitator to be highly engaged held more positive outgroup attitudes after the intervention.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Although indirect forms of contact have been shown to reduce prejudice, the implementation of such interventions in practice can be challenging as the impact of school interventions might be moderated by several factors, such as the cultural/demographic context or the characteristics of the facilitator. This study tested the effectiveness of a vicarious contact intervention implemented in three national settings: Finland, Italy and Slovakia. Furthermore, it is the first study to test whether the students' perceptions of the facilitator's engagement have an effect on an intervention to improve interethnic attitudes in schools.

Method. The field experiment was conducted among secondary school students belonging to the national majority group (NFinland = 360; NSlovakia = 216; NItaly = 113). Classes within schools were allocated into control and experimental groups, both groups participating in pre- and post-test. Facilitators, who were either teachers or research assistants, conducted one intervention session per week for four consecutive weeks. During these sessions, vicarious observation of positive intergroup contact was utilized through written stories told by peer models.

Results. The intervention had no direct effect on outgroup attitudes. Instead, the students' perceptions of the facilitator's engagement in the intervention contributed positively to intervention effects, as participants who perceived the facilitator to be highly engaged held more positive outgroup attitudes after the intervention than those perceiving the facilitator to be less engaged. However, this finding was obtained only in Finland and Slovakia where the facilitators were teachers.

Conclusions. Our results regarding the perceived engagement of the facilitator relates to the contact literature in which support from authorities is considered a central condition contributing to the extent to which contact reduces prejudice. By stressing the impact of the facilitator in producing intervention effects, our results contribute to the understanding of successful implementation of prejudice-reduction programs.

KEYWORDS vicarious contact, indirect contact, intervention, prejudice-reduction, facilitator

SESSION 5 – Developmental and Intimacy-Building Processes in Contact**Modulating responses to chronic social exclusion: How inter/intra-group social contacts shape asylum seekers' responses**

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SHORT ABSTRACT

In this study, we recruited a sample of asylum seekers and investigated how their social contacts with the hosting population and within their national group moderate the relation between experiences of chronic exclusion and feelings of resignation. Results suggest that different degrees of social contact in the two networks influenced the link between experiences of exclusion and negative psychological outcomes.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Research on social exclusion has largely focused on short-time manipulations showing how brief instances of social disconnection fuel negative emotions and impair self-regulation (Baumeister et al., 2005), increase aggression (Twenge et al., 2001) and reduce prosocial behaviors (Maner et al., 2007). Williams (2009) theorized that individuals when facing chronic social exclusion, would inescapably enter a resignation stage, characterized by feelings of alienation, depression, unworthiness, and helplessness. However, there is a current lack of empirical studies (1) supporting this link and (2) investigating possible factors moderating the relationship between chronic exclusion and the resignation stage. In the present self-reported survey, we recruited 111 asylum seekers (a population at risk for experiencing chronic exclusion), and we investigated, how their close social contacts with Italians (the hosting population) and within their national group moderate the relation between chronic exclusion and the resignation stage. Firstly, the results confirmed the link between social exclusion and resignation. However, we found that the strength of this link was moderated by social contact with the different groups. Specifically, asylum seekers reporting a larger and stronger network of social contacts with the hosting population and a relatively smaller network of social contacts with people of their own nationality showed a weaker association between their current experiences of social exclusion and the resignation stage. By contrast, those with a greater number of social contacts with their national members and a relatively smaller network of the hosting population showed a stronger association between current experiences of exclusion and the resignation stage. Overall, these results suggest the need to take into account potential moderating factors even when considering responses to chronic (rather than short-term) experiences of exclusion. Moreover, they inform current models of social integration by considering the key role of social contacts within the hosting populations and their own national group.

KEYWORDS immigration, social contacts, intergroup relation, culture, acculturation

SESSION 5 – Developmental and Intimacy-Building Processes in Contact

Reducing internalised stigma with intergroup contact

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Intergroup contact is typically used to reduce prejudice between groups. However, positive contact with members of one's own group has the potential to reduce internalised prejudice – the prejudice members of stigmatised groups direct towards themselves. We consider the mechanisms that might underlie this process, discuss preliminary research in relation to internalised mental health stigma, and suggest directions for future research.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Meta-analyses have shown that intergroup contact can reduce the stigmatising beliefs about mental illness that are held by the public. But people with mental illness must also contend with the stigma they have internalised– called self-stigma. Self-stigma in people with mental illness is a substantial barrier to treatment-seeking and adherence and is correlated with low self-esteem and self-efficacy. Current clinical and non-clinical interventions reduce self-stigma by either directly or indirectly challenging stereotypes. Thus, they seem to operate via similar mechanisms as intergroup contact. If contact can be used to reduce both public and internalised stigma, then these strategies are even more valuable than previously thought.

Method. Over 1000 eligible Australian adults, representing a wide variety of mental health diagnoses, completed the online survey (Mage = 33.95, SD = 13.17; 54% female, 42.3% male). Participants reported on the quantity of contact with peers and the typicality of contacted peers, then completed measures of internalised stigma, self-esteem, self-efficacy, and help-seeking intentions.

Results. We tested a moderated serial mediation model using PROCESS for SPSS with peer contact as the independent variable, self-stigma agreement and application as the mediating variables, and self-stigma harm, self-esteem, self-efficacy, and help-seeking intentions as the outcome variables. Peer typicality was tested as a moderator for the effect of peer contact on the mediating and outcome variables, but only moderated the direct effect of contact on self-stigma harm. Specifically, more contact with more stereotypical peers relative to counter-stereotypical peers was related to increased harm. Overall, there was some evidence that contact can reduce self-stigma and thereby improve self-esteem, self-efficacy, and intentions to seek help.

Conclusions. Contact with members of one's ingroup has the potential to reduce self-stigma in people with mental illness. We will consider the implications for other stigmatised groups and discuss future empirical studies to test the hypothesis.

KEYWORDS intergroup contact, internalised stigma, self-stigma, mental illness, typicality

SESSION 5 – Developmental and Intimacy-Building Processes in Contact

Beyond prejudice: Contact and friendship effects on youth education and health outcomes.

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Relatively little is known about the effects of contact beyond prejudice reduction. Across two longitudinal studies, amongst 11 and 14 year old in England, the relationship between contact, diverse friendships and education and health outcomes are examined. Results demonstrate the power of intergroup contact and of having diverse friendships on positive outcomes for both majority and minority group members.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. The social environment is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse, and yet, a comprehensive understanding of the effects of contact and diverse friendships on children's outcomes is currently missing. Addressing this gap, the current paper presents data from two studies that consider the relationship between friendships, intergroup contact, education and health for both majority and minority group youth.

Method. Over two-time points using a survey design, Study 1 examines the relationship between intergroup contact, social attitudes and educational aspirations and efficacy amongst 700 x 11 year olds (Black, White, Asian) attending schools in England. Study 2 extends this understanding by integrating national data alongside the UK Millennium Cohort Study, to examine the development of ethnic friendships and the effects of such friendships, on health and educational aspirations amongst 4728 White and 1773 Black, Asian, minority ethnic [BAME] young people in England, who completed a survey aged 11 and 14.

Results. Study 1 findings demonstrate a positive relationship between outgroup contact and social attitudes as well as contact and academic self-efficacy for Blacks, Whites and Asians. The contact-educational aspirations relationship differed by ethnic group. No changes were observed over time. Study 2 preliminary findings demonstrate that ethnically diverse friendships decline from age 11 to 14 for all groups and that children who have only outgroup friendships have poorer physical health, lower wellbeing, poorer mental health and lower aspirations for higher education than those with more diverse friendships.

Conclusions. Together, these studies demonstrate the power of intergroup contact and of having ethnically diverse friendships in promoting positive outcomes beyond prejudice reduction for both majority and minority group members. Based on these findings, we argue that it is vital to develop a deeper understanding of how different interpersonal and contextual factors influence friendship patterns and outcomes for both minority and majority youth.

KEYWORDS youth, education

SESSION 6 – Generalization Processes

Perceived outgroup entitativity as a moderator of intergroup contact effects

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SHORT ABSTRACT

We introduce perceived entitativity (Campbell, 1958) as an important moderator of intergroup contact effects. Three studies provide supporting evidence that higher perceived outgroup entitativity was associated with a stronger relation between intergroup contact and outgroup attitudes. The moderating effect of perceived outgroup entitativity was observable over and above the well-established moderators typicality of the outgroup member and group membership salience.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Perceived entitativity influences the processing of information and the transference of traits from one group member to other group members. We suggest that perceiving a group as highly entitative facilitates the generalization of information and the contact experiences with an individual outgroup members is more likely to generalize to the general outgroup.

Method. We tested our assumption in two cross-sectional survey studies (Study 1, random sample of Northern Ireland, N = 884; Study 2, cross-sectional online-survey, N = 238 German participants) and one experimental study (N = 330; 3 [outgroup entitativity: high vs. low vs. control] x 2 [contact: positive vs. negative] between subject design).

Results. In Study 1, higher perceived outgroup entitativity was associated with a stronger relation between intergroup contact and outgroup attitudes. Results of Study 2 replicated this pattern and showed that the moderating effect was observable even after controlling for the well-established moderators typicality of the outgroup member and group membership salience. Study 3 confirmed experimentally the moderating role of entitativity: The generalization of positive intergroup contact was significantly stronger for a high entitative outgroup compared to a low entitative outgroup.

Conclusions. Our results suggest that perceived outgroup entitativity plays a key role in facilitating the generalization of positive intergroup contact experiences to the outgroup as a whole. The moderational effect was observable over and above the established moderators group membership salience and typicality of the outgroup member.

KEYWORDS

intergroup contact effects, perceived outgroup entitativity, moderator of intergroup contact, generalization of contact effects, intergroup attitudes

SESSION 1 – Seeking Contact and Predictors of Contact

Virtual reality intergroup contact: An examination of intergroup anxiety and willingness to approach a modern contact choice

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Across two studies, it was shown that intergroup anxiety is a stronger deterrent of engaging in direct intergroup contact in comparison to a novel virtual reality intergroup contact (VRIC). These results highlight that technologically-mediated intergroup contact is a viable alternative for individuals that would otherwise avoid face-to-face interactions with outgroup members due to high anxiety.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Individuals high in intergroup anxiety tend to avoid direct interactions with outgroup members. Indirect forms of contact have been proposed to be less anxiety provoking and, therefore, more palatable to individuals who otherwise avoid outgroup members. The present research thus examined people's willingness to engage in a novel type of indirect intergroup contact, Virtual Reality Intergroup Contact (VRIC), and compared it to direct, face-to-face contact. Across two studies, it was expected that intergroup anxiety would have a stronger relationship with willingness to approach direct contact in comparison to VRIC.

Method. Self-report surveys were completed by Australian University (N = 478) and American online (N = 450) samples. Participants reported their level of intergroup anxiety, willingness to engage in activities involving Muslims in real life and when using a virtual reality headset, and potential motivators for engaging in VRIC (i.e., attitudes toward technology) and face-to-face contact (i.e., social anxiety).

Results. Path analysis was conducted using Mplus. In both samples, higher levels of intergroup anxiety was significantly and negatively related to willingness to approach both VRIC ($\beta_{\text{AUS}} = -.21$; $\beta_{\text{USA}} = -.15$) and face-to-face intergroup contact ($\beta_{\text{AUS}} = -.31$; $\beta_{\text{USA}} = -.31$) whilst controlling for social anxiety and attitude towards technology. Wald's test of parameter equality determined that the negative relationship between intergroup anxiety and willingness to approach VRIC was significantly weaker than the relationship between intergroup anxiety and willingness to approach face-to-face contact.

Conclusions. These results suggest that intergroup anxiety is a significant deterrent for interacting with outgroup members across different contexts (i.e., in real life and via technology). However, VRIC may provide a less aversive contact-choice for participants who would otherwise avoid face-to-face intergroup contact due to higher levels of anxiety.

KEYWORDS

intergroup anxiety, intergroup contact, indirect contact, contact seeking, virtual reality

SESSION 1 – Seeking Contact and Predictors of Contact

Self-selection processes moderate the contact valence asymmetries: Preliminary meta-analytical results from published contact data

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Self-selection processes have been treated as methodological artifacts ‘polluting’ causality inferences about the contact-prejudice relationship; in this research we made them a prime focus of investigation. We report meta-analytic tests of valence asymmetry in published contact research (samples 70; N = 27,456) and evidence that self-selection processes moderate valenced contact-prejudice links allowing for negative valence asymmetries in impact to manifest.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. It is established that face-to-face intergroup contact can reduce intergroup prejudice and discrimination. Recently, a negative valence asymmetry in impact has been observed in a limited number of contact studies (e.g., Barlow et al., 2012) and in a meta-analysis of experimental tests of mediated contact (Paolini & McIntyre, 2018). This evidence suggests that the detrimental effects of negative outgroup experiences might be larger than the beneficial effects of positive outgroup experiences. We wished to examine this phenomenon meta-analytically to see whether these asymmetries present across available intergroup contact data—offering ample opportunities for self-selection—as well as test whether these asymmetries are moderated by individuals’ ability and willingness to self-select to such contact. In this, our intention was to elevate self-selection from a threat to contact research’s internal validity, to processes that deserve prime attention as relevant to whether contact will be taken up (or relinquished) and potentially impacting on contact’s downstream consequences on group-level responses.

Method. A strict eligibility screening identified 70 published contact studies (27,456 participants), between 1942 and 2018, that included neat operationalizations of valenced contact and group-level outcomes. These studies were coded along indicators of self-selection.

Results. Meta-analytical tests in Comprehensive Meta-analysis found that positive contact predicted prejudice reductions and negative contact prejudice exacerbations; but no overall valence asymmetry emerged. As predicted, valenced contact interacted with self-selection: A significant negative valence asymmetry was detected in studies allowing participants to opt in and in studies allowing participants to opt out of contact; no asymmetry was observed in studies not allowing for self-selection.

Conclusions. This pattern suggests that the detrimental effects of negative contact might be most pernicious in unstructured, unmonitored settings where individuals are able or freer to express their willingness to self-select. Hence, it confirms that self-selection processes are more than methodological artifacts, ‘polluting’ inferences about direction of causality in the contact-prejudice relationship; these processes deserve prime attention as shaping valenced contact’s downstream consequences and enabling negative valence asymmetries in impact to emerge.

KEYWORDS valence asymmetry, negative contact, self-selection motivation, meta-analysis

SESSION 3 – Negative Contact and Valence Asymmetries

The effects of recalling positive and negative contacts on linguistic bias towards migrant people

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Two experimental studies showed that individuals who recalled positive and negative interactions – in either sequence – expressed less linguistic discrimination against migrants, compared to people who recalled same valence interactions. These effects were more pronounced for participants who reported having fewer prior positive experiences. Moreover, the beneficial effects of positive-negative sequences were higher when individuals retrieved recent compared to past encounters.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. With the rise of nationalist movements in Europe which wish to restrict the flow of migrants and undermine the social integration of migrant residents, sustained positive contact between host-majority and migrant-minority provides some hope that cooperative relations between these groups can be developed. Yet, it is important to know when benign effects of positive contact between these groups may be compromised by pernicious effects of negative contact. Linguistic descriptions of encounters with migrant people represent a fertile field of investigation to tackle the effects of the interplay between positive and negative intergroup contact. Indeed, language is one of the most pervasive tools for transmitting biased images of outgroup members. Individuals can describe events in either positive or negative ways, and vary the abstraction of terms used therein, to achieve this goal. In two experimental studies, we tested whether varying the order in which majority members recall positive and negative contacts with migrants affects the linguistic representations – in terms of abstraction and valence - of migrants.

Method. We manipulated the order in which Italian respondents recalled their positive and negative interactions with migrant people, and coded the abstraction and valence of the terms used in the descriptions.

Results. Evidence showed that individuals who recalled both positive and negative interactions – in either sequence – expressed less linguistic discrimination against migrants, compared to those who recalled two positive or two negative interactions. These effects were more pronounced for participants who reported having fewer positive intergroup experiences. However, findings also revealed that the temporal distance of the recalled events played a role, with more beneficial effects of positive-negative sequences of contact when individuals retrieved recent compared to past intergroup encounters.

Conclusions. This research highlights the key role of positive contacts in counteracting negative contact effects, leading to linguistic prejudice reduction.

KEYWORDS

Intergroup contact; linguistic outgroup discrimination; intergroup relationship; migrant people; temporal distance.

SESSION 4 – Indirect Contact and Affect**Before and beyond contact: Expanding the theory and research horizon**

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Social psychology is experiencing a resurgence of interest in intergroup contact. This paper will focus on social identity processes as a novel framework that can integrate the growing contact typology (i.e. extended, vicarious, imagined, positive/negative and supportive). The aim is to encourage vigorous debate and viable future directions for contact research and related interventions.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Social psychology is experiencing a resurgence of interest in intergroup contact as a factor in reducing prejudice and building tolerance in diverse communities. The contact hypothesis is a major export of social psychology to other disciplines and contexts such as public policy and community settings. It also attracts much of the fields emerging talent and research income and capacity. It is therefore useful to take stock of where we are and where we are heading in this domain. In this paper, the focus will be on social identity processes as a framework that can integrate the seemingly ever-expanding typology of contact experiences (i.e. extended, vicarious, imagined, positive/negative and supportive) and through this process open up new directions for research that advance current knowledge. A field experiment will be used to support key points. The aim is to encourage and advance debate about expanding the research horizons.

KEYWORDS social identity, contact hypothesis, intergroup relations, contact-based interventions

SESSION 6 – Generalization Processes

Primary and secondary transfer effects of direct and mass-mediated contact on forgiveness after dyadic and multiethnic conflicts via intergroup trust

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SHORT ABSTRACT

In two distinct post-war contexts, Kosovo and multiethnic Bosnia, positive direct and positive mass-mediated contact were more strongly associated with forgiveness than negative direct and negative mass-mediated contact. Trust mediated the link between contact with one former adversary and forgiveness toward this very adversary as well as forgiveness toward other former adversaries after the multiethnic conflict, the secondary transfer effect.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Previous research on the effect of intergroup contact in post-conflict settings mainly focused on positive direct contact and dyadic intergroup relations. It neglected negative contact, the complexity of multiethnic post-conflict societies, and the lack of opportunities for direct contact between former adversaries. We examined the link between positive and negative direct and mass-mediated contact and forgiveness in the aftermath of a dyadic intergroup conflict in Kosovo and multi-ethnic conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Method. We conducted two correlational studies. In Study 1, 232 Albanian students (M age = 23.62 years, SD = 6.71, 22% male) from the university in Prishtina, Kosovo; and in Study 2, 147 Bosniak students (M age = 18.06, SD = 1.11, 29 % male) from high schools and universities in Mostar, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, filled out a paper and pencil questionnaire in classroom settings.

Results. Positive (but not negative) direct and mass-mediated contact was associated with forgiveness via intergroup trust in both contexts. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, positive (but not negative) direct and mass-mediated contact with Croats was associated with greater forgiveness toward Serbs through forgiveness toward Croats and generalization of trust from Croats to Serbs.

Conclusions. Both positive direct and positive mass-mediated contact with one former adversary can be efficient tools to promote reconciliation with this former adversary as well as other former adversaries after multiethnic conflicts. Mass-media can reach people in areas where direct contact is limited and where interventions based on direct contact can be difficult to implement. These are highly promising findings for multiethnic post-conflict settings such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, since improving intergroup relations and achieving reconciliation with one ethnic group could potentially bring peace to the whole society.

KEYWORDS

direct intergroup contact, mass-mediated intergroup contact, secondary transfer effect, trust, forgiveness, multiethnic intergroup conflicts

Towards an integrated taxonomy of motivations to engage or disengage in intergroup contact

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Emerging research has begun to explore motivations to engage or not engage in intergroup contact. However, there is not yet a unified lexicon for classifying the various kinds of intergroup contact motives. The purpose of this theoretical paper is to synthesize research on intergroup contact motivations and emotion regulation in intergroup contact, and to advance an integrated taxonomy.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. With society becoming more culturally diverse, people have more opportunities to engage in intergroup contact. To enjoy the benefits of contact for intergroup relations, it is essential to identify barriers and motivations to engage (or not engage) in contact. In this theoretical paper we integrate theoretical and empirical contributions in this area (Arasaratnam & Doerfel, 2005; Paolini, Wright, Dys-Steenbergen, & Favara, 2016; Ron, Solomon, Halperin, & Saguy, 2017; Stürmer & Benbow, 2017), moving towards a unified taxonomy of motivations for intergroup contact.

Method. First, we reviewed theories and research on motivation for intergroup contact. Second, we used Tamir's (2016) taxonomy of motives in emotion regulation as a broad organizing framework to classify different types of intergroup motivations. Finally, we used this integrated platform to advance novel hypotheses about 1) motivational and emotional processes during intergroup contact, and 2) how the relationship between motivation and action tendencies may be moderated by majority (vs. minority), self-initiated (vs. other-initiated) contact, and category salience.

Results. Building on Tamir's taxonomy, motivations for intergroup contact were classified into two main categories: instrumental and prohedonic (i.e., seeking positive emotions and avoiding negative emotions). Instrumental motivations included performance motivation ("motivation to do"), epistemic motivations ("motivation to know"), eudaimonic motivation ("motivation to be"), and social motivations ("motivation to relate"). Prohedonic motivations included seeking positive emotions, and avoiding negative emotions. We also provide an overview of our novel hypotheses.

Conclusion. Most of the motivations for intergroup contact identified in the current literature are in the social category. There is a relative lack of sophistication in articulating other instrumental and prohedonic motives. We expect our taxonomy to provide a more complete framework to guide future empirical research on contact seeking.

KEYWORDS

integrated taxonomy, review, intergroup contact motivations, intergroup contact, emotion

SESSION 5 – Developmental and Intimacy-Building Processes in Contact

From contact to content: Perceptions of race conversations within interracial friendships

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Across three studies, we found 1) Black adults were less comfortable disclosing race-related experiences to White friends as compared to Black and other-race friends, even friends of equal closeness, and 2) White adults who imagined a Black friend disclosing race experiences (v. non-race experiences) felt less comfortable but more socially connected. Ongoing work examines Blacks' perceptions of Whites in such conversations.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Interracial friendship can decrease Whites' prejudice and increase minorities' belonging and well-being (Levin et al, 2003; Mendoza-Denton & Page-Gould, 2008). We examine whether cross-race friends discuss race-related experiences, how these conversations unfold, and the consequences of these conversations. We propose that such conversations can have important personal and intergroup benefits, particularly within friendships because they represent relationships of commitment in which people are highly motivated to take each other's perspective.

Method. First we asked, how comfortable do African Americans feel disclosing their race-related experiences to White friends? In two studies, participants wrote about a race experience. In Study 1, 97 participants reported how comfortable they would be disclosing that experience to a generic White or non-White friend. In Study 2, 77 participants completed the same measure for up to 10 of their actual friends.

Could race-related disclosure deepen relationships? In Study 3, 145 White women imagined a Black friend disclosing a race-related experience (v. non-race-related experience), using the experiences from Studies 1-2 as stimuli, and reported comfort and social connection.

Results. In Studies 1-2, Black adults were less comfortable disclosing race-related experiences to White friends as compared to both Black and other non-White/non-Black friends, even friends of equal closeness. In Study 3, White adults in the race disclosure condition reported feeling less comfortable in the interaction but more socially connected to the imagined friend.

Ongoing Work Results suggest that both African Americans and White Americans are uncomfortable when discussing African Americans' race experiences, but disclosure may have positive relational outcomes, at least for White Americans. Ongoing research examines Blacks' perceptions of White friends' responses to such disclosure and the dynamics that give rise to positive or negative outcomes for African Americans. Results can help explain communication barriers between Black and White friends and have implications for intervention.

KEYWORDS

intergroup friendship, intergroup trust, race talk, social support, close relationships

SESSION 3 – Negative Contact and Valence Asymmetries

Dynamic contact effects: An individual's history influences effects of positive and negative intergroup contact. Results from a behavioural game

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SHORT ABSTRACT

To examine the effects of a history of positive and negative intergroup contact on subsequent effects of valenced contact, participants played several rounds of a behavioural game with in- and outgroup members. We used models from the Dynamic-Structural-Equation-Model framework to address changes in contact experiences within and between individuals over time.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Positive contact between members of different groups reduces prejudice and increases cooperation. Yet in real world settings not only positive, but also negative intergroup contact occurs, which has opposing effects. To date little is known about how an individual's history of positive and negative intergroup contact influences subsequent contact effects. In addition, commonly used measures of intergroup-contact would not tap that an individual's history of intergroup contact indeed changes after each interaction with an outgroup member.

Method. We address this lack of research with a behavioural game, which allowed us to observe a sequence of 17 actual interactions and their behavioural outcomes.

Results. As expected, quality of previous intergroup interactions predicted intergroup expectations and behaviour. Furthermore, the history of contact quality moderated contact effects. Specifically, negative contact after a history of positive contact had the strongest prejudice increasing effect, while having a history of negative intergroup contact poisoned positive contact effects.

Conclusions. Our results demonstrate that it is important to consider the full (positive and negative) history of intergroup contact. We discuss how the understanding of intergroup contact, which has mostly relied on measures of self-reported, overall contact comprising larger time-spans, can benefit from this detailed examination of an individual's contact experiences.

KEYWORDS

negative intergroup contact, positive intergroup contact, history of intergroup contact, behavioural games, intergroup behaviour

SESSION 3 – Negative Contact and Valence Asymmetries

Predicting attitudes towards teen mothers: The role of positive versus negative contact

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Attitudes towards teen mothers are pervasive and unfavourable and contact has been an inconsistent predictor. We considered whether the nature of the contact (i.e., positive versus negative) predicted attitudes, hypothesising that negative contact would be a better predictor due to valence-salience effects. Contact predicted feelings towards teen mothers, with positive contact, but not negative, significantly predicting feelings and beliefs.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. A growing body of literature suggests that negative attitudes towards teen mothers are pervasive and contact has been identified as a potentially important predictor. However, findings have been mixed with contact sometimes predicting attitudes and other times not. Past research has not considered the nature of the contact; that is, whether the contact experience has been positive or negative. As such, the aim of the current study was to investigate whether positive or negative contact predicted attitudes towards teen mothers. We hypothesised that negative contact would be a better predictor due to valence-salience effects.

Method. A convenience sample of 340 participants, comprising of students and community members, completed an online survey assessing their attitudes towards teen mothers using a feelings thermometer and the positivity towards teen mothers (PTTM) scale. Participants indicated whether they had had contact with a teen mother and, if so, how frequently the contact had been positive and negative. We also measured empathy, age, education and other demographics.

Results. Hierarchical regression controlling for age, education and empathy suggested that contact predicted feelings towards teen mothers and positive contact predicted both feelings and positivity towards teen mothers, while negative contact did not.

Conclusions. Our findings mirrored previous inconsistent findings with contact predicting how favourably we view teen mothers but not stereotypical beliefs suggesting that contact may not attenuate widely held stereotypes about teen mothers. However, positive contact experiences predicted attitudes when controlling for other known predictors. Unexpectedly, negative contact was not a significant predictor. More work is needed to explore whether positive experiences may have buffered negative contact experiences.

KEYWORDS

SESSION 6 – Generalization Processes

Antagonistic secondary transfer effects of positive and negative intergroup contact

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SHORT ABSTRACT

We use insights from Balance Theory to propose an antagonistic secondary transfer effect (ASTE) whereby contact-driven positive (and negative) attitudes towards primary outgroups lead to more negative (positive) attitudes towards secondary outgroups when people perceive a conflict between the primary and secondary groups. We investigate this novel hypothesis by integrating relevant social psychological theories and using both experiments and surveys.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Positive contact with a stigmatized group improves attitudes toward the target group and may generalize to other groups as well. This was labelled the secondary transfer effect (STE). We propose that positive contact with a primary outgroup worsens attitudes towards antagonistic secondary outgroups (i.e., outgroups seen as opponents of the primary outgroup).

Study 1 was based on a representative British national sample (n=1900) and showed that positive contact with poor people was associated with less trust in rich people.

Study 2 was based on a Canadian survey (n=431), in which perceived conflict was measured. Results showed that having friends who support the Quebec sovereignty movement was linked to positive attitudes toward Francophones, which were linked to positive attitudes toward Anglophones.

However, this STE was significantly smaller when respondents perceived an intergroup conflict.

Study 3 was an experimental study (n=176), in which we measured contact and manipulated conflict. In the control group, positive (negative) experiences with immigrants were linked to more positive (negative) attitudes toward homosexuals. In the conflict condition, these effects were still significant, but their size was reduced by half.

Study 4 is another experimental study (n = 213, data collection ongoing) in which we focus on stereotypically distinct outgroups with an in-built conflict (e.g., Muslims and Jews). Findings indicate that positive contact with Muslims is linked to more positive attitudes toward Jews when participants perceive a positive relation between groups, but less so when conflict is salient.

Our research shows that STEs do not only depend on attitude generalization but also on balance principals. However, thus far although we did find one instance of the ASTE (Study 1), overall the evidence points to a reduction in STEs, when there is conflict between primary secondary groups, rather than an antagonistic effect

KEYWORDS

SESSION 1 – Seeking Contact and Predictors of Contact

Welcome to our neighbourhood: “Collective Confidence in Contact” facilitates successful mixing in residential settings [Delivered by Rhiannon Turner]

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Contact self-efficacy is known to predict initiation, outcomes and generalisation of contact's effects. We examine the potential of collective efficacy for improving contact. Our analysis of two UK neighbourhood surveys shows that 'Collective Confidence in Contact' is predicted by intragroup support processes and predicts intergroup contact and feelings. We discuss the implications for contact generalisation and designing residential contact interventions.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Over the past decade increasing attention has been paid to the antecedents of intergroup contact with a specific focus on the degree to which individuals possess sufficient self-efficacy to engage in intergroup encounters. Self-efficacy has been shown to reduce intergroup anxiety and increase willingness to engage in future contact, as well as affording the generalisation of the positive effects of contact throughout the group. However, this work has neglected the collective nature of self-efficacy and indeed has typically counterposed the effects of contact and collective efficacy upon group behaviour. We highlight the potential role that collective efficacy can play in facilitating intergroup contact and propose a new concept (and measure) to capture this phenomenon: Collective Confidence in Contact.

Method. We report the analysis of data from two neighbourhood surveys in contrasting areas of Nottingham city, UK. For each survey, residents of a clearly defined local neighbourhood were invited to take part in an online survey concerning demographic changes in their area.

Results. We show in our first survey (n=124), that CCIC is predicted by group identity and that this in turn predicts intergroup contact and feelings. In a second survey (n=232), we show that the effect of identity and support on CCIC are further mediated by a reduction in intergroup anxiety.

Conclusions. We propose that the concept of CCIC returns the understanding of contact to the intergroup level, thereby allowing issues of group identity and the generalisation of contact effects to be investigated more directly.

KEYWORDS

community identity, intergroup contact, residential mixing, collective efficacy, social cure

SESSION 6 – Generalization Processes

Mediators and moderators of the secondary transfer effect of direct and extended contact: Evidence from majority- and minority-status south africans [live-streamed talk]

Hermann Swart (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Simon Lolliot (University of British Columbia, Canada), Lizelle Openshaw (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), George Berry (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Simone Strydom (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Hannari de Beer (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Anri Nell (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Miles Hewstone (the University of Newcastle, Australia and Oxford University, UK)

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Across three South African studies, longitudinal experimental data and cross-sectional correlational data reveal that (1) both direct and extended contact promotes the secondary transfer effect (STE) across outgroups over time; (2) identify empathy and anxiety generalisation as potential mediators of the STE; and (3) compares the moderation effect of perceived outgroup similarity for majority- and minority-status participants.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Recent advancements in the contact literature has shown that the positive effects of contact with one (primary) outgroup often generalise to include more positive attitudes towards (secondary) outgroups not present in the contact setting - known as the secondary transfer effect of contact. Three South African studies explored the STE as a function of type of contact, type of outcome, and group status, aiming to advance our understanding of the STE.

Method. Study 1 comprised a three-wave longitudinal, quasi-experimental study amongst majority-status white South Africans. It aimed to explore the STE across both direct and extended contact with a primary outgroup confederate. Studies 2 and 3 comprised cross-sectional survey studies amongst majority- (white) and minority-status (black) South Africans, and aimed to (1) explore empathy and attitude generalisation as mediators of the STE, and (2) compare the role of perceived outgroup similarity as a moderator of the STE for majority- and minority-status groups.

Results. Study 1 provides experimental support for the STE over time. Specifically, the STE was amplified for direct contact, relative to extended contact. Moreover, the secondary transfer of positive attitudes across groups was stronger than the secondary transfer of trust across groups. Studies 2 and 3 offer cross-sectional support for empathy and anxiety generalisation as mediators of the STE, complementing the known role of mediating role attitude generalisation in the STE. Moreover, perceived outgroup similarity was only a significant moderator of the STE for majority-status participants, but not for minority-status participants.

Conclusions. The results add to our understanding of how the STE operates (by identifying additional mediators of the STE). Moreover, the results suggest that the strength of the STE is dependent on type of contact (direct versus extended), type of outcome measure (positive attitude versus trust), and group status (majority versus minority).

KEYWORDS

secondary transfer effect; empathy generalisation; anxiety generalisation; perceived outgroup similarity; group status.

SESSION 5 – Developmental and Intimacy-Building Processes in Contact

Cross-group friendships are associated outgroup attraction

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SHORT ABSTRACT

The present research investigates whether cross-group friendships are associated with increased romantic and sexual attraction to outgroup members. White Australian participants (N = 240) reported their friendships with and attraction to members of six racial/ethnic outgroups. Results showed that greater friendships with members of each racial/ethnic outgroup consistently predicted greater attraction to that outgroup.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. The intergroup contact literature reliably demonstrates that positive intergroup contact, especially cross-group friendship, can reduce prejudice towards racial/ethnic outgroups. To date, however, there has been no research which has examined whether cross-group friendships are associated with increased romantic and sexual attraction to racial/ethnic outgroup members, or in other words, reduced sexual racism. The present research investigates this question.

Method. White Australian participants (N = 240) reported their friendships with members of six different racial/ethnic outgroups (Black, Latinx, Asian, South Asian, Middle-Eastern, Indigenous Australians). They then indicated their attraction to these same six racial/ethnic outgroups. Social dominance orientation was also measured as a covariate.

Results. A series of multiple regression analyses including all forms of cross-group friendships as predictors (and SDO as a covariate) of attraction to each group found a consistent pattern – greater friendships with members of each racial/ethnic outgroup reliably predicted greater attraction to that outgroup. These relationships were race-specific; for example, only Black friendships predicted attraction to Black people, and so forth.

Conclusions. The present study is the first to demonstrate that cross-group friendships are associated with romantic and sexual attraction to outgroup members. These findings extend the intergroup contact literature by showing that positive intergroup contact also predicts lower sexual racism in the same way that it does more general forms of racial prejudice.

KEYWORDS

friendships, sex, attraction, race, intergroup contact

Cognitive anxiety and race: Do psychological symptoms affect face memory for other-race individuals?

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Feeling anxious when viewing a face and viewing a face of another race can reduce face recognition accuracy. How these factors interact to affect face memory, has not been extensively examined. The present study examined this through exposing high and low cognitively anxious participants to a cognitive anxiety stressor, whilst measuring contact and individuating experience with other race individuals.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. It is well established that experiencing anxiety during encoding reduces face memory. This study however, sought to examine whether anxiety induced at retrieval affects recognition. Extensive research has shown individuals show an own-race bias, with better recognition accuracy for faces belonging to their own race. The purpose of this study was to examine whether anxiety and race could interact to further affect face memory. Separately, experience and contact with other-race individuals was measured.

Method. 55 participants (26 anxiety, 29 control condition) participated in this experiment. A public speaking task was used to induce cognitive anxiety at retrieval (test phase) whilst participants completed a racial face recognition task. 30 faces (15 Caucasian, 15 African American) were presented during learning (encoding), with 60 (30 Caucasian, 30 African American) presented during retrieval (test phase).

Results. An own-race bias was observed, such that individuals were worse at recognising other-race faces. Anxiety did not influence face memory when induced at retrieval, nor was an interaction between anxiety and race observed. When individuating experience and contact with the other-race were entered as covariates, the own-race bias disappeared in terms of hit-rate, and overall recognition accuracy. Interestingly however, these covariates did not reduce the own-race bias found for false-alarms.

Conclusions. Anxiety when induced at encoding, but not at retrieval, influences face memory. Further, individuals are better at recognising faces of their own, as compared to another race. The own-race bias, in most cases, is moderated by contact and experience with other-race individuals. False-alarms however, characterised by incorrectly saying you've seen someone before, when you haven't, is not influenced by these variables. This finding has direct relevance to the criminal justice setting, as no matter how much contact a witness has with other races, they are still as likely to accidentally send an innocent person to jail.

KEYWORDS

cognitive anxiety, retrieval, race, individuating experience, social contact

SESSION 2 – Emotions, Motivations, and Action in Contact

Contact, culture and criminal groups: Endorsement of masculine honour predicts contact with criminal organisations in Italy

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Italian criminal organisations (COs) draw legitimacy from values of masculinity. We examine these values' role in contact with COs. Across three studies, we demonstrate that individuals' endorsement of masculinity is associated to more frequent contact with COs. Such contact plays a role in demobilising opposition against COs. Contact Theory may play an important role in explaining COs' role in society.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Criminal groups may subtract from the State the capacity to exert governance. An important question is how they gain the legitimacy necessary to do so. In Italy, criminal organisations (COs) engage in contact with individuals to acquire power. COs draw legitimacy from cultural values of masculinity and honour. Here, we examine the idea that such values are also precursors of contact with COs. Specifically, we test the hypothesis that individuals who endorse these values are also more prone to engage in contact with COs. Contact promotes the perception that COs fit norms of masculinity, and lowers intentions to oppose COs.

Method. Study 1 (NT1 = 176, NT2 = 170, longitudinal) tests the directionality of the relationship between endorsement of masculine values and frequency of contact with COs. Study 2 (N = 314; cross-sectional) investigates the implications of contact with COs for individuals' perception of COs as fitting norms of masculinity (romanticisation). Finally, Study 3 (N = 327) examines the interplay between masculinity values, contact valence and intentions to oppose COs.

Results. Results show that individuals who endorse masculinity values also report more frequent contact with COs' members after five months (Study 1). This contact, in turn, predicts a stronger tendency to romanticise COs (Study 2). Study 3 reveals that masculine honour is only associated to more positive (not negative) contact with COs. Positive contact is associated to lower perception of threat, stronger romanticisation, and in turn lower intentions to oppose COs.

Conclusions. This research examines the implications of intergroup contact in a novel field of study. In addition, it highlights the importance of cultural values in facilitating contact. The research supports the idea that individuals who endorse values of masculinity are more likely to orbit closer to COs. Contact with COs, in turn, play a demobilising role by legitimising the presence of this group in society.

KEYWORDS criminal organisations, demobilization, cultural values, masculinity and honour

MONDAY APRIL 29 – 7.10 pm

KEY NOTE PRESENTATION

Using our research to transform intergroup relations: Pathways to engaged scholarship

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SESSION 5 – Developmental and Intimacy-Building Processes in Contact

When Harry Met Meghan: The role of direct and extended contact in receptivity to cross-group romantic relationships

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Two surveys examined the role of contact in receptivity to cross-group romantic relationships. Cross-community contact in Northern Ireland was associated with greater receptivity to cross-community romance via ingroup norms (Study 1). British people's extended contact (exposure to Prince Harry and Meghan's relationship) predicted greater approval of the royal relationship and greater willingness to date Black and mixed-race partners (Study 2).

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Few contact studies have investigated attitudes towards one of the most intimate forms of contact, romantic relationships. In two studies, we expand the intergroup contact literature to examine the association between intergroup contact and receptivity to intergroup romance.

Method. Two survey studies were undertaken. In Northern Ireland, a context that is historically and presently characterised by sectarian division and tension between Catholics and Protestants, 176 undergraduate students (Study 1) completed measures of intergroup contact, ingroup norms towards outgroup romance, anxiety, empathy, trust, and receptivity to dating and marrying an outgroup member. In Study 2, 585 White British participants reported their attitudes towards the high-profile cross-group wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at three time points pertaining to their wedding: one month before, on the day, and one month after. Participants also reported their likelihood of dating outgroup members, the perceived approval of such relationships, and general intergroup attitudes.

Results. Study 1 revealed that intergroup contact is positively associated with receptivity to both dating and marrying an outgroup member; associations are mediated by ingroup norms towards outgroup romances. Strength of ingroup identification played a moderating role, with a stronger positive relationship between contact and both romantic and general outgroup attitudes among higher identifiers. Study 2 revealed that participants liked Harry and Meghan, viewed their relationship to be of higher quality, and perceived more approval for their relationship at the time of or after the wedding than before wedding. Participants also reported greater willingness and perceived approval for dating Black and mixed-race partners after the wedding than before the wedding.

Conclusions. The findings highlight the importance of examining attitudes towards intergroup romantic relationships, as well as understanding the different mediating and moderating mechanisms which may account for how contact influences general attitudes and romantic attitudes.

KEYWORDS

SESSION 2 – Emotions, Motivations, and Action in Contact

Are White women showing up for racial justice? How positive contact and closeness to others targeted by prejudice propel collective action

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SHORT ABSTRACT

There has been considerable controversy regarding whether white people, and white women in particular, actually “show up” to protest for racial justice. The present research focuses on the contact experiences and close relationships that White women have with people from other racial and ethnic groups, to test how these may propel their motivations to engage in protests for racial justice.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Although many studies have documented how meaningful relationships with people of color have driven White women’s involvement in activism for racial justice, many women of color have questioned whether white people, and white women in particular, actually “show up” to protest for racial justice. The present research focuses on the contact experiences and close relationships that White women have with people from other racial and ethnic groups, to test how these may propel their motivations to engage in protests for racial justice.

Method. We collected data from 296 self-identified non-Hispanic White American women in Study 1 and 305 self-identified non-Hispanic White American women who attended the 2017 Women’s March in Study 2.

Results. Our results show that both positive contact and closeness to others targeted by prejudice predicted white women’s greater willingness to participate in protests for racial justice (Studies 1 and 2), yet only closeness to others targeted by prejudice significantly predicted actual participation in collective action for racial justice (Studies 1 and 2), and greater motivation for racial justice among those who attended the 2017 Women’s March (Study 2).

Conclusions. Our results indicate that White women’s inclinations to protest for racial justice are especially likely to grow the more they experience close relationships with people who are targeted by prejudice. Thus, our findings suggest that, beyond other benefits that might be gained from positive contact between members of different groups, forging deep, personal connections with members of other racial, ethnic, and religious groups can encourage White women to become more psychologically invested and take action to promote the welfare and interests of targeted populations.

KEYWORDS

collective action, protest, white women, women’s march, prejudice

Categorization within a working class group reduces desire for contact in virtual teams

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Three experiments conducted in Spain showed that exposure to a potential member of a stigmatized working class group leads to more negative perceptions and affective reactions and reduces the desire to interact with her in a virtual team as compared to a higher class or uncategorized candidate. However, when explicit counter-stereotypic information was available, appearance had no significant effects.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. The abundant psychosocial literature on prejudice has paid scant attention to the prejudice towards the lower classes, which is surprising in view of the social consequences derived from this type of prejudice. The working class is caricatured in the media and on social networks and surprisingly this expression of prejudice hardly entails social sanctions. In Spain, one of the most stigmatized working class subgroup is that of "chonis", which is comparable to "chavs" (United Kingdom) or "bogans" (Australia). The present work aims to analyse the stereotypes, emotional reactions and contact seeking associated with the members of this group.

Method. We conducted three experiments ($n_s = 162, 551, \text{ and } 920$, respectively) in which participants were presented with a description of a female aspiring to be part of a virtual team. The description might include no photograph (control condition) or a photograph of the candidate characterized as choni (choni condition) or as a higher class group (posh condition) depending on the experimental condition. In Experiments 1 and 3 we added explicit information about her high socioeconomic status (SES) or high academic performance, respectively. Then, stereotypes (morality, sociability and competence), emotional reactions (admiration, grief, envy and contempt), perceived adequacy and desire to interact with the candidate.

Results. In all experiments, participants evaluated the candidate as less competent, moral, and suitable for the team, admired her less and desired to interact less with her in the choni condition as compared to the control (Experiments 1 and 3) or posh conditions (Experiments 2 and 3). Experiment 1 ruled out the alternative explanation that these negative effects were due to aesthetical preferences. When participants knew that the candidate had high SES (Experiment 1), no differences emerged as compared to the control condition. Explicit, counter-stereotypic information about performance also neutralized negative orientations towards the candidate.

Conclusions. These results show that categorizing a person within a stigmatized, working class group deteriorates evaluations and emotional reactions and reduces desire to have a virtual interaction with her. Such categorization was based on subtle cues related to appearance. However, people can "correct" their impressions and behavioural intentions when explicit, counter-stereotypic information is available.

KEYWORDS

class prejudice, contact seeking, stereotypes, virtual contact

SESSION 7 – Technological and Analytical Advancements

From first contact onwards: Monitoring community attitudes during refugee settlement in Armidale, Australia

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SHORT ABSTRACT

Armidale, an Australian town of 23,000, has recently been designated a settlement region for refugees. Up to 700 Yezidi refugees, a group unfamiliar to the local community, will arrive during 2018-19. We present the results of three telephone surveys (N = 200 in each) tracking community responses to the refugees with increasing contact from the first days of settlement onwards.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Armidale, an Australian town of 23,000, has recently been designated a settlement region for refugees. As Australia's first new refugee settlement region in 11 years, its success or otherwise will influence future decisions regarding refugee settlement. Approximately 700 Yezidi refugees, a group unfamiliar to the local community, will arrive during 2018-19. Armidale was selected partly because it was perceived as a "welcoming community". However, community responses prior to the refugees arriving were not uniformly positive, raising concern that, if negative contact experiences occurred, there would be backlash effects in some sections of the community. This paper reports a monitoring program designed to track the community's response to the refugees with increasing levels their presence in the town and resultant contact with them. The program aims to alert stakeholders (e.g., Council, the settlement agency) to the development of negative attitudes in sectors of the community, enabling intervention before problems become entrenched.

Method. Three random dialling telephone surveys (N = 200 each time) of the Armidale community were conducted during the first 12 months of refugee settlement. The first survey established a baseline against which changes in the second two surveys could be measured.

Results. Audience segmentation identified and profiled four clusters (named "Concerned", "Positive", "Enthusiastic", and "Assimilationist") of like-minded individuals within the community, based on their attitudes and responses to the refugees. Most "Concerned" and "Assimilationists" had no contact with the refugees. There was little negative contact, but all negative contact was reported by the "Concerned" cluster.

Conclusions. The use of audience segmentation has identified sectors of the community who may be prone to negative experiences with refugees and more likely to develop negative attitudes towards them. We will discuss how agencies have used these results to enhance their understanding of community dynamics during this period of refugee settlement.

KEYWORDS

negative contact; attitudes; audience segmentation; refugees; applied social psychology

SESSION 4 – Indirect Contact and Affect

E-contact: Unlocking the key to real-world prejudice

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SHORT ABSTRACT

The Internet has the capacity to bring individuals into a cooperative space, who would otherwise not normally interact - it dissolves the physical and social psychological barriers that often separate groups making contact possible in contexts of segregation. E-contact is one such strategy. Developed by White and her colleagues, E-contact has been found to promote intergroup harmony across diverse contexts.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. In today's increasingly polarised society, groups prefer to avoid the challenges of difference, and approach the safety of sameness. Such polarisation can result in high levels of anxiety and prejudice towards others who are not ingroup members. One approach to addressing this global problem is for researchers to harness the positive elements of the Internet in order to bridge this social and psychological divide.

Method. When used appropriately the Internet has the capacity to bring individuals into a cooperative space, who would otherwise not normally interact. The unique characteristics of the Internet dissolve the physical and social psychological barriers that often separate groups (Amichai-Hamburger & McKenna, 2006), making contact possible in contexts of segregation. Electronic- or E-contact is one such strategy. Developed by White and her colleagues, E-contact utilises the unique strengths of the Internet underpinned by Allport's (1954) facilitating conditions for contact, to promote intergroup harmony.

Results. For a decade now, our E-contact research has connected Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland (White, Turner, Verrelli, Harvey, & Hanna, in press), Muslim and Catholic students from segregated schools in Australia (White, & Abu-Rayya, 2012; White, Abu-Rayya, Bliuc, & Faulkner, 2015; White, Abu-Rayya, Weitzel, 2014), Israeli and Ethiopian students in Israel (Abu-Rayya, 2017), homosexuals and heterosexuals (White, Verrelli, Maunder, & Kervinen, in press), transgender people and gender conforming people (Boccanfuso, Verrelli, & White, 2018), and people with schizophrenia and those without schizophrenia (Maunder, White, & Verrelli, in press).

Conclusions. The strengths and limitations of contrasting E-contact paradigms, developed for real-world and lab-based contexts, will be evaluated, and future research possibilities for integrating emerging technologies into intergroup contact paradigms, will be discussed.

KEYWORDS

E-contact, intergroup relations, prejudice reduction, intergroup prejudice, computer mediated communication

SESSION 4 – Indirect Contact and Affect

A meta-meta-analytic look at intergroup contact theory

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SHORT ABSTRACT

This is a review of several meta-analyses on the types of intergroup contact. Comparing these meta-analytic results suggested that direct friendship and extended contact are alike, media and imagined contact are alike, and direct contact is somewhat like the other contact types. Contact higher in self-involvement had stronger effects on intergroup attitudes while richness did not differentially effect intergroup attitudes.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Intergroup contact can take on several forms, including direct contact, cross-group friendships, imagined contact, media contact, and extended contact. The research that exists on intergroup contact is now summarized into several meta-analyses, one on each form thereof mentioned above. This project is a narrative and statistical review of these meta-analyses that aims to examine the relationships among their corresponding forms of intergroup contact. The narrative review compared these meta-analytic results as a commentary on the similarities and differences among these forms of intergroup contact, indicating that cross-group friendship and extended contact are most alike, media and imagined contact are most alike, and direct contact is somewhat like the other forms of intergroup contact. Such similarities and differences may constitute an empirical way to categorize these forms of intergroup contact that supplements the distinction between direct and indirect contact currently in use. The statistical review aimed to determine whether certain features of intergroup contact strengthens or weakens its effect on intergroup attitudes. These features were based on Jake Harwood's contact space, which proposes that an experience of intergroup contact falls along the orthogonal dimensions of self-involvement and richness. We specifically scored the intergroup contact from each study in each meta-analysis along both these dimensions, and then tested the moderations of these dimensions in a multilevel meta-analytic model: Intergroup contact scored as more self-involved produced larger positive effects on intergroup attitudes while that scored as richer did not produce any such differential effects, so self-involvement may matter more than richness to intergroup contact's effect on intergroup attitudes. This meta-meta-analysis provides a comprehensive overview of the literature on intergroup contact, which includes nearly 1000 studies that span about 65 years.

KEYWORDS

intergroup contact, indirect contact, meta-analysis

SESSION 7 – Technological and Analytical Advancements

**Longitudinal analysis of communicational confrontation during protest cycles:
An indirect form of contact**

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SHORT ABSTRACT

This work addresses the dynamic and contentious aspects of the frames generated by the Magallanes Social Movement and the Government of Chile, during a cycle of protest events that took place over the course of 15 days. A quantitative analysis was made of the news published during the events in three newspapers.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Background. Several authors have highlighted the importance of the communication established between representatives of social movements and other actors, through channels provided by the mass media. The media-based communication between social movements and their political opponents has been studied in terms of the concept of frames. Although the creation of frames by the opposing camps is seen as a dynamic, evolving and contentious process, there are very few studies that offer a longitudinal analysis of how frames interact with one another. This work addresses the dynamic and contentious aspects of the frames generated by the Magallanes Social Movement and the Government of Chile, during a cycle of protest events that took place over the course of 15 days in 2011.

Method. A quantitative analysis was made of the news published during the events in three newspapers. The search yielded a total of 217 articles and 583 quotations.

Results. The results indicate that the parties adopted differing communication strategies, with the protesters taking an offensive stance, and the government remaining defensive. Furthermore, the content of communications varied over time, with a strong correlation between the communications issued and the occurrence of particular protest events.

Conclusions. While a frame contest is certainly an interactive communicational process, both camps (challengers and defenders) do not just argue through the words, but in fact to a greater degree through of the events that each camp orchestrates throughout the protest cycle. The present study demonstrate the capacity of quantitative techniques to analyse communicational disputes in a protest cycle. This is relevant not only because of the lack of quantitative and systematic studies available – which has been seen as one of the main shortcomings of the study of frames– but also because it facilitates the integration of analysis of the formation and evolution of frames with Protest Event Analysis in political protest.

KEYWORDS

social movements, protests, communication, frame contest, longitudinal analysis

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