

EXAMPLES OF INTERGROUP CONTACT EFFECTS FROM NATIVE AND IMMIGRANT STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

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THE ROLE OF CONTACT VALENCE

- Optimal contact situation: intimate positive contact, perceived equal status and voluntary contact are related to more beneficial interactions, while the contrary is related to threatening interactions (Pettigrew, 2008)
- Attitudes towards outgroup: outgroup anxiety, perceived outgroup threatening or high prejudicial views are related to contact experiences reported as more negatively valenced
- Increased exposure to outgroups can increase the occurrence of positive and negative contact (Pettigrew, 2008)

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF NATIVES

- Outgroup attitudes influence attitudes towards immigration and immigrants: Negative views towards ethnic outgroup increases the likelihood that natives perceive immigration and immigrants as a threat (Hainmueller and Hopkins, 2014)
- Threat hypothesis: increase of the minority population can arise negative outgroup attitudes through the increase of perceive threat and hostility (Oliver & Wong, 2003)
- Contact hypothesis: increase of the outgroup population can improve intergroup attitudes through the increase of intergroup interactions (Allport, 1954)

STUDY 1: INTERGROUP CONTACT AMONG NATIVE STUDENTS

(Laurence & Bentley, 2018)

- The role of contextual outgroup size, anti-immigrant attitudes and intergroup contact (Laurence & Bentley, 2018)
- Aim: The effect of community ethnic outgroup size on native's anti immigrant attitudes via contact valence
- Sample: European Social Survey – data collected in 20 European countries and Israel (n= 34916).

STUDY 1: THE ROLE OF CONTEXTUAL OUTGROUP SIZE, ANTI-IMMIGRANT ATTITUDES AND INTERGROUP CONTACT

- **Measures:**

- Attitudes towards immigration and immigrants (6 items, i.e. “would you say it is generally bad or good for [country]’s economy that people come to live here from other countries”, See Schneider, 2008)
- Contact-quantity and contact-valence (2 items, i.e. “how often do you have any contact with people who are of a different race or ethnic group from most [country] people when you are out and about”, “thinking about this contact, in general how bad or good is it”)
- Community ethnic composition: Self-reported ethnic composition (i.e “how would you describe the area where you currently live?”)

STUDY I: RESULTS

- The likelihood of experiencing more frequent inter-group contact increases in areas where ethnic group size is high, and individuals who report more frequent contact report more positive attitudes towards immigrants
- Higher ethnic group diversity is associated with positive-indirect effect on intergroup attitudes via more positive contact
- Higher ethnic group diversity exerts a negative indirect effect on attitudes towards immigrants for individuals who experience more negative contact at the increase of outgroup size

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

- Experiences of discrimination are critical given that they are one of the most recurrent and harmful acculturative strain faced by ethnic minorities (Berry & Sabatier, 2010)
- Acculturation strategies: willingness to maintain own culture, willingness to adopt host society culture or mix of both strategies (Berry, 2001)
- Perceived permeability: perceived discrimination is associated with more salient group boundaries. The latter are exacerbated by negative experience with natives

STUDY II: INTERGROUP CONTACT AMONG INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

(Ramos et al., 2016)

- **The effects of discrimination on international students acculturations strategies (Ramos et al., 2016)**
- Aims: the impact of perceived discrimination on acculturation strategies via perceived permeabilities of groups boundaries
- Sample: 160 international students from 32 different countries

STUDY II: EFFECTS OF DISCRIMINATION ON ACCULTURATION STRATEGIES

(Ramos et al., 2016)

- **Measures:**

- Acculturation strategies: two dimensions: participation into the host society (8 items) and maintenance of own culture (9 items) (Berry, 2001)
- Discrimination: i.e. “When working with classmates, other students have acted as if they are better than you” (Hanassab, 2006)
- Perceived permeability: (“For a foreign student it is nearly impossible to be included in British groups”, Mummendey et al., 1999)

STUDY II: RESULTS

- Indirect impact of discrimination on acculturation strategies through perceived permeability of group boundaries
- International students' perception of being a target of discrimination is associated with an awareness that boundaries between their and host groups are impermeable
- In the face of such barriers, immigrants are more likely to embrace their own cultural heritage and to avoid the host society

IMPLICATIONS

For natives....

- Intergroup contact is a key solution to overcome outgroup threat and foster positive attitudes toward immigrants and immigration as long as the increase outgroup size is associated with more positive experiences

For
immigrants...

- Intergroup contact is a key solution to foster integration in the host society as long as positive experiences reduce perceived discrimination and thus lead to perceived permeability between groups