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# **Intergroup Contact**

- 1. Preconditions and research evidence**
- 2. Extensions: Indirect contact, mediators and generalizations**
- 3. Contact in violent intergroup conflicts**
- 4. Outgroup ideologies as moderators of contact effects**

Prejudice ... may be reduced by equal status contact between majority and minority groups in the pursuit of common goals. The effect is greatly enhanced if this contact is sanctioned by institutional supports (i.e., by law, custom, or local atmosphere), and provided it is of a sort that leads to the perception of common interests and common humanity between members of the two groups.

Allport, G. (1954), *The nature of prejudice*. Cambridge, MA: Reading: Addison-Wesley. (p. 281)

The contact situation must provide the participants with the opportunity to become friends.

Pettigrew, T.F. (1998). Intergroup contact theory. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 49, 65-85 (p. 76)

See also

Brown, R. & Hewstone, M. (2005). An integrative theory of intergroup contact. In M.P. Zanna (Ed.), *Advances in experimental social psychology* (Vol. 37). (pp. 255-343). San Diego CA: Academic Press.

Pettigrew, T.W. & Tropp, L.R. (in press), *When groups meet: The dynamics of intergroup contact*. Sage.

**Table 11**  
*Participant Predictors of Contact–Prejudice Effect Sizes Across Samples*

Variable	<i>r</i>	95% CL	<i>Z</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Q<sub>B</sub></i>
<b>Target groups</b>						
Sexual orientation	–.271	–.32/–.22	–10.49***	42	12,059	
Physically disabled	–.243	–.28/–.21	–12.91***	93	15,584	
Race, ethnicity	–.214	–.23/–.20	–23.62***	362	133,249	
Mentally disabled <sup>a</sup>	–.207	–.26/–.15	–7.16***	40	6,116	
Mentally ill <sup>a</sup>	–.184	–.23/–.14	–8.41***	66	17,218	
Elderly	–.181	–.23/–.13	–6.73***	54	6,424	
Other <sup>a</sup>	–.192	–.25/–.13	–6.27***	39	9,180	
Between-classes effect						11.95
<b>Age of participants</b>						
Children (1–12 years)	–.239	–.28/–.20	–11.30***	82	10,207	
Adolescents	–.208	–.24/–.18	–12.68***	114	45,602	
College students	–.231	–.25/–.21	–20.50***	262	46,553	
Adults	–.197	–.22/–.18	–17.81***	238	97,468	
Between-classes effect						6.68
<b>Sex of participants</b>						
Females <sup>a</sup>	–.214	–.26/–.17	–9.06***	63	13,183	
Males <sup>a</sup>	–.185	–.23/–.14	–7.56***	59	15,598	
Both or undetermined	–.218	–.23/–.20	–29.58***	574	171,049	
Between-classes effect						1.83

*Note.* These analyses were conducted with Fisher’s *z*-transformed *r* values. Mean effects and confidence limits listed in this table have been transformed back to the *r*-metric from the *z*-transformed estimates obtained in these analyses. Random effects variance components (based on Fisher’s *z*-transformed *r* values) were 0.23 for each analysis. *r* = correlation coefficient representing the mean effect size; 95% CL = the 95% confidence limits of *r*; *Z* = *z* test for the mean effect sizes; *p* = probability of *z* test; *k* = number of samples associated with the mean effect size; *N* = total number of participants. *Q<sub>B</sub>* = between-classes test of homogeneity.

<sup>a</sup> Homogeneity can be obtained with less than 20% of the cases trimmed.

\*\*\* *p* < .001.

Pettigrew, T.F. & Tropp, L.R. (2006). A meta-analytic test of intergroup contact theory. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 90, 751-783 (p. 764).

## Indirect contact

Knowledge that an in-group member has a close relationship with an outgroup member can lead to more positive intergroup attitudes.

Wright, S.C., Aron, A., McLaughlin-Volpe, T. & Ropp, S.A.(1997). The extended contact effect: Knowledge of cross-group friendships and prejudice. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 73, 73-90

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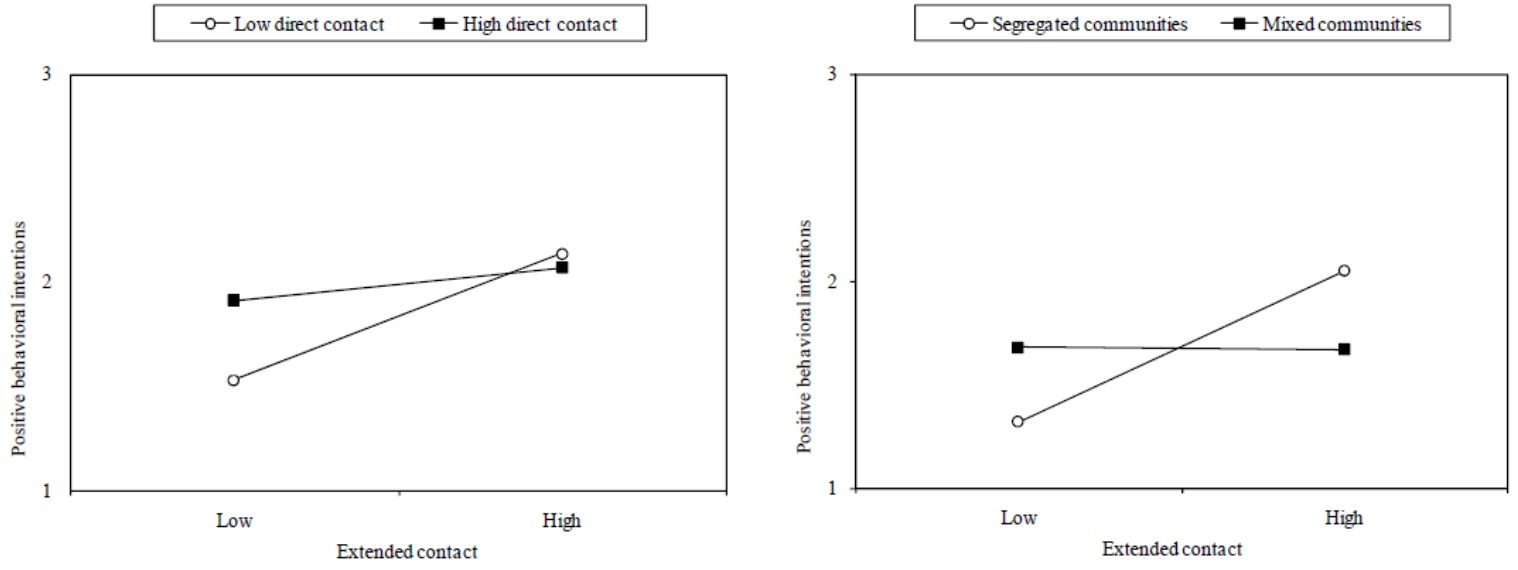
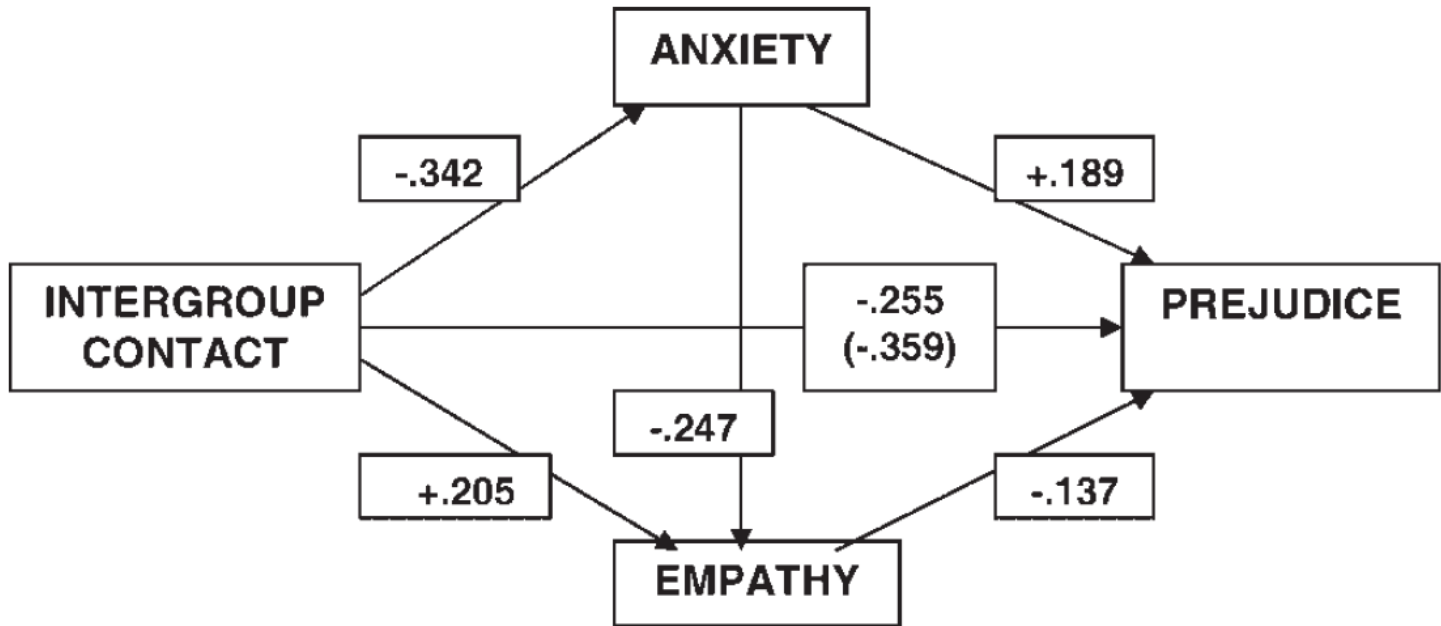


Figure 3. Simple slopes of positive behavioral intentions on extended contact for low and high direct contact (left hand side) and segregated and mixed communities in Belfast (right hand side) (Study 2)

984 adult respondents from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Christ, O., Hewstone, M., Tausch, N., Wagner, U., Voci, A., Hughes, J., & Cairns, E. (under review). *Direct contact as moderator of extended contact effects.*

### Mediators



Pettigrew, T.F. & Tropp, L.R. (2008). How does intergroup contact reduce prejudice? Meta-analytic tests of three mediators. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 38, 922-934 (p. 928)

## 1. Generalization of contact effects to the outgroup as a whole

Brewer & Miller (1984): decategorization

Hewstone & Brown (1986): category membership salience

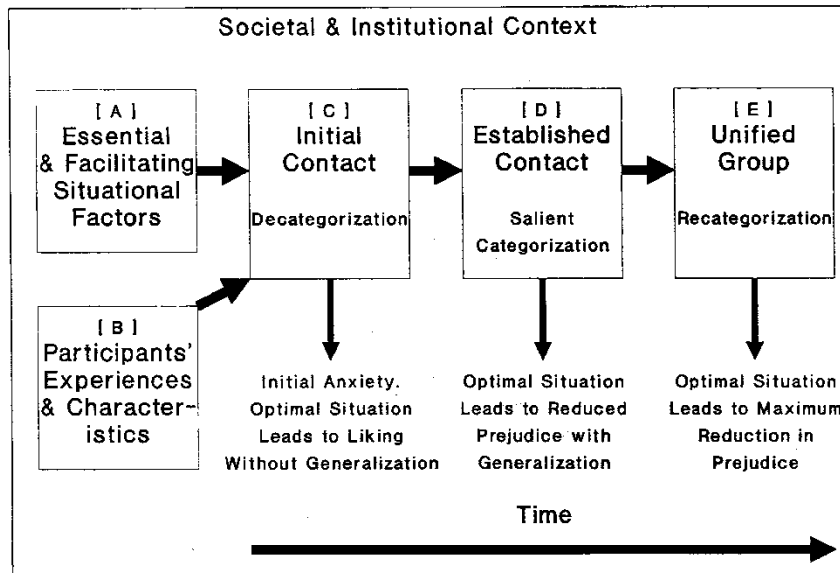
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Pettigrew, 1998

Figure 2 Reformulated contact theory.



## 2. Generalization to other outgroups – The Secondary Transfer Effect (Pettigrew, 2010)

*Unstandardized estimates (and standard errors in brackets) for effects of direct friendship, extended friendship, and the interaction on prejudice towards foreigners, Muslims, Homosexuals, Homeless, non-traditional Women, and Jews*

	Direct friendship	Extended friendship	Interaction
	<i>B(SE)</i>	<i>B (SE)</i>	<i>B (SE)</i>
Prejudice toward foreigners	-.27 <sub>a</sub> (.04)***	-.23 <sub>a</sub> (.04)***	.10 <sub>bc</sub> (.03)**
Prejudice toward Muslims	-.23 <sub>b</sub> (.04)***	-.12 <sub>b</sub> (.04)**	.08 <sub>bc</sub> (.02)*
Prejudice toward homosexuals	-.17 <sub>ab</sub> (.04)***	-.14 <sub>ab</sub> (.04)**	.09 <sub>bc</sub> (.04)*
Prejudice toward homeless people	-.22 <sub>ab</sub> (.04)***	-.07 <sub>b</sub> (.04)	.08 <sub>bc</sub> (.04)*
Prejudice toward non-traditional women	-.10 <sub>c</sub> (.03)**	-.07 <sub>b</sub> (.03)*	.03 <sub>ab</sub> (.03)
Prejudice toward Jews	-.02 <sub>c</sub> (.04)	-.12 <sub>b</sub> (.04)**	.13 <sub>c</sub> (.04)***

*Note.* Estimates in the same column that do not share subscripts differ at  $p < .05$  using Wald chi-square test.

Asbrock, F., Christ, O., Hewstone, M., Pettigrew, T.F., & Wagner, U. (in prep.), Comparing the secondary transfer effect of direct and extended intergroup contact: The generalization of positive attitudes and its limitations

### Contact in violent intergroup conflicts

Contact during	Effect during	Effect on		
		prejudice / emotion	behavior / intention	aggressive behavior / intention
pre-violence	pre-violence	Pettigrew and Tropp, 2006, 2008 (Meta-Analysis); Tzeng & Jackson, 1994 (USA)	Tzeng & Jackson, 1994 (USA)	
	violence			
	post-violence	Biro et al., 2004 (Bosnia-H., Croat.)		
violence	pre-violence	/	/	/
	violence	/		Milgram, 1972
	post-violence			
post-violence	pre-violence	/	/	/
	violence	/	/	/
	post-violence	Schmid et al., 2009 (Northern Ireland); Hewstone et al., 2006 (Northern Ireland)	Tam et al., 2009 (Northern Ireland); Longman et al., 2004 (Rwanda)	

Wagner & Lemmer, in prep.

## Outgroup ideologies as possible moderators of the contact effects

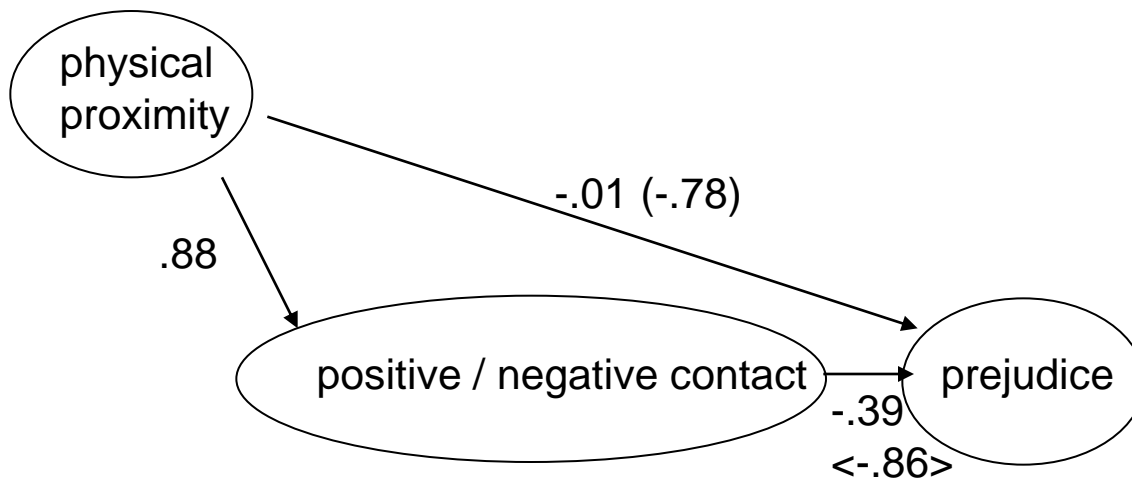
physical proximity



positive / negative contact → prejudice → ig behavior

### Outgroup ideologies as possible moderators of the contact effects

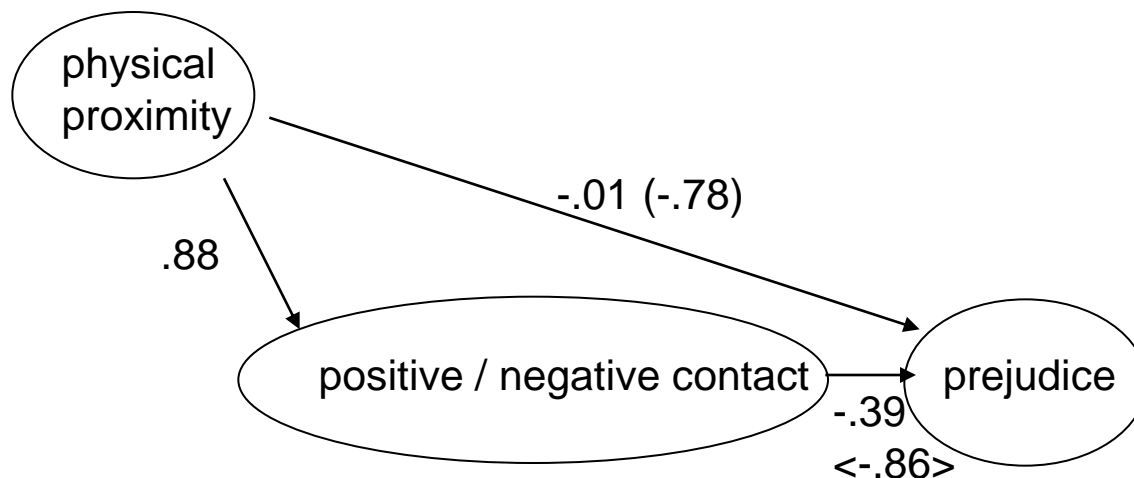
Wagner, U., Christ, O., Pettigrew, T.F., Stellmacher, J., & Wolf, C. (2006). Prejudice and minority proportion: Contact instead of threat effects. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 69, 380-390



N = 2,619 adult respondents of German background (GFE 2002)

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Wagner, U., Christ, O., Pettigrew, T.F., Stellmacher, J., & Wolf, C. (2006). Prejudice and minority proportion: Contact instead of threat effects. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 69, 380-390



**But: In war, civil war, pogrom, etc. physical proximity often goes along with intense physical violence**

Hewstone, M., Tausch, N., Voci, A., Kenworthy, J., Hughes, J., & Cairns, E. (2008). Why neighbors kill. In V.M. Esses & R.A. Vernon (Eds.), *Explaining the breakdown of ethnic relations* (pp. 61-91). Malden, MA: Blackwell.

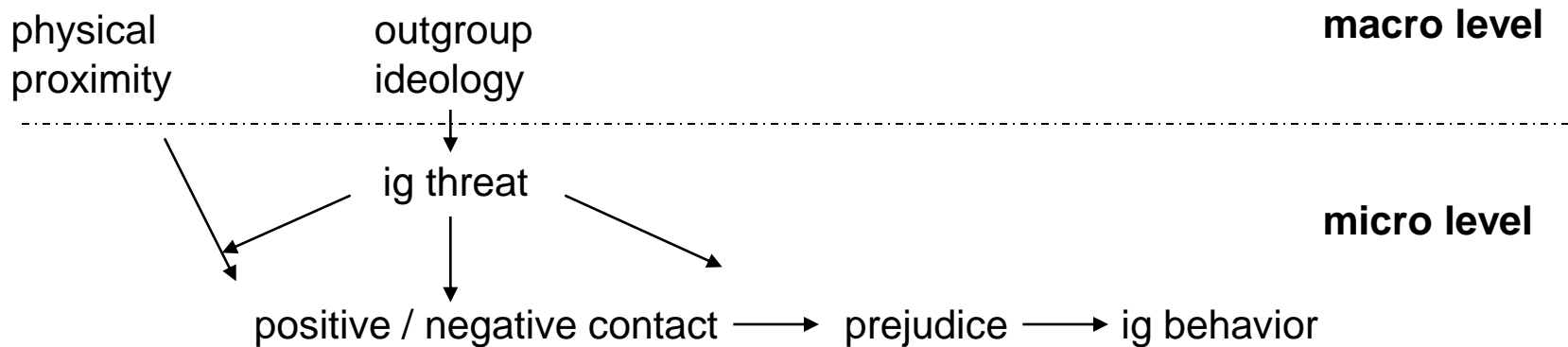
## Outgroup ideologies as possible moderators of the contact effects

physical  
proximity

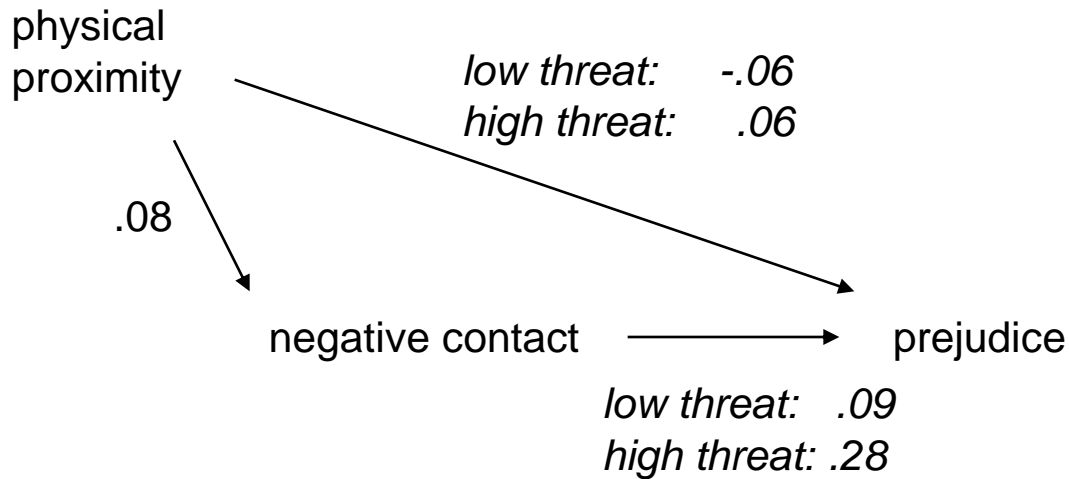


positive / negative contact → prejudice → ig behavior

### Outgroup ideologies as possible moderators of the contact effects



### Outgroup ideologies as possible moderators of the contact effects



N = 1, 324 adult respondents of German background (GFE 2004); Wagner & Becker, in prep