Contact Theory – November 2022

This summary is prepared for the 2022 three-month trial of the Forward Project of the Social Change Lab - Susilo Wibisono & Winnifred R. Louis – details of the methodology and all summaries available here: http://www.socialchangelab.net/forward.html and via subscription/email at https://socialchangelab.substack.com/. Feedback welcome, to w.louis@psy.uq.edu.au .

Month/Year	November 2022
Key term	contact theory
Database	Google Scholar
Link to database	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17p2fFHcyHQ0-hhlzNb2ZV-nzAUPxBPYs1fXsVC1_lRY/edit?usp=sharing

Overview

Overall, there were 24 publications found with the keyword 'contact theory' in Google Scholar for November 2022. Out of the 24 publications, 7 were classified as relevant, 0 were classified as partially relevant, and 17 were not relevant. All 7 relevant publications were journal articles. Our review focuses on the relevant papers.

Approaches and disciplines

All 7 journal articles were empirical papers. There were three quantitative survey studies, two qualitative studies, and one experiment. Out of the qualitative studies, one used an interview and questionnaire (Sayici & Özkan, 2022), and one investigated social media conversation (i.e., Twitter) about migrants (Sánchez-Holgado et al., 2022). The papers were published within disciplines such as sociology and health science.

Participants and data

The countries each study were based on could be classed as 'global' if several countries from different continents were investigated, 'unspecified' if no country was mentioned as part of the investigation, or if the study investigated data from a single country, that country would be named. Our review found that one article did not specify their location of data collection, while two studies were from USA, one study from Spain, one study from The Netherlands, one study from Turkey, and one study from Indonesia.

The participants recruited in the studies were Syrian secondary school children (Sayici & Özkan, 2022), Dutch people aged 18-67 (Stanojevic et al., 2022), Hispanic adolescents aged 14-18 (Estrada & Galliher, 2022), physicians and nurses (Ehilawa et al., 2022), and female undergraduate students (Manago et al., 2022). Of the remaining two studies, one had no access (Sulaiman, 2022) and the other focused on tweets about migrants (Sánchez-Holgado et al., 2022).

Themes and findings

The main themes across the seven articles included diversity and its effects on discrimination and workplace relationships. One article suggested that inter-group contact is most beneficial to those at high risk of stereotyping and discrimination (Estrada & Galliher, 2022). The practical aim of contact theory is to describe how stereotyping and discrimination can be reduced through contact between individuals of different social groups, such as people of different races or ethnicities (Manago et al., 2022). Moreover, it was found that increasing contact with out-groups decreased anxiety and increased willingness to work together with people from different social categories (Manago et al., 2022). A similar study by Sayici and Özcan (2022) showed that over time, negative contact between Syrian and Turkish students decreased and positive contact increased, and friendships between the two ethnic groups formed. However, these groups had to overcome a large language barrier that was originally keeping them from communicating with one another, which may have influenced conclusions drawn. Due to this language barrier, there seemed to be a loss of self-confidence, which also contributed to the difficulty Syrian refugee students had adapting academically and socio-culturally. A key takeaway from the findings of these studies is that diversity reduces difficulties with inter-group contact over time. This was also found to be true in religious settings, where those belonging to diverse religious groups had no difficulty with inter-group contact (Sulaiman, 2022). Increasing diversity therefore may be one solution to issues such as reducing online hate speech about migrants and refugees. Online hate speech poses an issue for peaceful coexistence and democracy (Sánchez-Holgado et al., 2022). This is also relevant to workplace environments, another integral theme in November's publications.

Ethnically diverse workplaces are important social contexts in regard to forming attitudes that workers apply outside of their jobs (Stanojevic et al., 2022). Stanojevic et al. (2022) investigated workers' attitudes towards immigrant entitlements and found that the more unfavourable attitudes that ingroup workers held, the more likely they were to experience suppression by outgroup co-workers. However, ingroup workers were *not* more likely to experience support from outgroup co-workers if their attitudes toward immigrant

entitlements were more favourable. While the majority of November's publications investigated ethnic inter-group contact, inter-professional contact was also investigated in one study by Ehilawa et al. (2022). Inter-professional collaboration in clinical settings is important for patient welfare (Ehilawa et al., 2022). After an educational intervention, attitudes to "working relationships" significantly increased among the participants. Attitudinal change involved three key processes which were shared vulnerability, positive affirmation, and negotiating professional hierarchies, mostly through relationship building.

References – Contact theory (Allport) – November 2022

Ehilawa, P. I., Woodier, N., Dinning, A., O'Neil, V., Poyner, F., Yates, L., Baxendale, B., Madan, C., Patel, R. (2022). Using simulation-based interprofessional education to change attitudes towards collaboration among higher specialty trainee physicians and registered nurses: a mixed methods pilot study. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, 1–10. Published online. https://doi.org/10.1080/13561820.2022.2137481

Estrada, J., Galliher, R. V. (2022). Moderating effects of school ethnic composition of acculturative stress and academic outcomes in Latinx youth. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 1-13. https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12808

Manago, B., Sell, J., Goar, C. (2022). Racial and ethnic status distinctions and discrimination: the effects of prior contact and group interaction. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, *8*(7), 132-157. https://doi.org/10.7758/RSF.2022.8.7.07

Sánchez-Holgado, P., Amores, J. J., Blanco-Herrero, D. (2022). Online hate speech and immigration acceptance: A study of Spanish provinces. *Social Sciences*, *11*(11), 1-16. https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11110515

Sayici, M., Özkan, M. (2022). Syrian students' school perception: experiences in the process and change over time. *MSGSÜ Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, *2*(26), 459-471. https://doi.org/10.56074/msgsusbd.1175153

Stanojevic, A., Akkerman, A., Manevska, K. (2022). Be careful how you treat your coworkers: The reciprocal relationship between ethnic outgroup coworkers' reactions to voice and ethnic majority employees' attitudes regarding immigrant entitlements. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, *44,* 109-126. https://doi.org/10.1080/01973533.2022.2147433

Sulaiman, S. (2022). From an online survey: The dilemma of religious education model in Indonesia affected to inter-group contact. *Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Indonesia, 14(2)*, 1695-1702. DOI: 10.35445/alishlah.v14i1.2178