

Intergroup Relations

Variables to Consider

1. Past History of the Groups
2. Degree of Cultural Distance
3. Rewards the Participants Feel They Receive

Intergroup Relations

These are seen in the behaviour of group members as well as in their beliefs and attitudes

Stereo-types represent the traits that we view as characteristics of social groups or individuals, (particularly those that differ from us)

Attitudes refer to beliefs and feelings, or emotions towards members of another group, involving evaluation or favourability

Values central attitudes about life goals that are important to a person

Social Norms patterns of behaviour that are expected to be displayed in a particular social context or situation, even though actual behaviour might diverge from verbally stated norms

Implicit Attitudes

Based on these subconscious associations which influence our feelings and attitude about others based on their race, ethnicity, age, and appearance. These associations develop from our early experiences and continue throughout our lifetime. These experiences are not limited to just our own personal interactions but also from our exposure to media and news-programming.

Important Concepts in Studying Diversity

Cultural distance The degree of difference between groups in critical dimensions of language, religion, family structure, political, and economic systems.

Perceived similarity Often dichotomized into perceived ingroup or out-group membership. The context of judgment may shift that perception.

Contact Contact between groups has several important dimensions: its frequency, quality, and the degree to which it is individual and personal

Contact Hypothesis/Intergroup Contact Theory Prejudice and conflict between groups can be reduced if members of the groups interact with each other. When groups interact they come to know each other better and there is a reconceptualization of group categories leading to prejudice reduction.

Isomorphic Attributions

Intergroup Biases

The cognitive tendencies to evaluate one's own group more favourably than outgroups

-Based solely on one piece of information:
Group Membership

Intergroup Biases (cont)

-Experiments using only group status found that intergroup biases can develop for artificially created groups regardless of how flimsy its existence

Minimum Ingroup Profit This strategy awards the highest absolute number of points to ingroup members

Maximum Differentiation This strategy seeks to maximise the difference between the ingroup and the outgroup with the difference being in favour of the ingroup members

Minimal Outgroup Benefit This strategy focuses on allocating as few resources as possible to the members of the outgroup without being concerned about the number of resources allocated to the ingroup.

Ethnocentrism A personality trait which individuals reject the outgroups and has a view of one's own group as the standard to which others should be judged

Social Dominance Orientation The general attitudinal preference for intergroup relations to be hierarchal, combined with the attitude that one's own group is superior and should dominate

