

Meta-analysis of the ‘ironic’ effects of intergroup contact

Nils Karl Reimer, University of Oxford

Nikhil Kumar Sengupta, University of Kent

12/08/2020

Results

Preregistered analyses

As preregistered, we ran three random-effects meta-analysis models, one for the relationship between intergroup contact and each outcome variable. Across 200,229 participants from 117 samples in 81 studies, we found strong evidence for a weak association ($r = -.07, [-.11, -.04]$) between intergroup contact and perceived injustice, with $> 99.9\%$ of posterior samples for the mean correlation coefficient falling below zero. We found evidence that correlation coefficients varied across studies ($\tau_J = .14, [.12, .17]$) and across samples within studies ($\tau_I = .09, [.06, .13]$). Across 118,584 participants from 36 samples in 23 studies, we found some evidence for a weak association ($r = -.06, [-.14, .01]$) between intergroup contact and collective action, with 95.0% of posterior samples for the mean correlation coefficient falling below zero. We found evidence that correlation coefficients varied across studies ($\tau_J = .17, [.12, .24]$) and across samples within studies ($\tau_I = .09, [.06, .15]$). Across 13,703 participants from 19 samples in 14 studies, we found some evidence for a weak association ($r = -.07, [-.14, -.00]$) between intergroup contact and policy support, with 98.1% of posterior samples for the mean correlation coefficient falling below zero. We found evidence that correlation coefficients varied across studies ($\tau_J = .10, [.06, .18]$) and, to a lesser extent, across samples within studies ($\tau_I = .03, [.00, .12]$).

As preregistered, we ran another three random-effects meta-analysis models to estimate the relationships between the three outcome variables. As we were not interested in the direction of these relationships, we used cross-sectional correlation coefficients as effect sizes for longitudinal studies. Across 111,252 participants from 24 samples in 13 studies, we found evidence for a moderate association ($r = .29, [.21, .37]$) between perceived injustice and collective action. Across 6,244 participants from 12 samples in 9 studies, we found evidence for a moderate association ($r = .23, [.08, .35]$) between perceived injustice and policy support. Across 8,558 participants from 6 samples in 3 studies, we found evidence for a moderate association ($r = .30, [.13, .42]$) between collective action and policy support.