

Inter-minority relations in Western-Europe

Aim

The *INTER-MIN* project, funded by a European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant, will take a broader perspective on social cohesion and offer a first systematic investigation of inter-minority relations in Western Europe. Specific aims are to map inter-minority relations across ethnic groups and reveal the underlying mechanisms that explain inter-minority relations.

Theoretical background

Research on social cohesion in Western Europe has primarily focused on the relations between ethnic majorities and immigrant-origin minorities. Notwithstanding the continuing relevance of majority-minority relations, there is a growing urgency to map and explain relations *between* different immigrant-origin ethnic minorities. Yet, research on such inter-minority relations is scarce. Most of the existing studies have been conducted in the USA and among four large racial groups (*e.g.* Burson & Godfrey, 2018), and particularly little is known about inter-minority relations among a variety of ethnic groups in Western Europe. The few existing studies in Europe focus predominantly on anti-immigration attitudes of established immigrant-origin groups, and even fewer have examined relations *between* established minorities (*e.g.* Koops et al., 2017). Apart from scarcity, the main shortcoming of the existing scholarship is that it either considers immigrant-origin groups' attitudes toward immigrants in general, without distinguishing between ethnicities on either end, or it focuses on a very limited number of inter-minority comparisons and thus fails to capture differences in intergroup relations across various combinations of ethnic minority groups. We propose an innovative theoretical framework that considers explanations on the level of minority group dyad (characteristics specific to each combination of two minorities) alongside the characteristics of the individual, and it takes into account objective dyad characteristics (*e.g.* same religion) as well as perceptions (*e.g.* perceived cultural similarity).

Research design

This project calls for an approach that is interdisciplinary (combining sociology and social psychology) and mixed-method. The central task is the development of a large survey with embedded experiments and the collection of data via research agencies among multiple ethnic minorities in the Netherlands, Germany and the UK. As a follow-up, focus group discussions will be conducted for deeper insights into relations between minorities. Experience with advanced quantitative methods (especially multi-level analyses) is required.

Literature

- Burson, E., & Godfrey, E. B. (2018). The state of the union: Contemporary interminority attitudes in the United States. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, 40, 396-413.
- Koops, J., Martinović, B., & Weesie, J. (2017). Are inter-minority contacts guided by the same mechanisms as minority-majority contacts? A comparative study of two types of inter-ethnic ties in the Netherlands. *International Migration Review*, 51, 701-726.

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