

**UNDERSTANDING STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICE IN INTERGROUP CONTACT:  
THE QUALITATIVE APPROACH**

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This presentation is a daring attempt to generalize from more than 10 years of qualitative research into intergroup contact between different national groups and to identify trends, formulate some common findings and offer methodological comments concerning understanding of prejudices and stereotypes. The presentation draws on experience from four different research projects, various kinds of empirical material (semi-structured interviews, focus groups, drawings of the border region and answers to an open question in an online questionnaire) and concerns Slovak-Austrian, Slovak-Irish, Czech-Slovak, Czech-Polish, Czech-Austrian and Czech-German attitudes.

SEMINÁŘ SEKCE INTERKULTURNÍ PSYCHOLOGIE  
ČESKOMORAVSKÉ PSYCHOLOGICKÉ SPOLEČNOSTI

# O POVAZE PŘEDSUDKŮ

## 60 LET PO ALLPORTOVI

POŘÁDÁ FILOZOFICKÁ FAKULTA MASARYKOVY UNIVERZITY  
**22. DUBNA 2015 VE 13.00 HOD.**

V KINĚ SCALA (MORAVSKÉ NÁMĚSTÍ 3, BRNO)

## PROGRAM

**13.00 – 14.10 ZVANÁ PŘEDNÁŠKA**

MICHAŁ BILEWICZ: „**HEROIC HELPERS. THE ROLE OF MORAL EXEMPLARS IN INTERGROUP CONTACT AND RECONCILIATION**“  
(50 min + 20 min diskuze)

**14.30 – 16.30 SEMINÁŘ**

14.30 – 15.00

ANNA STEFANIAK & MICHAŁ BILEWICZ: „**HISTORICAL CONTACT: PROMOTING POSITIVE INTERGROUP RELATIONS AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ENGAGEMENT WITH MULTI-ETHNIC PAST**“

15.00 – 15.30

BARBARA LÁŠTICOVÁ & MONIKA KOČIŠOVÁ: „**IMAGINING INTERGROUP CONTACT CAN IMPROVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS ROMA. FIRST INSIGHTS FROM SLOVAKIA**“

15.30 – 16.00

TIBOR ŽINGORA & SYLVIE GRAF: „**ETHNIC DIVERSITY REDUCES PREJUDICE AGAINST MINORITIES: MECHANISMS OF SECONDARY TRANSFER EFFECT OF CONTACT WITH VIETNAMESE AND ROMA**“

16.00 – 16.30

MAGDA PETRJÁNOŠOVÁ: „**UNDERSTANDING STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICE IN INTERGROUP CONTACT: THE QUALITATIVE APPROACH**“

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INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ



# ABSTRAKTY

## **HEROIC HELPERS. THE ROLE OF MORAL EXEMPLARS IN INTERGROUP CONTACT AND RECONCILIATION**

Michał Bilewicz

Center for Research on Prejudice, Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw

During each act of genocide, war and armed conflict there are rare examples of people who decide to help the victims of genocide, risking their own life and life of their families. The moral exemplars model of reconciliation (Bilewicz & Jaworska, 2013; Cehajic-Clancy & Bilewicz, *subm.*) suggests that presenting the history of such heroic helpers can affect contemporary attitudes among descendants of historical victims, perpetrators and bystanders. Our research on Polish-Jewish contact found that moral exemplars allow to overcome threats of historical victimization. Similarly, we found that presenting contemporary Poles with history of German historical moral exemplars improves their attitudes toward contemporary Germans. In Yugoslavian war context, we found that presenting Bosniaks and Serbs with moral exemplars leads to reconciliation. Also in Turkey, where Armenian genocide is a taboo issue, and in Armenia, the narrative of moral exemplars can be used to improve intergroup attitudes.

## **HISTORICAL CONTACT: PROMOTING POSITIVE INTERGROUP RELATIONS AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ENGAGEMENT WITH MULTI-ETHNIC PAST**

Anna Stefaniak & Michał Bilewicz

Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw

Intergroup contact is a powerful tool for improving intergroup attitudes (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006). Negative attitudes tend to persist in societies characterized by lack of such contact (e.g. East Germany: Wagner, Van Dick, Pettigrew, & Christ, 2003; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Cehajic, Brown, & Castano, 2008; Northern Ireland: Hewstone, Cairns, Voci, Hamberger, & Niens, 2006; Poland: Bilewicz, Winiewski, Kofta, & Wójcik, 2013). This is why psychologists developed alternatives to direct contact interventions – such as imagined or extended contact (Crisp & Turner 2009; Wright, Aron, McLaughlin-Wolpe, & Ropp, 1997). This talk presents a new concept of historical contact - the discovery of outgroups' material heritage - as a potential tool for improving intergroup relations. Two waves of an intervention – an educational program the School of Dialogue – performed in the context of Polish-Jewish relations used the framework of contact with multi-ethnic past in the process of improving intergroup attitudes. The longitudinal study of these interventions (N = 437 and N = 486) showed that historical contact was associated with an increase in participants' interest in local history which led to the perception of Jews as more similar to the ingroup. This, in turn, improved attitudes towards Jewish people. What is more, participants displayed a significant increase in social capital measured as social trust and as willingness for local community involvement.

## **IMAGINING INTERGROUP CONTACT CAN IMPROVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS ROMA. FIRST INSIGHTS FROM SLOVAKIA**

Barbara Lášticová<sup>1</sup> & Monika Kočíšová<sup>2</sup>

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The aim of the experiment was to investigate whether imagining positive interaction with a Roma minority member would change behavioural tendencies towards Roma in Slovak ethnic majority members (N = 43). Imagined contact is based on a mental simulation of social interaction between in- and outgroup members and reduces intergroup bias in four key areas: intergroup attitudes, emotions, behavioural intentions, and behaviour (Miles & Crisp, 2014). Students who imagined having a positive interaction with a Roma fellow-student reported more positive attitude towards Roma, than did participants in the control condition. Imagining contact with a Roma did not directly affect intergroup anxiety, outgroup trust, or behavioural tendencies. Path analysis showed that outgroup attitude mediated approach but not avoidance behavioural tendencies. The qualitative data suggest that the participants perceived the Roma minority member they imagined interacting with as a "white crow", and did not generalize the perception of this individual to the whole social category.

## **ETHNIC DIVERSITY REDUCES PREJUDICE AGAINST MINORITIES: MECHANISMS OF SECONDARY TRANSFER EFFECT OF CONTACT WITH VIETNAMESE AND ROMA**

Tibor Žingora & Sylvie Graf

Brno Lab of Intergroup Processes, Institute of Psychology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

The study applied intergroup contact theory (ICT) and theory of intergroup threat (TIT) on the troubling situation of Roma in the Czech Republic. ICT proposes that contact with outgroup members improves attitudes not only towards the outgroup encountered in a contact situation (primary effect of contact) but also toward outgroups not directly involved in contact (secondary effect of contact, STE). We tested if contact with Vietnamese reduces prejudice against Roma through change in perceived threats (realistic and symbolic). In a sample of 820 Czech university students, positive contact with Vietnamese reduced prejudice against Roma. The effect of contact with Vietnamese on attitudes towards Roma was mediated by generalization of reduced threat towards Vietnamese on threat towards Roma. Opportunities for contact with different minorities in ethnically diverse society can harmonize relations between majority and segregated minorities, especially if contact reduces perceived threats from minorities.