Intergroup contact shapes the valuing of diversity, which mediates the influence of contact on prejudice and behaviours

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Highlights

- Contact with Black British peers predicts changes in valuing diversity over time

- Changes in valuing diversity mediate links between contact and prejudice/ behavioural intentions, in British student and German probability samples

Background

- Valuing diversity predicts positive intergroup outcomes (Leslie et al., 2020), yet is hard to promote (Osborn et al., 2019)
- Intergroup contact predicts prejudice reduction (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006), yet links with valuing diversity are unclear

Study 1: Two-wave longitudinal survey of first year White university students in England, surveyed ~100 days apart ($N = 211$)
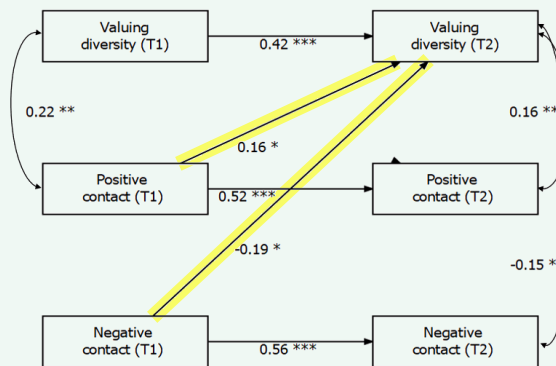

Contact with Black British peers predicts changes in valuing diversity: Positive contact → increase, Negative → decrease

Study 2: Mediation analyses in White English students sample ($N = 224$)

- Mediators: valuing diversity, empathy and intergroup anxiety
- Valuing diversity explained path from contact to three of four outcomes
- Valuing diversity most important mediator of contact effect on cognitive prejudice and policy support (cognitive outcomes)

Study 3: Replication of mediation in German probability sample
(ALLBUS 2016, $N = 2,618$)
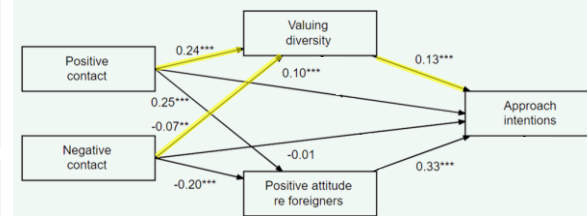
Valuing diversity remains significant mediator alongside outgroup attitudes

Implications

- Mediation of contact through valuing diversity highlights a cognitive route alongside established affective route through empathy and anxiety → can be focus of interventions
- Results are consistent in two cultural contexts – yet further research on moderators (e.g., secularism norms) is needed
- If valuing diversity can lead to contact, potential for virtuous cycle – create conditions that facilitate contact

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