

IACCP MIRIPS SYMPOSIA

ABSTRACT

First symposium

List of authors: (organizer must be indicated as first author according to submission guidelines, authors and co-authors of all presentations)

- Prof. Dr. Andrea Haenni Hoti, Institute for Diversity Education, University of Teacher Education, Lucerne, Switzerland, andrea.haenni@phlu.ch
- Dr. des. Sybille Heinzmann, Institute for Teaching and Learning, University of Teacher Education, Lucerne, Switzerland, sybille.heinzmann@phlu.ch
- Prof. Dr. Marianne Müller, University of Teacher Education, Lucerne, Switzerland, marianne.mueller@phlu.ch
- Prof. Dr. Alois Buholzer, Institute for Diversity Education, University of Teacher Education, Lucerne, Switzerland, alois.buholzer@phlu.ch
- MA Roland Künzle, University of Teacher Education, Lucerne, Switzerland, roland.kuenzle@phlu.ch
- Prof. Dr. John W. Berry, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada and Higher School of Economics, National Research University, Moscow, Russia, elderberrys@gmail.com
- Prof. Dr. Vassilis Pavlopoulos, Department of Psychology, University of Athens, Athens, Greece, vpavlop@psych.uoa.gr
- Prof. Dr. Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, Department of Psychology, University of Athens, Athens, Greece, frmotti@psych.uoa.gr
- Prof. Dr. Cristiano Inguglia, Department of Psychology, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy, cristiano.inguglia@unipa.it
- Dr. Pasquale Musso, Department of Psychology, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy, muspasq@gmail.com
- Prof. Dr. Alida Lo Coco, Department of Psychology, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy, alida.lococo@unipa.it
- Prof. Dr. Sonia Ingoglia, Department of Psychology, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy, sonia.ingoglia@unipa.it
- Prof. Dr. Saba Safdar, Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, Psychology Department, University of Guelph, Guelph, Canada, ssafdar@uoguelph.ca
- Gui Yongxia, Center for Studies of Education and Psychology of Ethnic Minorities in Southwest China, Southwest University, Chongqing, China snowgui@uoguelph.ca

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Title: Exploring intercultural relations: the acculturation of youth in a cross-national perspective

Topic: Acculturation

Symposium summary (2500 characters maximum)

Shaping the way people from different cultural backgrounds (with or without the experience of immigration) live together represents a significant challenge for a complex modern society. We believe that a cross-national perspective on acculturation and intercultural relations can contribute significantly to a better understanding of the functioning of culturally diverse societies. The research project Mutual Intercultural Relations in Plural Societies (MIRIPS) aims at analyzing acculturation strategies and intercultural relations between various ethnic communities across different national contexts. MIRIPS is a collaborative project being carried out in over 20 countries, using a common research framework, and based on a common research instrument. There are two symposia, one including studies with youth and the other studies with adults. The symposium dealing with acculturation and intercultural relations among youth starts with an introduction into the MIRIPS project (presenting author: John W. Berry). The theoretical framework as well as basic hypotheses of the international project will be outlined. In the following presentations research results from Switzerland, Greece, Italy and Canada will be presented involving samples of immigrant students from Italy, Portugal, Kosovo, Albania, Tunisia, the former Soviet Union and China. The Swiss study (presenting author: Andrea Haenni Hoti) focuses on the relationship between acculturation, psychosocial adaptation and school success of immigrant students. The Greek study (presenting author: Vassilis Pavlopoulos) examines whether and how ethnic and national identification of immigrant students mediate the effect of perceived discrimination on their well-being and outgroup attitudes. The Italian study (presenting author: Cristiano Inguglia) investigates the relationships between acculturation and outcomes related to immigrants' psychosocial adaptation, also considering the perceived discrimination. Whereas these three studies were carried out in the school context, the Canadian study looks at a university setting investigating mutual relationships between international students and domestic students from Canadian universities, their acculturation and psychosocial adaptation (presenting author: Saba Safdar). All four studies contribute to the discussion about future research and intervention in the field of acculturation of immigrant students and intercultural relations between immigrant and native born youth.

Speakers abstract 1: (2500 characters maximum for each speaker's abstract)

Introduction: Mutual Intercultural Relations in Plural Societies

Berry J. W. (1) (2)*

(1) Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

(2) National Research University, Moscow, Russia

The quality of intercultural relations is now an important feature of all culturally plural countries. Policies to improve the mutual acceptance of all cultural communities by all citizens may be improved by carrying out research on this issue, and by sharing it with policy makers and the general public. The MIRIPS project is designed to provide such research by examining three

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hypotheses. The first is the multiculturalism hypothesis. This hypothesis proposes that if individuals feel secure in their place in society (with respect to their cultural identity and their economic situation), they will be more accepting of those who differ from themselves. Conversely, if they feel culturally or economically threatened, they will reject others. The second hypothesis is the integration hypothesis. According to this hypothesis, individuals will feel well (psychologically) and do well (socioculturally) if they are engaged in both their own culture and that of the larger society. In contrast, if individuals adopt a strategy of being engaged in only one or the other culture (by way of assimilation or separation), or if they engage in neither culture (by way of marginalization), they will have poorer psychological and sociocultural adaptation. The third hypothesis is the contact hypothesis, which proposes that individuals will be more accepting of others if they engage in contact with them, under certain conditions (such as when contact is voluntary and is of equal status). The MIRIPS project evaluates these three hypotheses in order to discover the conditions (historical, cultural, political) under which they are valid, and perhaps to establish their pancultural validity. This paper reviews some previous MIRIPS research; and this symposium presents some current MIRIPS research that is relevant to all three hypotheses. I conclude that there is substantial support for the promotion of public policies that are rooted in the ideology of multiculturalism and for the development of programmes that are intended to improve intercultural relations in plural societies.

Speakers abstract 2:

Acculturation, psychosocial adaptation and school success of immigrant youth in Switzerland

Haenni Hoti A. (1)*, Heinzmann S. (1), Müller M. (1), Buholzer A. (1), Künzle R. (1)

(1) University of Teacher Education, Lucerne, Switzerland

Most of the contemporary studies on acculturation refer to concepts of acculturation which consist of two dimensions (orientation towards the heritage culture vs. orientation towards the culture of the receiving country). However, we believe that two-dimensional concepts of acculturation do not sufficiently take the cultural diversity of a multicultural society into account. Therefore, in our study we developed a three-dimensional concept of acculturation including a minority orientation, a mainstream orientation and a multicultural orientation.

In this paper selected key results of the Swiss MIRIPS study dealing with the following research question will be presented: What impact do different acculturation strategies of immigrant youth have on their psychosocial adaptation and school success? We will examine how different acculturation strategies of immigrant youth affect their psychosocial adaptation (life satisfaction, sociocultural competence, self-efficacy) and their school success (reading skills in the local language of instruction, school satisfaction, educational aspirations, school-related misconduct). The sample consists of secondary school students (n=1488) who live in urban areas of German-speaking Switzerland focusing on Italian, Portuguese and Albanian students. For the data collection a student questionnaire, a teacher questionnaire and a German reading test were administered. The data were analyzed by means of multilevel regression models.

The results indicate that a combination of all three strategies (integration) examined in this study as well as the minority orientation alone (separation) have a positive impact on certain aspects of psychosocial adaptation. Regarding school success the multicultural strategy alone or in combination with the minority orientation (partial integration) turned out to be the preferred

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strategy of the higher achieving and better adapted students. In this study, substantial support for a modified version of the integration hypothesis was found. Besides, minority and multicultural orientation turned out to be beneficial acculturation strategies.

Speakers abstract 3:

Does group identification mediate the negative impact of perceived discrimination on well-being and outgroup attitudes? A study of immigrant adolescents in Greece

Pavlopoulos V. (1)*, Motti-Stefanidi F. (1)

(1) University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Perceived discrimination has been found to pose a serious threat to the psychological adaptation of immigrant youth. At the same time, it may undermine intergroup relations by increasing hostility of immigrants against the nationals. Within the MIRIPS framework, perceived discrimination is closely related to the multiculturalism and integration hypotheses since it can be considered a proxy for cultural insecurity and a barrier in seeking interactions with the dominant outgroup. Various social psychological models attempt to explain the deleterious outcomes of perceived discrimination in terms of group identification. The present study draws on this theoretical background in order to examine whether and how ethnic and national identification of immigrant adolescents in Greece mediate the effect of perceived discrimination on their well-being and outgroup attitudes. The sample consisted of 510 immigrant adolescents (52% male, 62% second generation, mean age=12.7 years, age range 10-17 years) of various ethnic backgrounds (58% from countries of the former Soviet Union, 32% from Albania) who were enrolled in Greek urban schools of primary and secondary education. Measures included the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, Nguyen & Von Eye's Acculturation Scale, the revised Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure and perceived discrimination items drawn from the MIRIPS study. SEM analyses showed that perceived discrimination, as expected, is negatively related to well-being as well as to national outgroup attitudes. Although ethnic group identification promoted well-being, it was not found to buffer the negative effect of perceived discrimination on well-being, as suggested by the Rejection-Identification model. On the other hand, decreased national identification partly explained the negative impact of perceived discrimination on outgroup attitudes, in line with the Rejection-Disidentification model. Furthermore, national identification predicted higher levels of well-being, while ethnic identification predicted more negative outgroup attitudes. The implications of the above findings are discussed in relation to psychological (developmental) and contextual (sociocultural) factors.

Speakers abstract 4:

Acculturation profiles, psychosocial adaptation and perceived discrimination among Tunisian adolescents living in Sicily

Inguglia C. (1)*, Musso P. (1), Lo Coco A. (1), Ingoglia S. (1)

(1) University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy

The study refers to data coming from the Italian section of MIRIPS project. It was focused on the analysis of the adaptation of Tunisian adolescents living in Italy and it was guided by the integration hypothesis, stating that migrants feel better if they are engaged in both their own culture and that of the larger society than if they engage in one or the other culture only. Using a

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person-oriented approach, the study investigated the relationships between acculturation profiles - namely patterns of relations between factors associated to the acculturation process (e.g., acculturation strategies, ethnic and national identities, ethnic and national language use, social contacts with people of the same ethnic group and autochthonous) - and some outcomes related to migrants' psychosocial adaptation, considering also the perceived discrimination. Participants were 380 Tunisian adolescents (males = 52%; mean age = 15.82) living in Sicily (Italy) and attending Italian secondary schools. Data were collected during school time using the MIRIPS questionnaire. Results of a cluster analysis showed that participants could be assigned to three different profiles: Bicultural (39% of the sample), characterized by high levels of integration, national and ethnic identification, competence in national language and social contacts with Italian and ethnic group members; Ethnic (35%), characterized by high levels of separation, competence in ethnic language and ethnic identity; National (26%), characterized by high levels of assimilation, competence in national language, national identity and social contacts with Italians. A MANOVA showed that Ethnic profile adolescents reported higher levels of perceived discrimination and lower levels of psychosocial adjustment than others, whereas Bicultural showed higher levels of self-esteem than National and Ethnic adolescents. Finally, a multi-group structural equation modeling highlighted different patterns of relations between perceived discrimination and psychosocial adjustment depending on the acculturation profiles. Implications of these findings for the research and intervention in this field are discussed.

Speakers abstract 5:

A comparative study of Chinese international students and domestic students in Canada: mutual intercultural relations

Safdar S. (1)*, Yongxia G. (2), Berry J. W. (3) (4)

(1) University of Guelph, Guelph, Canada

(2) Southwest University, Chongqing, China

(3) Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

(4) National Research University, Moscow, Russia

Much research has been carried out on international students' academic success, but little has examined the mutual relationships between these international students and domestic students. The present study sought to understand these mutual relationships, and was guided by two hypotheses. The multiculturalism hypothesis (i.e., a sense of security in intercultural encounters leads to more positive relationships) and the integration hypothesis (i.e., when individuals are engaged in interactions with both their heritage cultural group and that of the national society, there will be better adaptations). Participants were 112 international and 386 domestic students from several Canadian universities. Variables assessed included: security (cultural security, perceived discrimination), intercultural relations (multicultural ideology, tolerance, attitudes towards immigration, ethnic and national identity, acculturation strategies, and acculturation behaviours), and adaptation (psychological adaptation and sociocultural competence in dealing with common situations in daily life in Canada). Results showed that higher security predicted more positive attitudes towards diversity, supporting the multiculturalism hypothesis. Cluster analysis was carried out with the intercultural variables separately in the two samples. For international students, three clusters were found: an integration cluster; an assimilation cluster; and a diffuse cluster (combining features of separation and marginalisation). Those in the

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integration and assimilation clusters had higher sociocultural competence than those in the diffuse cluster, and they scored higher on psychological adaptation variables. For Canadian students, two clusters were found: those who favoured multiculturalism and those who did not. Those in the multicultural cluster scored higher on psychological adaptation. These results support the integration hypothesis. Implications of these findings for preparing international and Canadian students for their intercultural encounters are discussed.

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Second Symposium

List of authors:

- Prof. Dr. Rupert Brown, University of Sussex, UK, r.brown@sussex.ac.uk
- Prof. Dr. Inga Jasinskaja-Lahti, University of Helsinki, Finland, inga.jasinskaja@helsinki.fi
- Dr. Tuuli Anna Mähönen, University of Helsinki, Finland, tuuli-anna.mahonen@helsinki.fi
- M.Soc.Sc. Asteria Brylka, University of Helsinki, Finland, asteria.brylka@helsinki.fi
- Prof. Dr. John W. Berry, Queen's University Kingston, Kingston, Canada, elderberrys@gmail.com
- Prof. Dr. Cynthia Man Leung, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, ssleung@polyu.edu.hk
- Dr. Sylvia Xiaohua Chen, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, ssxhchen@polyu.edu.hk
- M.Phil. Bryant Pui Hung Hui, University of Cambridge, UK, pjh33@cam.ac.uk
- Prof. Nadezhda Lebedeva, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, lebedehope@yandex.ru
- Associate Prof. Dr. Alexander Tatarko, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, atatarko@hse.ru
- Prof. Dr. Hector Grad, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain, hector.grad@uam.es

Title:

Exploring intercultural relations: the acculturation of adults in a cross-national perspective

Topic: Acculturation

Symposium summary

The second part of the MIRIPS symposium continues the discussion started in the first part on the role of intergroup relations in acculturation, by focusing on empirical research results obtained among adult populations in Asia, Europe and Latin America. In all four presentations, both majority and minority group perspectives are examined. The first presentation (Lebedeva et al.) discusses three established theoretizations – multiculturalism hypothesis, integration hypothesis and contact hypothesis – in the context of Post-Soviet Russia, while the two following presentations (Hui et al.; Grad) focus more specifically on correlates and ramifications of different acculturation strategies. The fourth presentation (Brylka et al.), in turn, examines the effects of perceived intergroup discordance related to the maintenance of minority culture on support for collective action. The whole symposium will end with a critical reflection on and discussion of the studies carried out within the MIRIPS project by discussant, Prof. Rupert Brown.

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Speakers abstract 1:

Mutual intercultural relations in Post-Soviet Russia

Lebedeva N.*, Tatarko A., Berry, J. W.

Moscow Higher School of Economics, Russia

The research examines intercultural relations in post-Soviet Russia. It is guided by the concepts and hypotheses, and uses measures developed in the project “Mutual Intercultural Relations in Plural Societies (MIRIPS). Migrants from South and North Caucasus (N = 378) and residents of Moscow (N = 651) were studied in Moscow to examine three hypotheses used to understand intercultural relations: the *multiculturalism hypothesis*, *integration hypothesis* and *contact hypothesis*. Data processing was carried out using structural equation modeling (SEM) separately for migrants and majority group members. The findings generally confirm all three hypotheses among both immigrants and the majority population. Higher perceived security promotes interethnic tolerance and support for multicultural ideology. Preference for the integration strategy is conducive to better sociocultural adaptation among migrants and life satisfaction among members of both groups. Number of friends among outgroup members and frequency of contacts with them promote higher level of mutual acceptance and tolerance. The authors conclude that efforts to improve intercultural relations in contemporary Russia should be directed at enhancing the larger society’s basic sense of security and to developing educational programs supporting multicultural ideology, equality and tolerance among both the members of the larger society and among immigrants.

Speakers abstract 2:

Facilitating adaptation and intercultural contact: The role of bicultural integration and multicultural ideology among majority and minority groups

Hui B. P. H. (1)*, Chen S. X. (2), Leung C. (2), & Berry J. W. (3)

(1) University of Cambridge, UK

(2) The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

(3) Queen’s University, Kingston, Canada

Research on acculturation has documented that adaptation to a receiving society is affected by immigrants’ acculturation strategies and the dominant group’s attitudes towards immigration. While the acculturation strategies of immigrants have been extensively studied, the acculturation expectations from the receiving society and the role of support for multiculturalism have received relatively less attention from researchers. Moreover, previous research has not fully acknowledged that adaptation concerns also majority group members. The present study, linked to the MIRIPS network, aimed at investigating the acculturation experiences and adaptation outcomes in Hong Kong by incorporating mutual views of both the dominant population and non-dominant group. It also tested the mediating role of dominant population’s tolerance towards different cultural groups and the non-dominant group’s perceived discrimination. Two community samples were recruited, including Hong Kong residents (N = 181) and immigrants from Mainland China (N = 182). Among Mainland immigrants, the integration strategy predicted

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both psychological adaptation and sociocultural adaptation. Support for multiculturalism predicted psychological adaptation and engagement in intercultural contact with Hong Kong majority members via lower perceived discrimination. Among Hong Kong residents, their integration expectations predicted higher psychological adaptation. Support for multicultural ideology indirectly affected engagement in intercultural contact with Mainland immigrants via greater tolerance. In general, these results suggest that the integration strategy and expectations are more important for intrapersonal functioning, i.e., adaptation, whereas multicultural ideology may be more crucial in facilitating social interactions between members of the society of settlement and immigrants in culturally plural milieus, i.e., intercultural contact. Specifically, non-dominant group's perceived discrimination plays a mediating role in intercultural contact with dominant group, while dominant group's tolerance acts as a mediator in intercultural contact with non-dominant group.

Speakers abstract 3:

Mutual intercultural relations between Ecuadorean migrants and Spanish majority population: the role of national and cosmopolitan identities

Grad H.*

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

The management of intercultural relations is an important challenge for Spanish society, where the acculturation of recent mass immigration meets previous national, ethnic and linguistic diversity. In this context, the social representation of the nation and the configuration of national identity condition the intercultural ideologies and the mutual relationships of diverse migrant and host populations. This research focuses on the intercultural relations between Ecuadoreans, the greatest non-European immigrant group, and majority Spanish population in Madrid. "Mutual Intercultural Relations in Plural Societies" (MIRIPS) questionnaire was applied to adult samples (N = 200, 50% female) of these populations. Immigrant and Spanish samples were drawn from the same neighborhoods. The results of multiple regression analyses showed that support for multicultural ideology and integration acculturation strategies (Sam & Berry, 2006) is related to stronger identification with supranational (European, Latin American, citizen of the world) vs. national (Spanish, Ecuadorean) identities and stress on civic (vs. ethnic) factors in the social representation of the nation. The contribution of these results to previous research in the field (cf. Berry et al., 2006; George, 2010; van de Vijver et al, 2008; Weinreich, 2009) and, specifically, their generalization to other national and ethnic groups will be assessed.

Speakers abstract 4:

Cultural discordance and collective action: majority and minority viewpoints

Brylka A.*, Mähönen T.A., & Jasinskaja-Lahti I.

University of Helsinki, Finland

In social and acculturation psychological research, perceived discordance of acculturation attitudes and intergroup anxiety have been shown to influence intergroup relations between ethnic majority and minority group members. However, previous studies have left aside the ramifications of discordant attitudes on support for and willingness to engage in collective action

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that would improve the position of minority group members within the society. This survey study conducted among Finnish majority (N = 334) and Russian-speaking minority members (N = 316) was part of the MIRIPS-FI project, connected to the MIRIPS network. We focused on perceived discordance related to preference for cultural maintenance of Russian immigrants. More specifically, using regression analysis with bootstrapping method to test the significance of indirect effects, we examined the effect of perceived cultural discordance on support for collective action, via intergroup anxiety. The results showed among majority group members that cultural discordance (i.e., perception that minority members want to maintain their culture more strongly than majority members want them to) was associated with higher intergroup anxiety, which was further associated with less support for minority group members' collective action. Among minority members, in turn, cultural discordance (i.e., perception that majority members do not let minority members to maintain their culture to the extent they would like to) was associated with higher intergroup anxiety, which increased their willingness to engage in collective action. The results are discussed in relation the reciprocity of intergroup relations and the differing viewpoints and motivations of majority and minority group members.