

**Impact of Diversity on Attitudes and Trust:
The Missing Dimension of Intergroup Contact**

Miles Hewstone (Oxford University)

My talk will begin by considering the pessimistic prediction of Harvard political scientist, Robert Putnam that living in ethnically diverse areas is associated with 'distrust', not just of ethnic outgroup members, but also ethnic ingroup members. I will challenge his findings, primarily, for having failed to include an adequate measure of intergroup contact (i.e., not just whether people live in ethnically diverse areas, but the quantity and quality of cross-group interaction they experience). This critique is substantiated with recent multi-level data from a survey carried out across England, sampling neighbourhoods varying in diversity and deprivation. The remainder of my talk presents an overview of some of my current research – comprising cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys, experiments, and observational and archival analyses. I provide evidence for the impact of different kinds of contact (direct, extended, imagined); highlight the value of cross-group friendships; explore how and when contact works (i.e., mediating and moderating factors, respectively); and consider the variety of outcome measures that contact impacts on (especially generalized effects from one outgroup to other outgroups). I conclude that a broad approach to conceiving and measuring 'contact' is necessary, and that contact conceived in this manner is crucial to understanding the impact of diversity. However, the research practices of social psychologists appear partly to blame for the limited impact of our theory and research on public policy in this area.

Biography

Miles Hewstone studied psychology at the University of Bristol (First Class Hons., 1978), obtained his D.Phil from Oxford University in 1981, his Habilitation from the University of Tübingen, Germany in 1986, and his D.Sc from Oxford University in 2008. He has held chairs in social psychology at the universities of Bristol, U.K., Mannheim, Germany, Cardiff, U.K. and is Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Oxford, and Fellow of New College.

He has published widely in the general field of experimental social psychology. His major topics of research have included: prejudice and stereotyping, intergroup contact, the reduction of intergroup conflict, sectarianism in Northern Ireland, and segregation and integration. He is the author of over 200 scholarly articles and contributions to edited volumes, and has written or edited over 20 books.

He is a former editor of the *British Journal of Social Psychology*, and co-founding editor of the *European Review of Social Psychology*. He is a past recipient of the British Psychological Society's Spearman Medal (1987), and its Presidents' Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychological Knowledge (2001). Professor Hewstone has twice been a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford (1987-88, 1999-00). His awards include the British Psychological Society's Spearman Medal (1987), and its Presidents' Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychological Knowledge (2001); the Kurt Lewin Award for Distinguished Research Achievement (2005), from the European Association for Social Psychology; the Gordon Allport Intergroup Relations Prize (2005), from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI); and the Robert B. Cialdini Award (2008), from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy, the National Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences, in 2002, and served as its Vice-President (Social Sciences) 2007-9. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of the British Psychological Society in 2003.

Public policy input

Professor Hewstone's work has reached a wide, non-academic audience (e.g. appearing on 'All in the mind' on BBC Radio 4, and being the subject of a full-page interview in *The Guardian*). He has presented his work to, for example, the Equality and Diversity Forum (Equal Opportunities Commission review), the Institute for Public Policy Research, Haringey Council, the Commission on Equality and Human Rights, the Housing and Community Cohesion Conference, and *The Equalities Review*, Cabinet Office; and he has presented expert testimony to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. He currently serves as an adviser to the Department of Communities and Local Government, Community Attitudes Survey (2007-), and is a *Fellow of the Young Foundation*.