

Prejudice

Psychology

How intergroup hostility forms, and the conditions under which contact reduces it.

Allport's contact hypothesis conditions.

1

Equal status

Within the contact situation itself.

2

Common goals

Something both groups want and must work toward.

3

Intergroup cooperation

Not competition. Interdependence is what matters.

4

Institutional support

Authority, law or custom endorsing the contact.

ROBBERS CAVE

Competition produced hostility within days

Contact alone did not reduce it

Superordinate goals — a shared problem — did

Realistic conflict theory explains hostility through competition for resources; social identity theory shows mere categorisation is enough.