

3rd International Symposium on Intergroup Communication

June 24th – 26nd, 2025
University of Warsaw, Poland



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Welcome

A warm welcome to Warsaw! We are excited to welcome you in the capital of Poland. Warsaw is a vibrant and quickly developing city with a rich history. We hope that you will get a chance to discover the Old Town of Warsaw (maybe before or after our dinner on the first day). Together we will see modernist and socialist Warsaw on the second day and relax at a Warsaw beach on the Vistula river on the last evening of the conference. The present meeting is organized by the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Warsaw, which is highly engaged in research, but also in application of it in the real world.

In this spirit, we are looking forward to lively discussions on various aspects of Intergroup Communication. A lot has happened since the first symposium in Thessaloniki in Greece in 2017 and the second one in Bologna in 2019. Some of us saw each other in Bologna, and then the pandemic reshaped the way we work and connect. It's especially meaningful that after this time, we can finally meet here, in person, to continue the conversation and deepen our shared inquiry.

This year's symposium follows the same successful format as the previous ones with all talks being plenary. We look forward to three days filled with keynotes, talks, poster presentations, and a lot of time for discussion. Our program reflects the breadth and depth of current research: from identity, intercultural communication, to language bias, and hate speech. We are sure that this meeting will offer both scholarly stimulation and space for informal exchanges.

We are grateful to the international organizing committee for their support: Sucharita Belavadi, Richard Clément, Michael Hogg, Liz Jones, Hiroshi Ota, Monica Rubini, Bernadette Watson, and Anastassia Zabrodska. We also already now warmly thank the Guest Editorial Board for the upcoming *Psychology of Language and Communication* Special Issue.

We are genuinely excited to have you here and can't wait for the conversations ahead.

Please also consult our conference website:

<https://isic3.psych.uw.edu.pl/>

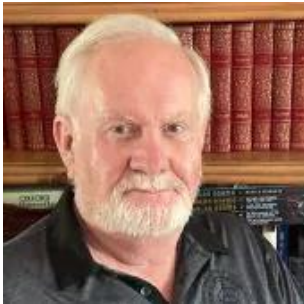
The Organizers



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When Arriving in Warsaw – General Information

Conference venue

Faculty of Modern Languages, University of Warsaw

Dobra 55

room 0.410

Travel from the Warsaw Chopin Airport (WAW)

- Calculate about 50 minutes for the ride to the hotel or conference location, but the time depends on the time of the day.
- **Easiest way to plan your trip:** Use Google Maps route planner for *Warsaw Chopin Airport*.
- **Bus stops:**
 - The bus stop at the airport is named “*Lotnisko-Chopina Przyloty 02*”. A direct connection is Bus 175 (direction: Pl. Piłsudskiego).
 - It is the same way to the Old University Campus and our conference location. You need to get to the bus stop “*Uniwersytet 02*” and walk. You can also go to “*Biblioteka Uniwersytecka*”.
- **Information on tickets:**
 - The easiest way is to buy tickets in ticket machines at the bus stops. All 175 buses also have ticket machines inside the bus where you can pay by card. Alternatively, there is also a mobile app “*Jakdojade*” (it is English after the first page); see also <https://jakdojade.pl/warszawa>, which directs you to the app.
 - For the ride *Warsaw Chopin Airport-City Center* you need to buy a single ticket (bilet jednorazowy przesiadkowy) for 4,40 PLN (ca. 1€).
- **Travel alternatives:**
 - Taxi: Transfers from the airport to the city center cost approx. 50-60 zł, about 11-12 euro. Check out: <https://www.lotnisko-chopina.pl/en/taxi.html>. In taxies, you can pay by card.
 - UBER: Available in all parts of Warsaw (payment via the app).

Money exchange

- The currency in Poland is Złoty (PLN) with 1 EUR ~ ca. 4.30 PLN and 1 USD ~ ca. 3.70 PLN.
- You can pay everywhere by credit/debit card and do not necessarily need to exchange money.
- If you want to pay cash, you will find ATMs to withdraw money at the airport and in the city.
- You can also exchange money in currency exchange offices (“kantor”) in the city, also on the holiday (but avoid those at the airport as they are particularly expensive).

City Map with Locations

Conference venue

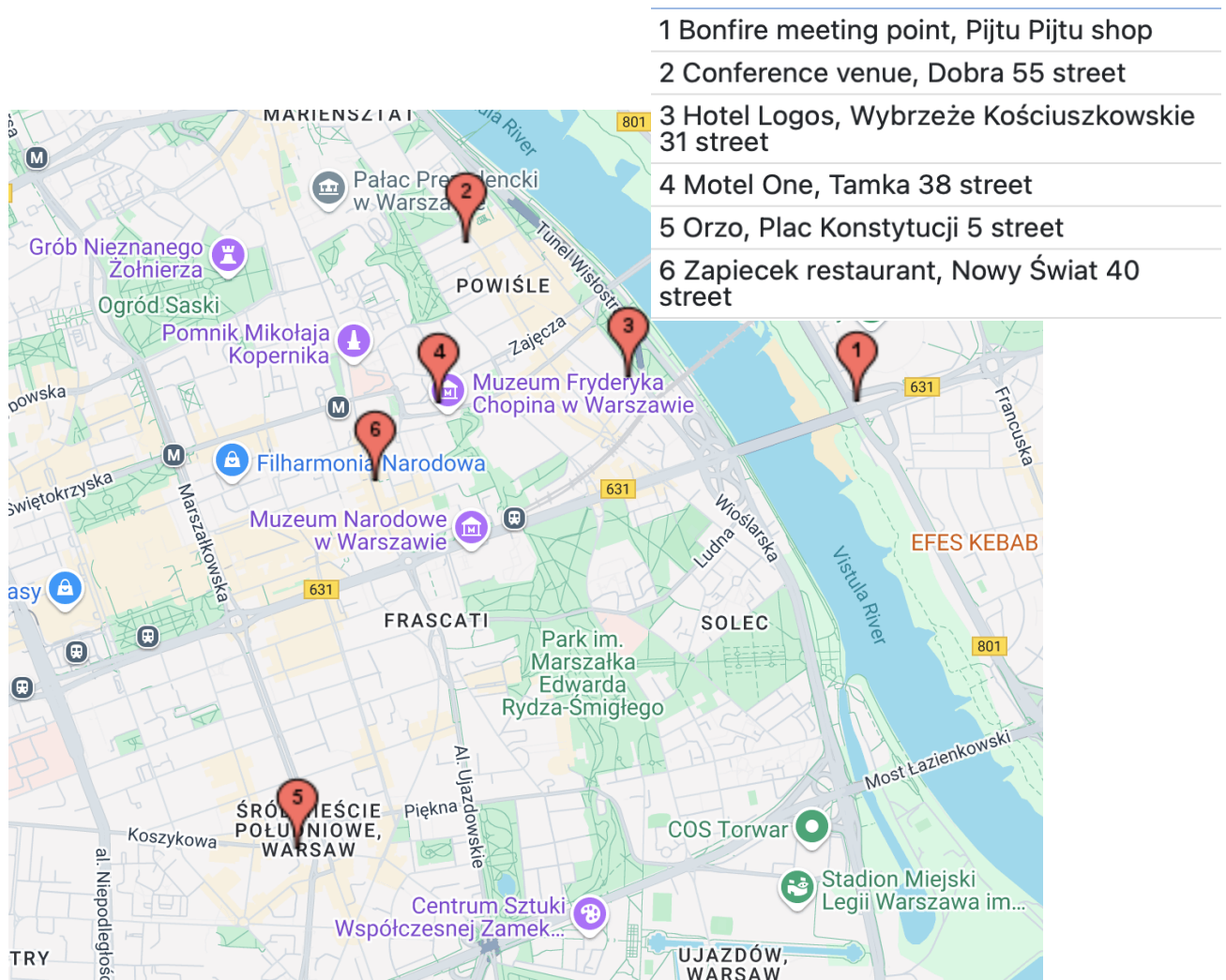
Faculty of Modern Languages, University of Warsaw

Dobra 55, room 0.410 (nearer entrance: from Browarna street)

Below you will find a map with key locations and addresses that may be useful during your stay for the conference. Both accommodation options—Motel One and Hotel Logos—are well connected to public transport, making it easy to navigate the city. In the immediate vicinity, you will find numerous bus lines serving the Powiśle district, including lines 106, 118, 127, and 162.

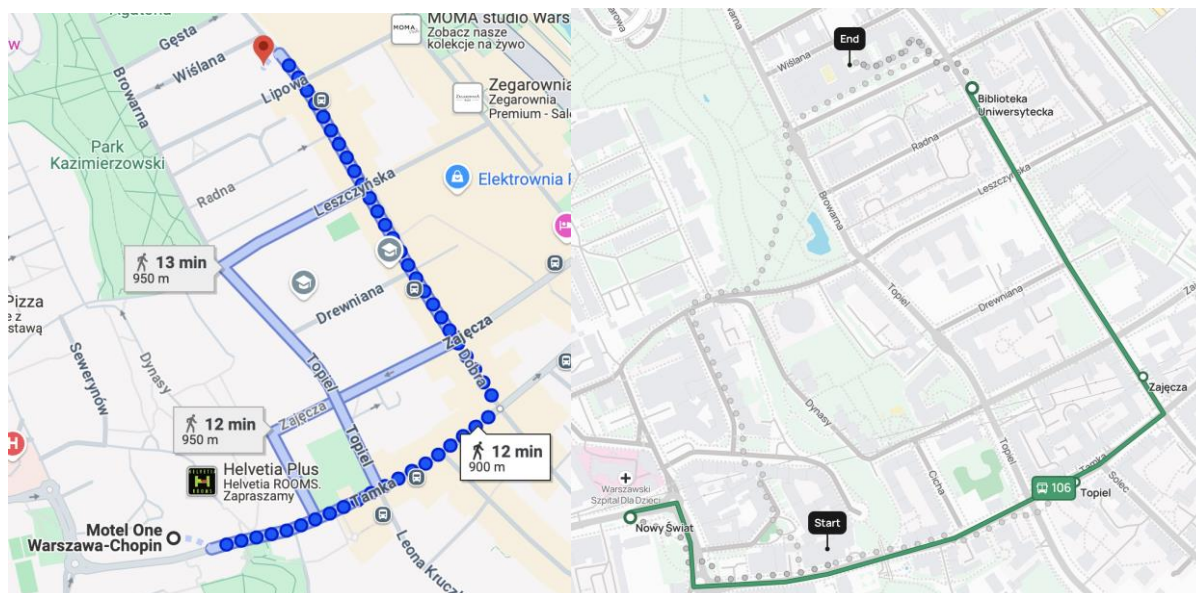
The nearest metro station is *Centrum Nauki Kopernik* (Line M2), located just a short walk away. The district of Powiśle, whose name loosely translates to "by the Vistula," offers a scenic riverside area that may be enjoyable for a walk during your free time.

To get to the room, you can either enter from Dobra street and pass through the whole building or enter from Browarna street and you're just there, in front of the aula 0.410!

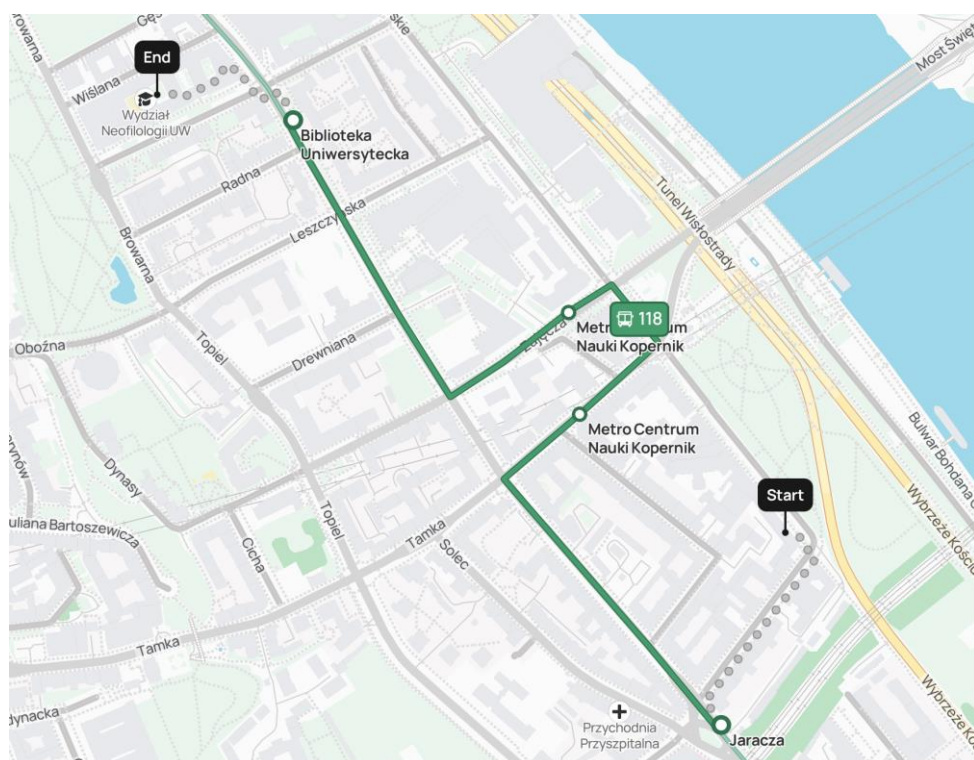


To make your way into the conference venue (Dobra 55 street) from **Motel One** Warszawa-Chopin you can either take an approx. 12-minute walk or take the bus 106 from the “Nowy Świat 03” bus stop and depart at “Biblioteka Uniwersytecka 02.”

Again, to get to the room, you can either enter from Dobra street and pass through the whole building or enter from Browarna street and you're just there, in front of the aula 0.410!



Logos hotel also lays within the walking distance to the conference venue, but alternatively you can take either the 118 or 127 bus from “Jaracza 02” bus stop and depart at “Biblioteka Uniwersytecka 02.”



Restaurants near the conference location

1. Sam Powiśle

- Address: ul. Lipowa 7A
- Specialty: Breakfast and brunch
- Description: A popular place for breakfast and brunch, offering a wide range of tasty dishes.

2. Pho Kwadrat

- Address: ul. Leszczyńska 3
- Specialty: Vietnamese cuisine
- Description: Known for its authentic Vietnamese pho and other traditional dishes, served in a cozy setting.

3. Dym Restauracja

- Address: ul. Dobra 42
- Specialty: Modern European cuisine
- Description: A trendy spot offering a fusion of modern European dishes with a creative twist.

4. Paloma

- Address: ul. Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 47
- Specialty: International cuisine
- Description: A stylish restaurant offering a blend of international dishes with a modern flair.

5. Boscaiola Pizzeria

- Address: ul. Dobra 56/66
- Specialty: Italian pizza
- Description: A popular pizzeria known for its delicious, authentic Italian pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven.

6. Boscaiola Ristoraunte

- Address: ul. Wiślana 8
- Specialty: Italian cuisine
- Description: An elegant Italian restaurant offering a variety of traditional dishes made with fresh ingredients.

7. Elektrownia Powiśle

- Address: ul. Dobra 42
- Specialty: Diverse culinary options
- Description: A revitalized historic power plant now housing a variety of eateries, bars, and shops.

Useful Phrases in Polish

Practice your accent, maybe in a different language! 😊 Foreigners speaking Polish are a pleasant surprise.

- **Dzień dobry** - good morning / good afternoon (jane DOH-brih)
- **Dobry wieczór** - good evening (DOH-brih VYEH-choor)
- **Dobranoc** - good night (doh-BRAH-notes)
- **Cześć** - hi (cheshch)
- **Do widzenia** - good bye (doh vee-DZEN-ya)
- **Proszę** - please / here you are (PROH-sheh)
- **Dziękuję** - thank you (jen-KOO-yeh)
- **Dzięki** - thanks (informal) (JEN-kee)
- **Przepraszam** - I'm sorry / excuse me (psheh-PRAH-shahm)
- **Tak** - yes (tahk)
- **Nie** - no / not (nyeh)
- **Nie wiem** - I don't know (nyeh vyem)
- **Jak się masz?** - How are you? (informal) (yahk shay mahsh)
- **Nie mówię po polsku.** - I don't speak Polish (nyeh MOO-vyeh poh pohl-skoo)
- **Nie rozumiem** - I don't understand (nyeh roh-ZOO-myem)
- **Na zdrowie!** - Cheers! / Bless you! (lit. For health!) (nah ZDROH-vyeh)

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Polish/Some_useful_expressions

ISIC3 Program at a Glance

Tuesday, 24 June 2025

8:00 – 9:00	Registration, Coffee & Open Exchange
9:00 – 9:20	Welcome
9:20 – 9:40	Prologue: Howard Giles, Karolina Hansen, & Antonis Gardikiotis
9:40 – 10:40	Keynote Speech: Dominic Abrams – <i>Intergroup and Intragroup Dynamics of Communication, Norm Change and Social Cohesion</i>
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:20	Session 1: Identity, Language, and Adaptation
12:20 – 12:40	Coffee Break
12:40 – 14:00	Session 2: Language Variation and Identity
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch on Site and Poster Session 1
15:00 – 16:20	Session 3: Language and Stereotypes
16:20 – 16:40	Coffee Break
16:40 – 17:40	Keynote Speech: Camiel J. Beukeboom – <i>Biased language use: The implicit communication of social-category stereotypes in natural language</i>
19:00	Dinner: Zapiecek, Nowy Świat 40

Wednesday, 25 June 2025

9:00 – 10:00	Keynote Speech: Nicholas A. Palomares – <i>Explicating gender identity and its constellation of constructs</i>
10:00 – 10:20	Coffee Break
10:20 – 11:40	Session 4: Intergroup Contact and Communication
11:40 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:20	Session 5: Dehumanization, Labeling, and Framing
13:20 – 14:20	Lunch on Site and Poster Session 2
14:20 – 15:40	Session 6: Hate Speech and Online Dynamics
15:40 – 15:50	Group photo in front of the building
15:50 – 16:10	Coffee Break
16:10 – 17:10	Keynote Speech: Michał Bilewicz – <i>The epidemics of hate speech and psychological ways to overcome it</i>
18:00 – 19:30	Walk through modernist and socialist Warsaw Starting point: Motel One – Tamka 38
19:30	Drinks (and food) in Orzo – Plac Konstytucji 5

Thursday, 26 June 2025

9:00 – 10:00	Call to the Field: Howard Giles, Sucharita Belavadi, Karolina Hansen, & Antonis Gardikiotis – <i>Towards establishing Applied Intergroup Communication as a key component of the study of intergroup relations: Three case studies</i>
10:00 – 10:20	Coffee Break
10:20 – 11:40	Session 7: Communication, Inclusion, and Mental Health
11:40 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:20	Session 8: Communication in Difficult Contexts
13:20 – 14:20	Lunch on Site and a Roundtable Discussion <i>Publishing and Academic Freedom in Turbulent Times</i>
14:20 – 15:20	Session 9: Political Communication and Public Perception
15:20 – 15:40	Coffee Break
15:40 – 16:40	Keynote Epilogue: Yan Bing Zhang and Jake Harwood
16:40 – 17:00	Introducing ISIC4 in 2027: Howard Giles
19:00	Relax/sunset/bonfire on a Warsaw beach Poniakówka, meeting point: Pijtu pijtu shop under the Poniatowski bridge (see map above)

Session Overview: Tuesday, 24 June 2025

Session 1: Identity, Language, and Adaptation

Session chair: Antonis Gardikiotis

11:00-11:20	“Who the Hell Am I?”: Linguistic Capability and Identity Transition Among Immigrant University Students in Canada <i>Timothy Mossman, Yarong Xie</i>
11:20-11:40	Language, Communication, and Cultural Adaptation Among International Students in Poland <i>Michał Wilczewski</i>
11:40-12:00	Communication between Chinese sojourning students and members of the host community: Implications for successful cross-cultural adaptation <i>Xiaoyan (Ivy) Wu, Bernadette M. Watson, Stefano Occhipinti</i>
12:00-12:20	Identifying Places, Placing Identities: Understanding Identity Ecologically <i>Urszula A. Adamska</i>

Session 2: Language Variation and Identity

Session chair: Susanne Bruckmüller

12:40-13:00	“How do I think I speak”: Self-beliefs of Voice and Speech in Queer and Straight Men in a Cross-Cultural sample <i>Stefano Guidi, Diana Persico, Giuliano Bocci</i>
13:00-13:20	Accent-based discrimination across countries <i>Karolina Hansen, Maciej Górski</i>
13:20-13:40	Intergroup Perceptions and Linguistic Practices: A Comparative Study of Dialects and Code-Switching in Italy <i>Gabriella Ragozzino, Jan Casalicchio, Stefano Guidi</i>
13:40-14:00	The communication of legitimacy via strategic, yet inadvertent, framings of intergroup inequality by laypeople <i>Susanne Bruckmüller, Annette Malapally</i>

Poster Session 1

14:00-15:00	
P1.1	Gender, Identity, and Occupation: Why Androcentric Patterns Persist <i>Magda Leszko, Aleksandra Cislak, Magdalena Formanowicz</i>
P1.2	What is an ethnic group in laypeople's eyes? A study from 28 countries <i>Karolina Marcinkowska, Katarzyna Hamer, Alicja Balcerak, Katarzyna Branowska, Maja Bednarowicz, Filip Chyliński, Bartłomiej Nowak</i>
P1.3	Adolescents in a multicultural world: Exploring the development of media consumption habits and their associations with intergroup attitudes <i>Chiara Bonechi, Elisabetta Crocetti</i>
P1.4	Stereotypes about Americans on Rednote: A Quantitative Content Analysis <i>Xiaoxia Li, Yan Bing Zhang, Wenrong Cui</i>
P1.5	How Sentence Structure Reinforces the Implicit Communication of Stereotypes: Investigating the Psychological Mechanisms Behind Generic vs. Quantified Statements <i>Felix Hermans, Ghazaleh Shahbazimorad, Walter Schaeken, Susanne Bruckmüller, Vera Hoorens</i>
P1.6	Daughter/Mother-In-Law Contact and Attitudes toward Older Adults in China: Mediating and Moderating Mechanisms <i>Yan Bing Zhang, Yi Song</i>
P1.7	The role of terms relating to persons with disorders of intellectual development (DID) in the formation of attitudes towards this social group <i>Patrycja Wilczewska</i>
P1.8	Interability communication: Teachers' stereotypes and attitudes as predictors of communication accommodation toward students with special learning disabilities <i>Antonis Gardikiotis, Eleni Lipourli, Grigoria Papaefthimiou, Kristallia Evaggelogianni</i>

Session 3: Language and Stereotypes

Session chair: Marko Dragojevic

15:00-15:20	Experimental Research on Stereotype Communication in Freely Generated Language: A Systematic Literature Review <i>Kim Beenen, Camiel Beukeboom, Christian Burgers, Pia Sommerauer</i>
15:20-15:40	Voice Gaydar in Italian Straight Men: Exploring Sexual Orientation Judgments and Stereotypical Inferences <i>Giuliano Bocci, Sara Picciafuochi, Stefano Guidi</i>
15:40-16:00	Language Stereotypes and Meta-Stereotypes: Content and Relationship to Psychological and Communicative Outcomes for General and Southern American English Speakers <i>Marko Dragojevic, Jessica Gasiorek</i>
16:00-16:20	Political Homophily and Candidate Evaluations: Exploring the Effects of Voters' Language Stereotypes <i>Eduardo Munoz Suarez, Gretchen Montgomery-Vestecka, Jorge Restrepo-Garcia</i>

Session Overview: Wednesday, 25 June 2025

Session 4: Intergroup Contact and Communication

Session chair: Monica Rubini

10:20-10:40	Out-Group Friendship, Bilingual Communication and Intercultural Relations in India <i>Shabana Bano, Ramesh Chandra Mishra, Rama Charan Tripathi, Rajnish Chandra Tripathi</i>
10:40-11:00	Jaz že znam hrvaško! [I already know Croatian language..]. Intergroup contact, Integrativeness and reciprocal language learning in border regions <i>Irina Moira Cavaion</i>
11:00-11:20	Taking contact out of context: The effects of intergroup narrative abstraction on attitudes <i>Nick Joyce</i>
11:20-11:40	Talking to Immigrants about Similar and Different Intergroup Experiences: The Role of Linguistic Abstraction in Imagined Superficial and Intimate Contact <i>Monica Rubini, Camilla Boggia, Francesca Prati</i>

Session 5: Dehumanization, Labeling, and Framing

Session chair: Magdalena Formanowicz

12:00-12:20	"Those beasts, aliens, animals": the impact of dehumanizing language on voting intentions <i>Dominika Bulska, Magdalena Formanowicz, Patryk Kukla</i>
12:20-12:40	Metaphors That Bind: Unlocking the Complexity of Dehumanization <i>Magdalena Formanowicz</i>
12:40-13:00	Prostitute or Sex Worker? The Impact of Labeling on Attitudes Toward Victims of Intimate Partner Violence <i>Eleonora Crapolichchio, Chiara Pecini, Gian Antonio Di Bernardo</i>
13:00-13:20	Portrayal of Immigrants in Italian Newspapers: The Role of Linguistic Abstraction and Valence of Terms <i>Chiara Bonechi, Elisabetta Crocetti, Monica Rubini</i>

Poster Session 2

13.20-14:20	
P2.1	The role of ideological beliefs and intergroup processes in predicting communication accommodation toward members of minority groups <i>Antonis Gardikiotis, Theologidis Dimitris, Georgisoudi Vasiliki, Eleni Lipourli</i>
P2.2	What Matters in Eldercare? Exploring Intergenerational Communication on Weibo Using a Machine Learning Approach <i>Molly Han</i>
P2.3	Intergroup Expression on Social Media and Intergroup Attitudes: Social Attraction as an Explanatory Mechanism <i>Teri Terigele, Yan Bing Zhang</i>
P2.4	The Language of Emotion and Identity in Emergencies <i>Madeline Murphy, Mark Levine, Anastasia Kordoni, Shengnan Liu</i>
P2.5	Intergroup Conflicts Among Ukrainians in the Context of the Russian-Ukrainian War: Pathways to Understanding and Cohesion <i>Iryna Hubeladze</i>
P2.6	Music as a universal language: Exploring its potential to reduce prejudice <i>Agnieszka Siry, Romuald Polczyk</i>
P2.7	LGBTQ+ Representation in Polish Media: Insights from Topic Analysis <i>Patryk Kukła, Dominika Bulska, Magdalena Formanowicz</i>
P2.8	Ambiguity in Romanian News. An analysis from the reader's perspective <i>Mihaela Mihalea</i>

Session 6: Hate Speech and Online Dynamics

Session chair: Joseph Walther

14:20-14:40	Reclaiming Hate Speech: Motivations, Measurement, and Collective Action <i>Dominik Puchała, Michał Bilewicz, Aleksandra Świdorska</i>
14:40-15:00	The Role of Perceived and Manipulated Control in Hate Speech Expression: Moderating Effects of Motivation to Suppress Prejudice <i>Wiktor Soral, Agnieszka Siry</i>
15:00-15:20	Social Processes in the Intensification of Online Hate: The Effects of Verbal Replies on anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish Posts Following 7 October 2023 <i>Joseph Walther, Zachary P. Rosen</i>
15:20-15:40	The negative side of positive contact. The role of positive contact in empathic failure and support for violence during intense conflict between two outgroups <i>Maciej Siemiątkowski, Michał Bilewicz</i>

Session Overview: Thursday, 26 June 2025

Session 7: Communication, Inclusion, and Mental Health

Session chair: Howard Giles

10:20-10:40	Unveiling intergroup help dynamics: The effects of positive and negative intergroup contact on autonomy vs. dependence oriented help <i>Tania Garau, Francesca Prati, Emilio Paolo Visintin</i>
10:40-11:00	Linguistic Markers of Stigmatization Toward Individuals with Mental Disorders <i>Annette Burguet</i>
11:00-11:20	Hidden in the Voice: Uncovering the Unique Speech Patterns of Children and Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum <i>Urszula Wielgat, Aleksander Wawer, Ewa Pisula, Izabela Chojnicka</i>
11:20-11:40	Sports as a Venue for Intergroup Communication: An Observational Study <i>Rajnish Chandra Tripathi, Shabana Bano</i>

Session 8: Communication in Difficult Contexts

Session chair: Bernadette Watson

12:00-12:20	Patterns of Accommodation and Nonaccommodation in Fatal Police Shooting Incidents in the USA: A Case Study of Violent Intergroup Encounters <i>Edward Maguire, Howard Giles, Shawn L. Hill, Nana Adwoa Agyapong</i>
12:20-12:40	Use of Coded Words in Sex and Sexuality Communication. The case of African Families in South Africa with Adolescents <i>Victorine Mbong Shu</i>
12:40-13:00	The impact of language use in breaking bad news delivery (negations vs. affirmations) and message framing (positive vs. negative): An intergroup approach to understanding social identity shifts across the caregiver lifespan <i>Lisa Sparks</i>
13:00-13:20	Barriers and facilitators to providing quality patient care. How perceptions differ between doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals in the hospital system <i>Bernadette Watson, Xiaoyan I. Wu</i>

Session 9: Political Communication and Public Perception

Session chair: Fabio Fasoli

14:20-14:40	Stepping Down: How Political and Non-Political Resignations Shape Public Perceptions and Support <i>Fabio Fasoli, Aife Hopkins-Doyle, Francesca Guizzo, Joseph Nolan</i>
14:40-15:00	Should I stay or should I go? How inclusive language in organizational communication influences employees' decisions to leave <i>Denise Ruggieri, Monica Rubini, Michela Menegatti</i>
15:00-15:20	A Communication Accommodation and Language Convergence/Meaning Divergence Analysis of Autism and Communication Accommodation with the Family <i>Gabrielle Byrd, Gretchen Montgomery-Vestecka, Brittney S. Morrissey, Kaitlynn M. Beeler-Blackburn</i>

Abstracts – Keynotes

Tuesday Keynotes



Intergroup and Intragroup Dynamics of Communication, Norm Change and Social Cohesion

Dominic Abrams

Univeristy of Kent

Communication serves many functions, one of which is to signify values and norms. In this talk I will tour some of my recent research that considers social psychological processes that determine the impacts of group communication. I will describe evidence on what happens when leaders (and groups) convey attitudes that are discrepant from the prevailing norms. Under what conditions do these communications signal a norm shift, and under what conditions do they instead invite opprobrium? To what extent is the acceptability of a deviant communication conditional on its source? In what ways is it possible to convey information about outgroup members that can penetrate and break down prejudice? How did some of these processes affect societal cohesion during the COVID pandemic? More broadly I will consider policy implications for social cohesion and the practicalities of communicating across horizontal and vertical divides between groups.



Biased language use: The implicit communication of social-category stereotypes in natural language

Camiel J. Beukeboom

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

In general, it is acknowledged that language use plays a crucial role in the formation and maintenance of shared social-category stereotypes. Research on linguistic bias reveals that, when communicating about other people, a speaker's linguistic choices reflect activated stereotypes. In turn, this feeds social-category perceptions in message recipients. A caveat in existing research, however, is that it often relied on experimenter-generated artificial sentences, and/or studied linguistic features in isolation (e.g., labels, language abstraction, negations, agency), which differs in various ways from real-life discourse. In a current research project we adopt a more integrative approach by focusing on natural language use. In natural-language texts, formulations are more complex, texts may develop from discussing situational behaviors of categorized individuals to generalizations about the category as a whole, and various known linguistic biases may interact or occur simultaneously. The project bridges communication science, social psychology, and linguistics to better understand the role of language in perpetuating stereotypes and discrimination in society.

Wednesday Keynotes

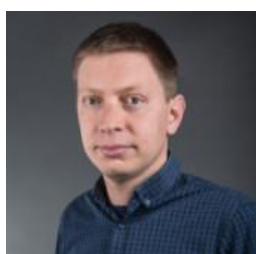


Explicating gender identity and its constellation of constructs

Nicholas A. Palomares

University of California, Santa Barbara

In my keynote, I will discuss gender identity and its constellation of connected constructs. Over the last 20+ years, I have witnessed incredible change in how society defines, discusses, and treats gender. Social justice movements have explicitly encouraged gender and sexual equality. Likewise, expanding gender representations on traditional and social media promote diverse ways in which people understand and approach gender and related concepts vis-à-vis intergroup contact. At the same time, antagonistic segments of society are pushing back against this progress threatening the vitality of gender diverse individuals who finally have a space and voice in society. Backing these anti-diversity campaigns are often political ones that ask voters to decide the fate of gender related policies with legitimate life-or-death implications at times. It is within this milieu that I explore gender identity and its constellation of constructs to generate a conceptualization of gender identity rooted in an intergroup communication perspective.



The epidemics of hate speech and psychological ways to overcome it

Michał Bilewicz

University of Warsaw

The effects of hate speech on racism, intergroup violence, or political radicalization have been a primary focus of social psychological theorizing for decades (Allport, 1954). The recent development of electronic means of communication (social media, news websites, citizen journalism) made hate speech one of the most pressing societal issues and a fertile ground for social psychological theorizing and research. Social psychological research has shown that overhearing hate speech, a derogatory language about minorities or immigrant groups, increases stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination among majority groups, but such exposure also severely affects minorities' mental health (see: Bilewicz & Soral, 2020). In this talk, I will present an epidemic model of hate speech that includes three intertwined processes: behavioral (desensitization), normative (change in perceived norms), and emotional (deficits in empathy). I will present cross-sectional, experimental, and psychophysiological studies analyzing the effects of hate speech. Based on this deeper understanding of the hate speech epidemic, I propose and test potential psychological ways of confronting hate speech epidemics, including interventions in online and offline environments.

Thursday – Keynote epilogue



Jake Harwood¹ & Yan Bing Zhang²

¹University of California, Santa Barbara

²University of Kansas



Stereotypes are central to intergroup communication processes, as is made clear by the core scholarship in this volume's articles. In this talk, we first emphasize the nature, contexts, and domains of intergroup communication and the central role stereotypes play. Second, we examine features of stereotypes and their manifestations in various intergroup communication processes. Third, we explore how prototypes and exemplars serve as mechanisms that explain and sustain stereotypes and stereotyping processes. Fourth, we highlight dimensions of stereotypes in explaining fundamental concepts in intergroup relations such as perceptions, prejudice, and discrimination. Throughout our discussion, we emphasize how "*stereotyped expectations*" lead to stereotype-consistent communication adjustment, including moderating and mediating mechanisms. We close by providing specific future research directions associated with stereotypes and intergroup communication.

Abstracts – Symposia & Posters

Session 1: Identity, Language, and Adaptation

Talk: “Who the Hell Am I?”: Linguistic Capability and Identity Transition Among Immigrant University Students in Canada

Timothy Mossman¹ & Yarong Xie²

¹Simon Fraser University

²Newcastle University

This paper explores how university students in Canada account for their lived experiences as immigrants and negotiate their identities/identity-in-transition. Participants who self-identified as “1.5 generation immigrants” were invited to talk about their experiences of living in Canada in semi-structured interviews and focus groups. Using discursive psychology and conversation analysis, we found that participants invoke their linguistic abilities to construct and explain who they are and how they adjust to their lives after moving to Canada. For example, participants describe how their native-tongue and/or English accents change since moving to Canada, and how their linguistic capacities affect their social lives (e.g., making friends in school). Our findings highlight that participants treat their language capability as constitutive of their sense of self and social experiences. This sense of self comprises, and is constitutive of, where they originally come from, their life-changing experiences of immigrating to Canada, and how others recognize and interact with them. Our findings implicate that language is indispensable in and for social interactions, and is therefore pivotal in understanding young people’s identity-in-transition. This study has important implications for educational and support services to address linguistic and identity challenges faced by immigrant students.

Talk: Language, Communication, and Cultural Adaptation Among International Students in Poland

Michał Wilczewski

University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw

Studying abroad poses numerous challenges to international students (i.e., individuals studying abroad), often leading to their anxiety and stress. One key challenge is the language barrier, which significantly influences students’ cultural adaptation (i.e., the degree to which they fit into the host country’s environment). Yet, existing literature provides inconsistent findings on how foreign-language skills and communication patterns impact cultural adaptation. This ongoing project, Language and Communication in the Experience of International Students: Advancing Intercultural Communication and Adaptation Theory (funded by NCN’s Opus 25, grant no. UMO-2023/49/B/HS2/00412, 2024–2027), seeks to address this gap. In this talk, I will share findings from the first studies combining quantitative and qualitative data collected from international students at a Polish university. The research highlights the interplay of individual, sociocultural, and environmental factors in shaping students’ social networks and cultural adaptation processes in Poland. Practical recommendations will be offered to support international students and other academic stakeholders in fostering successful intercultural engagement.

Session 1: Identity, Language, and Adaptation

Talk: Communication between Chinese sojourning students and members of the host community: Implications for successful cross-cultural adaptation

Xiaoyan (Ivy) Wu¹, Bernadette M. Watson^{1,2}, & Stefano Occhipinti¹

¹The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

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Communication with members of a host community is an inevitable and indispensable part of sojourning students' lives and is fundamental to their well-being, life satisfaction, and cross-cultural adaptation to the host destination. This study takes an intergroup approach and invokes Communication Accommodation Theory to investigate communication between Mainland Chinese students (MCSs) sojourning in Hong Kong and Hong Kong locals (HKLs). Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 28 MCSs who originated in Mainland China and were enrolled in Hong Kong higher education institutions at the time of data collection in 2023. Reflexive thematic analysis of the transcripts reveals that these students perceived language barriers, intergroup boundaries, and the negative influence of social media as challenges for their communication with HKLs. The findings also show the extent to which HKLs' accommodative and nonaccommodative behaviours impact MCSs' perceptions of the quality of communication and the role of such communication in MCSs' adaptation to Hong Kong. Theoretical contributions and practical implications will be discussed.

Talk: Identifying Places, Placing Identities: Understanding Identity Ecologically

Urszula A. Adamska

University of Colorado Boulder

Contrary to the dominant views that dichotomize humans and nature, and position nature as existing "out there," the ecological turn has prompted scholars to study the human-nature relations and has impacted the sociocultural understanding of self. Language and social interaction scholars examined how people use place in interaction as a resource for constructing identities (i.e., Milburn, 2004; Myers, 2006), and scholars working within the ethnography of communication tradition looked at cultural meanings related to places, dwelling, landscape, and the environment (i.e., Carbaugh & Cerulli, 2013; Koven, 2019; Carbaugh & Grimshaw, 2021). The US Southwest Hispanic people see themselves as deeply connected to the natural world and their cultural identity cannot be separated from the environment. This project uses ethnography of communication to examine how Hispanic communities of the San Luis Valley in Colorado construct places and identities in talk. It investigates how space constitutes communal identity and social relations, as captured in acequia farming practices, bartering exchanges, and the use of the term *querencia*. While the dominant Euro-American view sees land as an object and a property that can be owned, the San Luis Valley community views land as a set of relations that ground discourses in culture, history, identity, and community.

Session 2: Language Variation and Identity

Talk: “How do I think I speak”: Self-beliefs of Voice and Speech in Queer and Straight Men in a Cross-Cultural sample

Stefano Guidi, Diana Persico, & Giuliano Bocci

University of Siena

In this study, we investigated the beliefs of queer and straight men concerning their own speech and voice features, which have been found to be associated with different sexual orientations (SO). We conducted a cross-cultural survey experiment, collecting responses from 187 Italian and 185 US participants approximately balanced for queer and straight SO.

We collected self-ratings for 16 (Italian sample) or 22 (US sample) voice and speech features along 7-point unipolar and bipolar scales (e.g., high-/low-pitched, with/without a lisp). The experiment included a between-subjects factor: for half of the participants, SO was explicitly thematized at the beginning of the survey. We also collected beliefs about voice, identity, and attitudes toward gay men (TMFS, ATG, IHS, LGBIS).

Our results showed that queer men believe they speak with a higher-pitched and brighter voice than straight men, both in Italy and the US. Thematization had little effect, impacting only straight participants. When SO was thematized, Italians reported speaking with a stronger regional accent, and US participants more spontaneously. We discuss how these results relate to SO voice stereotypes and how self-evaluations vary according to beliefs about identity and attitudes toward gay men.

Talk: Accent-based discrimination across countries

Karolina Hansen & Maciej Górski

University of Warsaw

One form of intergroup communication is when native speakers encounter non-native speakers. When this happens in a job context, non-native speakers are generally evaluated as less hireable than native speakers. There are various theoretical approaches explaining the lower evaluation of non-native speakers, including lack of accommodation through differing speech, activation of negative stereotypes, or lack of fluency and higher effort on the side of the listeners. In these explanations, individual-level factors are taken into account, but what is often neglected are societal-level factors that might also influence expectations of how immigrants should speak and impact their evaluation. We investigate the discrimination of non-native speakers from a macro-level perspective using archival data from the Eurobarometer survey spanning across 30 European countries. We show that more frequent interethnic contact, larger share of migrants, higher international status of the local language are associated with higher accent-based discrimination. Against our expectations, however, foreign language knowledge among the majority members did not seem to be related to accent-based discrimination. The current research shows that the negative perception of non-native speakers should be considered within the societal context in which it takes place.

Session 2: Language Variation and Identity

Talk: Intergroup Perceptions and Linguistic Practices: A Comparative Study of Dialects and Code-Switching in Italy

Gabriella Ragozzino, Jan Casalicchio, & Stefano Guidi

Università degli Studi di Siena

This sociolinguistic study examines how young Italians perceive dialect use and code-switching in two regions: Campania (South) and Veneto (North). The research explores the influence of regional identity and linguistic practices on social perceptions and preferences. Participants listened to four short stories, each narrated by a different speaker: one using dialect and one code-switching from each region. Afterward, participants evaluated the speakers and shared their beliefs about dialects in general.

Results show Campanians have a stronger emotional attachment to their dialect, viewing it as central to their identity, expressing pride in its use and concern over its decline. Venetians, in contrast, perceive dialect as less suitable for complex ideas and adopt a more detached stance. Speaker evaluations revealed a strong ingroup bias among Campanians, while Venetians showed greater openness toward outgroups, particularly when exposed to code-switching. Both groups preferred their ingroup when listening to dialect, but code-switching elicited more warmth toward outgroups. This suggests dialect strengthens ingroup attachment, whereas code-switching fosters openness to others.

This research offers a comparative perspective on language attitudes in Italy, highlighting how regional identity and linguistic practices shape social perceptions and preferences.

Talk: The communication of legitimacy via strategic, yet inadvertent, framings of intergroup inequality by laypeople

Susanne Bruckmüller & Annette Malapally

Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg

Growing inequalities between groups, for example, based on race, gender, or class are a “defining challenge of our time” (United Nations, n.d.). A key predictor of collective action against inequality is perceived (il)legitimacy. Such legitimacy perceptions are influenced by systematic variations in communication about inequality, that is, its framing. We tested how laypeople spontaneously frame inequality if they aim to present it as legitimate or illegitimate. Participants (N = 421) were given factual information about economic inequality and were asked to summarize it. They completed this task twice with two different communication goals, namely, to present the inequality as legitimate versus illegitimate. To present inequality as illegitimate, participants referenced specific people and groups (e.g., the poor, politicians) much more and abstract constructs (e.g., poverty, capitalism) less; they also framed inequality somewhat more often as poor people’s disadvantage and less often as rich people’s advantage. Importantly, participants were unaware of the framing strategies they employed. That is, laypeople strategically, but inadvertently, varied framings of intergroup inequality to achieve important communication goals. In an ongoing, preregistered follow-up study, we test whether (and which of) these strategic framings influence other participants’ legitimacy appraisals as intended, or whether they may actually backfire.

P1.1: Gender, Identity, and Occupation: Why Androcentric Patterns Persist

Magda Leszko, Aleksandra Cisłak, & Magdalena Formanowicz

SWPS University

Using masculine forms for mixed-gender groups or individuals of unknown gender leads people to think of men. Employing feminine or paired forms—gender-inclusive language (GIL)—is a common and effective strategy to increase women’s visibility. While beneficial for women as a group, GIL faces resistance, particularly among employed women in Poland. This may stem from GIL’s association with femininity and stereotypically low competence, traits perceived as detrimental in professional contexts.

In two representative samples of Polish self-identified women, we examined the prevalence of GIL in professional self-reference. Approximately half of the participants used feminine forms, with covariates such as age and place of residence found largely insignificant. The tendency to use GIL was less pronounced among employed women, with only a third adopting feminine forms. In 2020, 81.8% of non-employed women used GIL, compared to 38.5% of employed women; by 2023, these figures declined to 71.1% and 34.1%, respectively. Gender identification moderated this effect, with women who strongly identify with other women being more likely to use GIL. These findings provide insight into the social and professional factors influencing GIL adoption and highlight the need to address these barriers through educational and policy-oriented interventions.

P1.2: What is an ethnic group in laypeople's eyes? A study from 28 countries

Karolina Marcinkowska^{1,2}, Katarzyna Hamer², Alicja Balcerak³, Katarzyna Branowska^{1,2}, Maja Bednarowicz⁴, Filip Chyliński³, & Bartłomiej Nowak⁵

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The concept of an ethnic group is ambiguous and highly influenced by cultural context, however much of the existing research has primarily focused on W.E.I.R.D. countries. As part of a broader project, we asked an open-ended question, "What is your ethnic group?" to 6,004 participants from 28 countries representing various cultural clusters. A qualitative analysis highlighted significant differences in how individuals define their ethnic identity and interpret the concept of ethnicity. The dominant categories varied by country. For instance, while ethnicity was closely associated with "race" in the UK and South Africa, this association was entirely absent in China and Greece. In Poland, Hungary, and Hong Kong, responses emphasized nationality, whereas in Ghana and Nigeria, connections were drawn to ethno-linguistic groups. Some respondents denied belonging to any ethnic group, while others linked ethnicity to minority status. There were also unconventional responses, such as transnational identities (e.g., "human," "citizen of the world," "European," or "East Asian"), local affiliations (e.g., "Córdoba"), hobbies (e.g., "graffiti artist"), or life philosophies (e.g., "stoic"). Some responses combined elements from different categories, such as "White Italian" or "White Arab mix," suggesting that ethnicity is a more multifaceted concept than often assumed.

P1.3: Adolescents in a multicultural world: Exploring the development of media consumption habits and their associations with intergroup attitudes

Chiara Bonechi, Elisabetta Crocetti

University of Bologna

Adolescents rely on social and traditional media (i.e. television, print and online newspapers) to get informed about current affairs. However, evidence on whether the preference for different media is related to intergroup attitudes (i.e., ethnic prejudice and inclusive attitudes) is mixed. To address this gap, this study examines the development of media consumption habits and their longitudinal associations with ethnic (i.e. affective and cognitive) prejudice and inclusive attitudes in adolescents from majority (i.e., Italians) and minority (i.e., with a migrant background living in Italy) groups. This study draws on data from the longitudinal project IDENTITIES and includes a sample of 1,547 adolescents (Mage at baseline = 15.69, SDage = 1.22, 46.70% females, 19.90% with a migrant background). Latent Class Growth Analysis identified four trajectories: low media consumers (group one, 30%); high social, low traditional media consumers (group two, 28%); television consumers (group three, 23%); high media consumers (group four, 18%). These trajectories were differentially associated with intergroup attitudes at baseline, with group one and three generally reporting lower prejudice and higher inclusive attitudes than group two and four. These findings underscore the development of media consumption habits and their role in influencing intergroup attitudes during this pivotal life period.

P1.4: Stereotypes about Americans on Rednote: A Quantitative Content Analysis

Xiaoxia Li, Yan Bing Zhang, & Wenrong Cui

University of Kansas

Social media platforms have provided increased opportunities for intergroup interactions where intergroup perceptions and attitudes form and are expressed. Guided by the Stereotype Content Model, this study examines Chinese social media users' perceptions of Americans on RedNote, a popular social media platform in China that has recently attracted many American users, who considered themselves TikTok refugees (CNN, 2025). Specifically, this content analysis examined 800 posts embedded in the common threads on RedNote discussing Americans and American culture, focusing on Chinese users' social media expressions about Americans on RedNote. Americans tend to be perceived as highly warm and competent (Lee & Fiske, 2006). Results from our study indicated support of the SCM revealing multiple positive perceptions of Americans regarding warmth (e.g., friendly) and competence (e.g., diligent). Results also revealed attitudinal similarities (resilient, kind, nice, diligent) perceived by the users between Chinese people and Americans. Regarding American culture and society, multiple negative perceptions emerged (e.g., inadequate healthcare, drug abuse, homelessness, huge financial burden and loans, work multiple jobs to get by). These findings highlight the potential of digital platforms to foster mutual understanding and the challenge of cultural stereotypes in an increasingly interconnected world.

**P1.5: How Sentence Structure Reinforces the Implicit Communication of Stereotypes:
Investigating the Psychological Mechanisms Behind Generic vs. Quantified
Statements**

*Felix Hermans¹, Ghazaleh Shahbazimorad¹, Walter Schaeken¹, Susanne Bruckmüller²,
& Vera Hoorens¹*

¹KU Leuven

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Language is a powerful tool for transmitting knowledge about social categories, but it can also perpetuate stereotypes, often in subtle and implicit ways. Previous research on the implicit communication of stereotypes shows that certain sentence structures reflect underlying social norms and prejudices. One such structure is the generic sentence (e.g., “Adolescents are reckless”), which makes broad generalizations without specifying how many members of the category allegedly possess the feature. Because generics are inherently vague, they are difficult to falsify and highly resistant to counterexamples, making them particularly effective at reinforcing stereotypes. We present findings from an ongoing project aimed at investigating the implicit contributions of different sentence structures to stereotypes. For instance, one study of this project investigates how adolescents interpret generic and quantified sentences about adolescents and seniors. By measuring both the mean levels and variance of the implied prevalence that adolescents infer from different sentences about adolescents and seniors, we show how interpretations of these sentences rely to different extents on sentence structure (i.e., generic vs. quantified), sentence content (i.e., described group and feature), and communication norms. In this way, our findings further elucidate the unique ways in which generic sentences can enforce stereotype formation and maintenance.

**P1.6: Daughter/Mother-In-Law Contact and Attitudes toward Older Adults in China:
Mediating and Moderating Mechanisms**

Yan Bing Zhang¹ & Yi Song²

¹University of Kansas

²Beijing Foreign Studies University

The daughter/mother-in-law relationship is a crucial family tie that affects child rearing, elder care, the wellbeing of both women, marital satisfaction, and attitudes toward aging (Han et al., 2024; Song & Zhang, 2012; Zhang et al., 2021). Using an intergroup contact lens, this study examines the link between Chinese married women's (N = 518; Mage = 35.61, SD = 6.74) contact with their mothers-in-law and endorsement of negative stereotypes (e.g., critical, meddlesome, incompetent, dependent) of older adults. It also explores the mediating role of relational closeness and shared family identity with the mother-in-law, and the moderating role of filial piety, age salience, and typicality of the mother-in-law. Moderated mediation results show that more contact predicts greater closeness and shared identity, which in turn reduce negative stereotypes of older adults. While filial piety, age salience, and typicality did not moderate these indirect effects, filial piety was positively linked to closeness and shared identity, and negatively linked to age stereotypes. Direct effects revealed that when perceived age salience or typicality was high, more contact was associated with lower endorsement of stereotypes. We discuss theoretical and practical implications for intergenerational contact, family dynamics, and attitudes toward aging in Chinese families, where filial piety remains a strong cultural norm.

P1.7: The role of terms relating to persons with disorders of intellectual development (DID) in the formation of attitudes towards this social group

Patrycja Wilczewska

Nicolaus Copernicus University

This study focuses on the role played by terms relating to persons with disorders of intellectual development (DID) in the formation of attitudes towards this social group. The research was conducted among Polish and German speakers in the form of an online survey, including questions about personal experience with the DID community and authoritarianism (KSA-3). Moreover, the participants were randomly assigned one of the four versions of a MRAI-R questionnaire on attitudes towards persons with DID. These versions differed regarding the label used to refer individuals with DID, considering two aspects of it: (1) the term itself, i.e. a currently preferable term of intellectual disability (pol. niepełnosprawność intelektualna; ger. intellektuelle Beeinträchtigung) vs a negatively connotated term of mental retardation (pol. upośledzenie umysłowe; ger. geistige Behinderung) and (2) the form, i.e. person-first language preferred among the DID community vs less preferable ability-first language. The analysis shows attitude scores were influenced negatively by level of authoritarianism and positively by level of contact with persons with DID. There was no significant effect of the terms and the forms. While further research that could focus on, i.a. changing the way of exposure to the terms is required, the need for using respectful language remains unchanged.

P1.8: Interability communication: Teachers' stereotypes and attitudes as predictors of communication accommodation toward students with special learning disabilities

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This study examines how teachers' stereotypes and attitudes toward students with special learning disabilities (SLD) predict the communication accommodation strategies they employ. Communication between people with and without disabilities is defined as interability communication and research has shown that individuals' perceptions of disability often influence communication. In an educational context these processes are crucial for the well-being of SLD students. The number of SLD students in primary education is increasing, raising important questions about how teachers perceive and interact with them. Teachers' beliefs and behaviors can significantly impact the integration of SLD students into the educational system. Two survey studies (N= 407) using convenience samples of teachers in the Greek primary education system examined the extent to which teachers adjust their communication when interacting with SLD students. Participants completed measures of attitudes and stereotypes toward SLD students, frequency of prior contact with them, and conversational convergence and divergence. Preliminary results indicate that teachers' attitudes and stereotypes significantly predict communication convergence and divergence toward SLD students. These findings underscore the critical role of teachers' perceptions in shaping their interactions with SLD students and highlight the need for awareness in inclusive communication practices.

Session 3: Language and Stereotypes

Talk: Experimental Research on Stereotype Communication in Freely Generated Language: A Systematic Literature Review

Kim Beenen¹, Camiel Beukeboom¹, Christian Burgers², & Pia Sommerauer¹

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Stereotypes often spread through subtle linguistic biases. Freely generated language experiments resemble real-life language, making them especially insightful for studying linguistic biases. However, a clear overview of these studies is missing. Following PRISMA guidelines, we identified and analyzed 106 experiments on stereotype expression in freely generated language. We identified four study categories in the literature. First, 34.9% of studies investigated how third-party categories were described differently. These studies often explore associations held towards specific categories, measuring the topics (30.9%) and valence (21.8%) of descriptions. Second, 22.6% of studies compared in- and outgroup descriptions, often aiming to test Ingroup Favoritism and Outgroup Derogation by measuring valence (30.6%). Third, 26.4% of studies compared descriptions of expected and unexpected behaviors of specified categories to test a range of expectancy biases (e.g. Linguistic Expectancy-, Stereotype Explanatory-, Stereotype Consistency Bias) by measuring various linguistic variables (e.g. causal explanation: 15.6%, abstraction: 12.5%; length: 12.5%, consistency: 12.5%). Fourth, 16.0% of studies investigated whether expected and unexpected behaviors are described differently for in- and outgroups. They often tested the Linguistic Intergroup Bias by measuring abstraction-related variables (75%).

We highlight the need for non-English studies, spoken-language studies, and studies examining interactions between different linguistic variables in freely generated language.

Talk: Voice Gaydar in Italian Straight Men: Exploring Sexual Orientation Judgments and Stereotypical Inferences

Giuliano Bocci, Sara Picciafuochi, & Stefano Guidi

University of Siena

In this study, we explore the accuracy of voice gaydar in cisgender straight Italian men, i.e., the ability to infer a speaker's sexual orientation (SO) from their voice. Semi-spontaneous speech samples were collected through a collaborative game where 16 Italian cisgender men (8 gay, 8 straight; 18–40 y.o.) played tasks twice: once with a same-SO partner and once with a different-SO partner. We tested 256 samples in two perception experiments with straight men, also collecting their beliefs about voice, identity, and attitudes toward gay men (TMFS, ATG, IHS, LGBIS). In Experiment 1, 80 participants (18-40 y.o.) rated speakers' perceived SO on a 7-point scale. Judgments were consistent but inaccurate, failing to predict SO above chance. In Experiment 2, 60 participants (18-45 y.o.) rated how likely speakers were to have occupations stereotypically associated with gay, straight, or SO-neutral traits. Gay speakers were rated higher for stereotypically gay occupations, and straight speakers for straight ones. This effect was stronger when samples were produced by speakers playing with a same-SO partner. We discuss differences between direct and indirect SO judgments, proposing two explanations for the observed asymmetries, and examine how SO inferences vary with identity and attitudes toward homosexuality.

Session 3: Language and Stereotypes

Talk: Language Stereotypes and Meta-Stereotypes: Content and Relationship to Psychological and Communicative Outcomes for General and Southern American English Speakers

Marko Dragojevic¹ & Jessica Gasiorek²

¹University of Kentucky

²University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

We examined how General American English (GAE) speakers—a high status group in the US—and Southern American English (SAE) speakers—a low status group in the US—perceive themselves and each other (i.e., stereotypes), how they think the outgroup perceives them (i.e., metastereotypes), and the relationship between these perceptions and various psychological and communicative outcomes. Consistent with the compensation hypothesis, both groups rated GAE speakers as more competent than warm and SAE speakers as more warm than competent. The same pattern emerged in respondents' metastereotypes: GAE speakers expected the outgroup to rate them as more competent than warm, whereas SAE speakers expected the outgroup to rate them as more warm than competent. Although respondents correctly inferred the nature of the outgroup's stereotypes, they exaggerated their negativity: Both groups expected the outgroup to rate them more negatively than they rated themselves, as well as more negatively than the outgroup actually rated them. Compared to GAE speakers, SAE speakers reported experiencing more pride in their speech, but also more communication problems, more stigma, more intergroup anxiety, and a higher likelihood of converging toward outgroup speakers. Respondents' stereotypes and metastereotypes were both variably associated with these outcomes.

Talk: Political Homophily and Candidate Evaluations: Exploring the Effects of Voters' Language Stereotypes

Eduardo Munoz Suarez, Gretchen Montgomery-Vestecka, & Jorge Restrepo-Garcia

University of Oklahoma

As more Latinos are involved in U.S. politics, both as voters and candidates running for office, understanding the factors that influence political perceptions among voters are crucial. Guided by ethnolinguistic identity theory and the fluency principle of language attitudes, the current study mobilizes the verbal guise technique to compare evaluations of candidates who speak English with either a Standard American (SAE) or Spanish (Latino) accent. The experimental design compares language stereotypes (i.e., evaluations of status, attractiveness, and dynamism) as well as intergroup communication processes (i.e., perceived political homophily, inferred motive, and processing fluency). Data (n = 219) was collected from participants from an undergraduate research pool at a medium-sized South-Central U.S. American university. Results indicate that, across the six conditions, participants differed significantly in their processing fluency of the speaker's talk. Mediation analyses indicated indirect effects accent condition on perceived political homophily through processing fluency and attractiveness and through processing fluency and dynamism. The sequential mediation of processing fluency and status was not significant. Theoretical and practical discussion of these results reveals how language stereotypes and intergroup dynamics shape political evaluations, providing new insights into the role of language and identity in U.S. politics.

Session 4: Intergroup Contact and Communication

Talk: Out-Group Friendship, Bilingual Communication and Intercultural Relations in India

Shabana Bano¹, Ramesh Chandra Mishra¹, Rama Charan Tripathi², & Rajnish Chandra Tripathi³

¹Banaras Hindu University

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Indian culture has evolved from different shades of varying textures and colors of races, languages, religions and nurtured a composite cultural character since ancient times. It was in the late medieval period of India's history that a creative synthesis of Hindu and Islamic civilizations occurred which manifested in syncretistic traditions of music, art, literature, food habits, architecture and language. Hindi and Urdu are mutually intelligible languages and combined under the common term 'Hindavi' or 'Hindustani' as well as categorized as separate Sanskrit (Hindi) and Persian (Urdu) orientations of the Hindustani language in India. It travelled across India through the poets and saints of the Sufi and the Bhakti movements. This study examined the role of out-group friendship in bilingual communication, intercultural strategies and mutual acceptance of Hindus and Muslims. A sample of 538 participants (mean age = 34.20) including Hindus (n = 238) and Muslims (n = 300) was assessed using an instrument developed and used in an international project. Results showed that those Hindus and Muslims, who had greater out-group friends, emphasized more on bilingual communication, facilitated mutual acceptance and preferred integration and coexistence intercultural strategies than those who had less out-group friends. Implications of the findings will be discussed.

Session 4: Intergroup Contact and Communication

Talk: Jaz že znam hrvaško! [I already know Croatian language..]. Intergroup contact, Integrativeness and reciprocal language learning in border regions

Irina Moira Cavaion

Science and research centre Koper (ZRS Koper)

This study contributes to research on intergroup contact (Allport 1954; Pettigrew 1998) by analyzing integrativeness (Gardner & Lambert 1972, Gardner 1985) and the dynamics of interethnic interaction in European border regions, particularly within the context of language education. Situated in the multilingual and pluricultural landscape of Slovenia—historically a vibrant crossroads of languages and cultures, later shaped by ideological divisions, conflicts, and inconsistent language policies towards its former Yugoslav neighbours—our research explores the development of (positive) attitudes towards neighbouring communities through the teaching and learning of their languages. Over a two-and-a-half-year period, we conducted a qualitative study with approximately 150 students (ages 11–14) from eight classes in Italy, Slovenia, and Croatia. These students participated in a project designed to foster linguistic and cultural exchange through sustained, methodical engagement in both virtual and face-to-face cross-border contact. Our findings reinforce previous research (Cavaion 2016, 2019), demonstrating that the desire for intergroup engagement strengthens in contexts of authentic, reciprocal encounters. While well-structured contact alone is insufficient to enhance integrativeness, positive and meaningful exchanges significantly increase motivation to learn a neighbour's language. This suggests that reciprocity is a key factor in fostering linguistic and cultural openness, highlighting the importance of interactive, experience-based learning in cross-border educational initiatives.

Talk: Taking contact out of context: The effects of intergroup narrative abstraction on attitudes

Nick Joyce

University of Maryland

In this talk I will explore the impact of decontextualizing intergroup narratives on subsequent attitudes. People can be highly reactive to politically charged intergroup issues like immigration (Lu & Liang, 2023), and thus improving intergroup attitudes directly can be quite difficult. On the other hand, the prejudice reducing effect of intergroup narratives occurs, at least in part, based on a process of abstract modeling perceptions of outgroup individuals to groups, and from target groups to other similar groups (Joyce & Harwood, 2014). This suggests one possible strategy for improving intergroup attitudes is to abstract intergroup narratives by maintaining core intergroup themes but removing it from the direct context of the audience (e.g. A foreign context or science fiction). Removing the psychological threat of their immediate context may relax audiences and help them engage with the intergroup narrative. Over three experiments I provide support for this idea and demonstrate a small but replicated effect such that increased narrative abstraction improves attitudes towards immigrants through increased narrative engagement. These findings help link theories of narrative persuasion, social cognition, and vicarious intergroup contact. Other theoretical mechanisms such as construal level (Trope & Liberman, 2003) are explored, but not supported.

Session 4: Intergroup Contact and Communication

Talk: Talking to Immigrants about Similar and Different Intergroup Experiences: The Role of Linguistic Abstraction in Imagined Superficial and Intimate Contact

Monica Rubini¹, Camilla Boggia², & Francesca Prati¹

¹University of Bologna

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The study of intergroup contact has significantly increased in the last decades but little is known about intergroup communication in this context. In this study we simulated intergroup imagined contact with immigrants to understand how linguistic abstraction and valence of terms are employed in situations of superficial and intimate contact, to talk about intergroup similarities and intergroup differences between Immigrants and Italians. Two relevant topics of conversation related to job salary and school performance were randomly assigned to participants. 238 Italians adults took part in the study by being randomly assigned to the four experimental conditions. They were asked to write down what they would say to their immigrant interlocutor after being presented with the characteristics of the imagined contact (i.e., superficial or intimate), whether they had to talk about intergroup similarities or differences related to the topic of conversation. In line with the hypotheses results showed a higher use of abstract terms under the condition of superficial contact and intergroup similarities. In contrast increased intimacy (friendship) in imagined contact led to an overall more concrete and positive language use. These findings shows how group members are able to tailor their intergroup conversation by strategically using language abstraction and valence of terms.

Session 5: Dehumanization, Labeling, and Framing

Talk: “Those beasts, aliens, animals”: the impact of dehumanizing language on voting intentions

Dominika Bulska, Magdalena Formanowicz, & Patryk Kukla

SWPS University

Modern democracies rely on voter turnout. During elections, parties and politicians use various techniques to influence voting intentions and maximize their political influence. Recently, the old rhetorical strategy of dehumanization has re-emerged in political debate. Politicians may see dehumanizing language as a powerful tool—not only to discredit opponents but also to exacerbate polarization, which, in turn, may facilitate governance.

However, dehumanizing language may have political costs. First, by intensifying polarization, it can diminish positive affect and evoke negative affect among voters, discouraging participation altogether. Second, if it induces unpleasant emotions, voters may perceive politicians using such rhetoric as aversive, harming their electoral success.

This presentation explores the impact of dehumanizing language on voting intentions. Across two experimental studies (overall N = 838) conducted in the midst of a heated political debate – Poland (Study 1) and the U.S. (Study 2) – we show that the use of dehumanizing language lowers voting intentions by decreasing positive emotions, but not by increasing negative emotions. Furthermore, we demonstrate this effect is weaker among individuals high in social dominance orientation (SDO), suggesting that such rhetoric may be less costly for candidates whose supporters view the world as a social jungle.

Talk: Metaphors That Bind: Unlocking the Complexity of Dehumanization

Magdalena Formanowicz

SWPS University

Metaphors are powerful tools in science, shaping how we conceptualize, investigate, and communicate complex phenomena. However, their influence can misguide as much as it enlightens. This presentation critically examines the role of metaphors in dehumanization research, focusing on Haslam's (2006) framework of animalistic and mechanistic dehumanization. Animalistic dehumanization likens individuals to animals, emphasizing moral and behavioral degradation, while mechanistic dehumanization portrays them as robots, highlighting emotional coldness and hyper-rationality. While these metaphors provide accessible heuristics for understanding prejudice and violence, they oversimplify dehumanization's complexity. The “animal” metaphor conflates evolutionary and moral dimensions, creating inconsistencies, while the “robot” metaphor embeds modern anxieties about technology into historical dynamics, distorting interpretations. This presentation critiques these frameworks, revealing their theoretical limitations and misalignment with empirical evidence. By challenging these paradigms, I propose pathways toward more precise and integrative models of dehumanization, with implications for understanding intergroup dynamics and improving interventions. This work underscores the critical role of language in shaping scientific inquiry, offering fresh insights into the interplay between metaphor, research, and intergroup relations.

Session 5: Dehumanization, Labeling, and Framing

Talk: Prostitute or Sex Worker? The Impact of Labeling on Attitudes Toward Victims of Intimate Partner Violence

Eleonora Crapolicchio¹, Chiara Pecin², & Gian Antonio Di Bernardo³

¹Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Brescia

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Intimate partner violence (IPV) disproportionately affects marginalized women, including those involved in prostitution, who face severe abuse and heightened stigma, limiting their ability to seek help. Two studies examined factors influencing perceptions of and willingness to help these women in cases of domestic violence. The first study (N = 294) found that positive attitudes toward prostitution (e.g., legal and social support, beliefs, and family values related to prostitution) decreased participants' intentions to help. This suggests that societal normalization of prostitution may reduce the perceived need to intervene in vulnerable situations. The second study (N = 110) tested the impact of labeling on attitudes and helping intentions. Men, but not women, held more positive attitudes toward victims labeled as "sex workers" compared to "prostitutes." Mediation analysis revealed that the "sex worker" label increased helping intentions by fostering more positive perceptions of the victim. These findings highlight the importance of language in shaping public attitudes. While the term "sex worker" can reduce stigma and increase support, it may also obscure the exploitation and structural violence involved. Implications for policy and societal perceptions are discussed.

Talk: Portrayal of Immigrants in Italian Newspapers: The Role of Linguistic Abstraction and Valence of Terms

Chiara Bonechi, Elisabetta Crocetti, & Monica Rubini

University of Bologna

This contribution examines the role of linguistic abstraction and valence of terms in the portrayal of immigrants and Italians in a sample of articles from Italian newspapers. Specifically, it investigates how linguistic abstraction and valence of terms vary depending on the type of newspaper (Study 1, N = 103) and the newspaper's area of coverage (national vs. local, Study 2, N = 218). The findings revealed that immigrants are generally described using negative terms at a higher level and positive terms at a lower level of abstraction than Italians, regardless of the newspaper's political orientation or area of coverage. Furthermore, national newspapers were found to use both positive and negative terms at higher levels of abstraction than local newspapers when describing both immigrants and Italians. This research provides novel insights on how linguistic intergroup discrimination is conveyed in the Italian newspaper landscape.

P2.1: The role of ideological beliefs and intergroup processes in predicting communication accommodation toward members of minority groups

Antonis Gardikiotis¹, Theologidis Dimitris¹, Georgisoudi Vasiliki¹, & Eleni Lipouri²

¹Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

²Democritus University of Thrace

This study examines how ideological beliefs (e.g., social dominance orientation, implicit theories of majority and minority influence), intergroup attitudes, stereotypes and identity processes predict communication accommodation toward members of minority groups (e.g., immigrants, LGBTQ individuals). Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) suggests that individuals adjust their communication behaviors (e.g., conversational styles) based on social and psychological factors, yet more research is needed especially on the ideological predictors underlying communication convergence. Using a survey methodology, we collected data from two convenience samples (N_{total} = 402) to assess the extent to which individuals modify their communication when interacting with members of minority groups. Participants completed measures of SDO, implicit theories of social influence, political self-identification, intergroup attitudes, stereotypes, intergroup identification, and conversational convergence and divergence. Results from hierarchical regression analyses indicate that ideological beliefs predict communication accommodation over and above stereotypic perceptions and intergroup attitudes. Lower SDO, minor-centrism, positive stereotypes and empathetic emotions are associated with greater accommodative behaviors. In contrast, higher SDO, major-centrism, negative stereotypes and anxiety contribute to communication divergence. These findings highlight the interplay between ideological beliefs, affective responses, and intergroup communication, in shaping interactions with members of minority groups.

Poster Session 2

P2.2: What Matters in Eldercare? Exploring Intergenerational Communication on Weibo Using a Machine Learning Approach

Molly Han

University of Kansas

This With increasingly aging population in China, discussions surrounding eldercare and related topics have intensified on social media platform (Wang & Luo, 2022). Guided by Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT), this study examines how younger and older generations discuss eldercare and whether they adapt or diverge in their posts when communicating about eldercare and eldercare anxiety. Employing a machine learning approach, this study analyzes a dataset of 17,674 Weibo posts collected between 2022 and 2023 by searching for the hashtags eldercare (养老) and eldercare anxiety (养老焦虑). To uncover key patterns in Weibo posts, this study utilizes Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) for topic modeling and Semantic Network Analysis (SNA) to examine generational communication patterns. The findings reveal that dominant topics related to eldercare and eldercare anxiety include pension and financial burdens, government policy and insurance, caregiving, responsibilities, quality of life, smart eldercare solutions, communication support, and filial piety. SNA results illustrate generational differences in Weibo posts. Younger users frequently discuss caregiving stress, responsibility, and financial concerns, whereas older users often emphasize health management, living arrangement, and community support. These findings demonstrate how societal attitudes toward eldercare diverge across generations in online discourse in China.

Poster Session 2

P2.3: Intergroup Expression on Social Media and Intergroup Attitudes: Social Attraction as an Explanatory Mechanism

Teri Terigele¹, & Yan Bing Zhang²

¹Sewanee: The University of the South

²University of Kansas

Guided by the mediated intergroup contact framework, we tested the effect of exposure to a Chinese international student's positive or negative stereotypical social media expressions on X (formally Twitter) regarding warmth and competence about Americans on American participants' perceptions of the Chinese target's social attraction and attitudes toward Chinese people. We used a 2 (warm vs. cold) x 2 (competent vs. incompetent) between-subjects design and randomly assigned participants to one of the 4 conditions. Results indicated exposure to positive intergroup expressions portraying Americans as warm (vs. cold) and competent (vs. incompetent) increased participants' perceived social attraction to the Chinese target, with competence (vs. incompetence) showing a stronger effect than warmth (vs. cold). Greater perceived social attraction resulting from the Chinese target's positive social media expressions about Americans on X generalized to more affective attitudes and willingness to engage with Chinese people in general. Direct effects in our mediation model revealed complexities: negative social media expressions about Americans being incompetent (vs. competent) led to more positive affective attitudes when Americans were also described as cold. This experimental study contributes to the mediated intergroup contact literature by examining both positive and negative stereotype-consistent intergroup dynamics in explicating intergroup attitudes. We discuss findings in terms of theoretical and practical implications.

P2.4: The Language of Emotion and Identity in Emergencies

Madeline Murphy, Mark Levine, Anastasia Kordoni, & Shengnan Liu

Lancaster University

Research aimed to compare language used in emergencies to normal conversations, with particular interest in social identity markers and emotion use. Natural language data was gathered from footage of emergencies and analysed in terms of emotion and social identity theory. The data were split into 3 groups- 'zero' responders interacting with each other, 'zero' and first responders talking, and first responders speaking amongst themselves. Analysis using the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC)-22 software produced percentage frequencies of the use of key words relating to emotion and social identity. These frequencies were then compared to the average frequencies of word use according to LIWC's test kitchen corpus of everyday conversations using Cohen's d analyses. Findings suggest use of emotional and social identity related words differ significantly between emergency situations and everyday language, and to differing degrees depending on the combination of 'zero' and first responders involved in the interaction. Results support existing literature regarding increased levels of social identification in emergency situations compared to everyday life. They also present insights into how emotionality is different in emergencies compared to normal life, and how this may relate to social identity.

P2.5: Intergroup Conflicts Among Ukrainians in the Context of the Russian-Ukrainian War: Pathways to Understanding and Cohesion

Iryna Hubeladze

Kyiv School of Economics

The ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war has not only reshaped the geopolitical landscape but has also intensified internal intergroup conflicts among Ukrainians. This study explores the intergroup conflicts within Ukrainian society, focusing on the divisions that have emerged along political, regional, and ideological lines. Utilizing a large-scale survey of Ukrainian citizens, we examine how individuals identify with different communities within the country, and how these identities shape perceptions of the “other.” Our data indicates some polarization between people with different experiences of the war. Through statistical analysis, we identify key factors contributing to these conflicts, such as media influence, regional historical narratives, influence of enemy propaganda, safety factors, and the socio-economic impact of the war. However, the study also uncovers pathways to reconciliation, including shared national identity, mutual trust-building initiatives, and the importance of inclusive dialogue. This research offers a comprehensive understanding of intergroup tensions and oriented on practical issues for fostering understanding and reducing conflict among Ukrainians in these turbulent times. The findings contribute to the broader discourse on conflict resolution in divided societies, offering insights into strategies for peacebuilding in post-conflict contexts.

P2.6: Music as a universal language: Exploring its potential to reduce prejudice

Agnieszka Siry & Romuald Polczyk

Jagiellonian University

Music, often compared to language, has long been recognized for promoting social cohesion, but its impact on intergroup attitudes remains less explored. Our study examined whether listening to music alone can reduce prejudice toward minority outgroups, examining how genre, lyrics, mood, and political orientation might moderate these effects. We divided 120 participants into four groups: 1) control (no music), 2) prosocial music, 3) instrumental music, and 4) foreign music. Participants listened to their assigned music and completed two prejudice measures: the social distance scale and the point allocation task. We also assessed emotions, mood, and political orientation. Results revealed that instrumental music reduced prejudice, with a significant difference in the point allocation task ($p = .010$) and a marginally significant difference in social distance ($p = .056$). Political orientation moderated this effect and the effect of foreign music, with the prejudice reduction most notable among centrist and right-wing participants. No significant effects of mood or emotions were found. These findings suggest that instrumental music may reduce prejudice, while prosocial lyrics have a more limited impact. The role of foreign music remains complex, and further research is needed to investigate empathy as a more probable mechanism in music’s pro-integrative influence.

P2.7: LGBTQ+ Representation in Polish Media: Insights from Topic Analysis

Patryk Kukla, Dominika Bulska, & Magdalena Formanowicz

SWPS University

Public attitudes toward LGBTQ+ individuals in Poland remain polarized, with the media playing a critical role in shaping narratives. This study applies topic analysis, an unsupervised NLP method, to examine LGBTQ+-related content in *Gazeta Wyborcza* since the early 2000s. By clustering words, this method identifies dominant themes in media discourse, revealing how LGBTQ+ individuals are framed in public discussions. The analysis uncovers key topics and their frequency, shedding light on media representations of LGBTQ+ people and the narratives that influence public opinion. To better understand shifts in these narratives over time, I compare the identified topics with major events in Poland, such as protests and LGBTQ+ advocacy milestones. Recognizing these patterns helps explore how media shapes broader social attitudes, reinforcing or challenging existing narratives. This research provides novel quantitative insights into LGBTQ+ media discourse in Poland. The poster presents key findings from the topic analysis, demonstrating how this method helps examine the media's role in shaping public perception.

P2.8: Ambiguity in Romanian News. An analysis from the reader's perspective

Mihaela Mihalea

Babeş Bolyai University

Whereas a few decades ago, to present the news a journalist should have waited for evening edition, today all that is needed is a mobile phone and internet connection. In terms of news production, the time allocated has been reduced from a few hours to a few minutes. We argue that this compression is not in the best interest of the news. Our research is focused on news articles published in one of the oldest Romanian printed newspapers, *Adevărul*, addressing the relationship between ambiguity and news value in Romanian mainstream media. After analysing a corpus of 200 articles, published in *Adevărul* over a period of 20 years, from 2000 to 2020, we argue that journalists are using writing techniques focused more to increase curiosity and arousal and less on news value, in informational texts presented as news. These strategies are influencing the cohesion of the text and the thematic progression, resulting in multiple interpretations of the subject of the news itself and demanding from the reader a higher inferential effort. We are addressing ambiguity in informational text from a pragmatic perspective, arguing that our corpus analysis shows a transformation of the journalistic texts from informational texts to persuasive texts.

Session 6: Hate Speech and Online Dynamics

Talk: Reclaiming Hate Speech: Motivations, Measurement, and Collective Action

Dominik Puchała, Michał Bilewicz, Aleksandra Świdorska

University of Warsaw

Faced with the omnipresence of hate speech, victims of this language employ various coping strategies. One of them is reclamation by using derogatory language with a new, positive meaning. Until now, this phenomenon has been treated as homogeneous and having positive outcomes. In this talk, we will present theoretical perspectives that highlight the diversity of motivations behind the use of reclaimed hate speech. We will then introduce a newly developed scale designed to measure the three motivations: to regain control, for humorous purposes, and to consolidate relationships in a community. The Motivation for Language Reclamation Scale (MLRS) has been validated in two studies (N = 362; N = 141) among gay people. It is a reliable tool for studying the psychological processes involved in language reclamation, which has not been presented before. In addition, the implications of the three motivations for minority collective action will be discussed, particularly the negative relationship between the use of reclaimed hate speech for humorous purposes and collective action intentions. Our results suggest that depending on the motivation, using reclaimed hate speech can have positive or negative effects on minority groups.

Talk: The Role of Perceived and Manipulated Control in Hate Speech Expression: Moderating Effects of Motivation to Suppress Prejudice

Wiktoria Sorał¹ & Agnieszka Strycharczyk²

¹University of Warsaw

²Jagiellonian University

A perceived lack of control has been associated with various defensive and aggressive behaviors, including prejudice expression. In two studies, we examined how control perceptions interact with internal and external motivation to respond without prejudice in predicting the use of hate speech. In Study 1 (N = 387), we measured individuals' perceived lack of control and assessed their tendency to use hate speech. In Study 2 (N = 325), we experimentally manipulated control using a Behavioral Helplessness Training and measured subsequent hate speech tendencies. Across both studies, we found that motivation to suppress prejudice moderated the relationship between lack of control and hate speech expression. Specifically, individuals with high motivation to suppress prejudice were able to counteract the effects of diminished control, maintaining low levels of hate speech. In contrast, individuals with low internal motivation—potentially reflecting genuine prejudice—were more likely to express prejudice when experiencing a lack of control, particularly in the absence of external cues discouraging prejudice. These findings highlight the complex interplay between situational factors and individual differences in prejudice regulation, with implications for interventions aimed at reducing hate speech.

Session 6: Hate Speech and Online Dynamics

Talk: Social Processes in the Intensification of Online Hate: The Effects of Verbal Replies on anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish Posts Following 7 October 2023

Joseph Walther^{1,2} & Zachary P. Rosen³

¹University of California, Santa Barbara

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³University of California, Los Angeles

Social media hate messaging focusing on Muslims and Jews increased dramatically following Hamas's attack on Israelis on 7 October 2023 and Israel's military response in Gaza. This study examined anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim hate postings on X.com and the verbal replies, Likes, and reposts they acquired, in the month following the war's inception. It tests a new theoretical explanation for the propagation of hate messages in social media focusing on the social approval hate posters garner from other users. The analysis employed the computational measurement of replies to N = 6,388 anti-Muslim or anti-Jewish hate posts in terms of their semantic convergence or divergence with the content of original hate posts. Results indicated no differences between patterns of anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim discourse. Receiving convergent replies to one's hate posting leads individuals to post even more hateful messages in their next post, and accelerates the rate of hate posting. Getting likes and reposts did not affect subsequent hatefulness; likes accelerated hate posting, however, while reposts decelerated them. Divergent replies led to less hateful and less frequent hate posting. Implications concern implications for the social approval theory of online hate, and the relative influence of verbal replies due to their costliness.

Talk: The negative side of positive contact. The role of positive contact in empathic failure and support for violence during intense conflict between two outgroups

Maciej Siemiątkowski & Michał Bilewicz

University of Warsaw

Our study investigated the potential negative consequences of intergroup contact by examining how positive interactions with one group can lead to negative feelings and attitudes toward another group with which they are in conflict. Drawing on Heider's balanced relations principle, we conducted two studies (total N=996) in Poland (Study 1) and three Central European countries (Study 2), contextualized within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a long-standing and intense intergroup conflict. Our results revealed a consistent pattern: positive contact experiences with one group (Jews or Arabs) were associated with empathic failure—a psychological mechanism characterized by biased empathy that reduces emotional understanding of the opposing group—which, in turn, predicted greater justification of violence against that other group. These findings challenge the assumption that intergroup contact universally improves attitudes and reduces tensions. Instead, they suggest that in contexts of intense, protracted conflict, positive interactions may paradoxically exacerbate intergroup hostilities by eliciting asymmetrical empathic responses and facilitating the justification of violent actions. It also opens a critical line of research exploring the complex communicative dynamics of intergroup conflict. These findings have significant implications for understanding how interactions and perceptions can be transmitted and transformed across broader, more complex social networks, beyond traditional models of intergroup relations.

Towards establishing Applied Intergroup Communication as a key component of the study of intergroup relations: Three case studies

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While the interdisciplinary field of intergroup communication is theoretically-rich and empirically-robust, it is considered timely to forge a vibrant “*applied intergroup communication*” approach that goes beyond merely proposing implications of research. It goes further and focuses on trainings and interventions that can be evaluated with institutionalized groupings. Towards this end, we select three internationally-significant intergroup settings that have received little empirical communication attention: fat identity, stigma, and liberation; overtourism; and law enforcement recruitment and humanity. These are discussed as exemplar case studies which may inspire similar applied trajectories in other intergroup arenas. Finally, future novel avenues for advancing this approach are considered.

Talk: Unveiling intergroup help dynamics: The effects of positive and negative intergroup contact on autonomy vs. dependence oriented help

Tania Garau¹, Francesca Prati², & Emilio Paolo Visintin¹

¹University of Ferrara

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Intergroup communication happens when groups meet, i.e. when intergroup contact occurs. While research has consistently shown that intergroup contact reduces prejudice, it may not address inequalities. Among the underexplored outcomes of contact there is intergroup help. The modes of intergroup help can either challenge or reinforce inequalities: dependency-oriented help provides resources or temporary support without addressing structural inequalities, while autonomy-oriented help fosters self-sufficiency and empowerment. In a cross-sectional study conducted in Italy (N = 368), we analyzed the effects of positive and negative intergroup contact on dependency- vs. autonomy-oriented helping behavior of the Italian majority toward the immigrant minority, considering the mediating roles of empathy, perspective-taking, and trust. Positive contact was associated with both modes of help, with empathy, perspective-taking, and trust mediating its effects on autonomy-oriented help, and empathy mediating its effects on dependency-oriented help. Negative contact was associated with autonomy-oriented help via trust but did not significantly affect dependency-oriented help through the investigated mediators. Two additional studies are in progress to further explore how intergroup contact shapes intergroup helping behaviors. Our findings contribute to the field of intergroup communication by shedding light on the role of contact in shaping prosocial interactions and their potential impact on social inequalities.

Talk: Linguistic Markers of Stigmatization Toward Individuals with Mental Disorders

Annette Burquet

Université Paul Sabatier

Individuals with mental disorders face not only the challenges of their conditions but also the stigma that exacerbates their difficulties, often referred to as a “illness.” Negative stereotypes, particularly for schizophrenia, are pervasive and predominantly found in the general public. While explicit discrimination measures are common, this study uses linguistic abstraction as an implicit indicator of stigma, based on the Linguistic Intergroup Bias Theory (Maass et al., 1989) and the Linguistic Category Model (Semin & Fiedler, 1988). We assessed stigma using four levels of abstraction—descriptive action verbs, state verbs, adjectives and nouns—through an online questionnaire targeting mental health professionals and the general public. Results reveal schizophrenia is communicated most abstractly, regardless of the type of participants. The general public stigmatized more than mental health professionals, particularly bipolarity, autism and depression. Higher abstraction levels correlated with greater social dominance orientation (SDO) across all conditions except depression. Gender effect was observed for autism, where women stigmatize less than men. Moreover, younger individuals tend to stigmatize bipolar and autistic disorders more, whereas older individuals are more likely to stigmatize depressive disorders. These findings underscore linguistic abstraction as a subtle yet potent measure of stigma, highlighting the societal impact of language in shaping perceptions of mental disorders.

Talk: Hidden in the Voice: Uncovering the Unique Speech Patterns of Children and Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum

Urszula Wielgat¹, Aleksander Wawer², Ewa Pisula¹, & Izabela Chojnicka¹

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The speech of autistic children and adolescents differs significantly from that of typically developing peers, both in terms of content and sound characteristics. This study aims to examine key speech features - such as fundamental frequency (F0), speech rate, and voice quality (Harmonic-to-Noise Ratio, jitter, shimmer) - to identify patterns that distinguish autistic children and adolescents from their typically developing peers. Natural and structured speech samples were collected from 80 participants aged 6–17. Several tasks were used to gather speech data: a) tasks from the ADOS-2 assessment, b) reading two short texts, one with emotional valence, one neutral in emotional tone, c) reading words and pseudowords from the IDS-2 test. The collected data is currently undergoing detailed computer-based analysis. This method allows for a thorough examination of speech sound characteristics and offers valuable insights into the differences between autistic participants and typically developing peers. We hope that the study will contribute to a deeper understanding of the speech sound atypicalities characteristic of the autism spectrum. The use of automated computational tools will enable a quantitative analysis of potential differences between autistic and neurotypical children and adolescents.

Talk: Sports as a Venue for Intergroup Communication: An Observational Study

Rajnish Chandra Tripathi¹ & Shabana Bano²

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Sports serve as a powerful venue for intergroup communication, shaping identities, fostering loyalty, and influencing social interactions. While George Orwell (2000) critiqued sports for promoting rivalry and nationalism, other scholars argued that sport might serve both to bridge as well as reinforce intergroup divides by breaking down stereotypes, increasing understanding, facilitating social cohesion and confining battles to the playing fields rather than the battlefield (Goldberg, 2000). Historically, sports have been intertwined with politics, as seen in the 1936 Berlin Olympics and Cold War-era rivalries, where ideological conflicts were expressed through athletic competition. Social identity theory explains the intensity of sports fandom, where individuals develop strong emotional ties to teams, leading to both unity and division. This study was designed to observe the behaviors of young athletes (age ranged 18-25 years) during several sport events using video recordings. It revealed that sports provide a unique platform for cultural exchange, identity negotiation, leadership, follower-ship, teamwork and community building. It suggests that sports serve as a microcosm of broader intergroup communication and social integration through shaping personal, social and collective identities among athletes. The implications will be pointed out.

Session 8: Communication in Difficult Contexts

Talk: Patterns of Accommodation and Nonaccommodation in Fatal Police Shooting Incidents in the USA: A Case Study of Violent Intergroup Encounters

Edward Maguire¹, Howard Giles², Shawn L. Hill², Nana Adwoa Agyapong¹

¹Arizona State University

²University of California at Santa Barbara

Recently, the study of police-civilian interactions has featured prominently on the intergroup communication landscape. Some of these interactions involve confrontational encounters with people carrying knives, swords, and other types of sharp instruments. Fatal police shootings of people carrying sharp instruments are often controversial. In some instances, suspects carrying sharp instruments represent an imminent threat to officers or others in the area. In other instances, the threat posed by suspects is much lower. This paper focuses on patterns of accommodation and non-accommodation in the way police officers communicate with suspects during these encounters. We rely on a sample of videos capturing fatal police shooting incidents that occurred in the United States from January 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024, involving people carrying knives or other sharp instruments. After a brief overview of policing in the intergroup communication literature, we draw on communication accommodation theory (CAT) and thematic analysis of video footage to examine the nature and content of officer communication with suspects during these incidents. Our analysis reveals a wide variety of verbal and nonverbal communication patterns used by officers, ranging from highly accommodative to highly nonaccommodative. We interpret these communications through the lens of CAT, outlining the implications of our findings for theory, research, and practice in the intergroup communication arena.

Talk: Use of Coded Words in Sex and Sexuality Communication. The case of African Families in South Africa with Adolescents

Victorine Mbong Shu

University of the Free State

This study focuses on how words influence sex and sexuality communication between parents, adolescents and other family members like grandparents in African families in South Africa. This study applies a self-report approach method to understand sexuality communication within these families. The purposeful sample included 20 South African young adults, ages 19 to 26, who spoke retrospectively of when they were adolescents, and 20 parents of adolescents, ages 38 to 60, who shared their experiences as adolescents and while raising adolescents. Participants were interviewed telephonically through in-depth, one-on-one semi-structured interviews lasting 90 to 180 minutes for young adults and 60 to 180 minutes for parents of adolescents. Data was analysed using Braun and Clarke's six-step approach to thematic analysis. Findings indicate that how words are used present sex and sexuality to adolescents as a myth. Such communication is presented as open and generous but mostly one-way, less frequent, implicit and the use of coded words is mostly guided by cultural and religious practices, values and norms. This study which describes how the use of words in family interactions facilitate South African adolescents' formation and communication of their sexual identities, can inform policies and strategies that encourage parents' use of proper words in sex and sexuality communication.

Session 8: Communication in Difficult Contexts

Talk: The impact of language use in breaking bad news delivery (negations vs. affirmations) and message framing (positive vs. negative): An intergroup approach to understanding social identity shifts across the caregiver lifespan

Lisa Sparks
Chapman University

Intergroup approaches to caregiving focus on understanding how group dynamics, social identities, and relationships between different social groups (e.g., caregivers, care recipients, healthcare providers) influence the caregiving experience. By framing caregiving as an intergroup phenomenon, this approach recognizes the complex interplay of identity, group membership, and social context in shaping caregiving behaviors and outcomes. This study investigates the role of specific language formulations and message framing of health care delivery and its impact on caregiver social identity. Specifically, it examines the effects of health care delivery language use (affirmations vs. negations) and message framing (positive vs. negative) on caregivers' social identity shifts across the caregiving lifespan of caring for an older adult family member. Small linguistic variations in breaking bad news can significantly impact caregivers' emotional resilience, decision-making, and identity development. Online caregiver narratives (N = 40) will be analyzed from public platforms such as experienceproject.com, thecaregiverspace.org, and caregiver.org. These unsolicited, anonymous stories allow insight into the identity processes of caregivers. Results show that affirmations and positive framing can empower caregivers, while negations and negative framing may increase distress. Understanding these effects is crucial to supporting caregiver wellbeing and improving long-term outcomes for care recipients.

Talk: Barriers and facilitators to providing quality patient care. How perceptions differ between doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals in the hospital system

Bernadette Watson^{1,2} & Xiaoyan I. Wu¹

¹The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

²The University of Queensland

We report on 67 interviews with doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who worked in the public hospital system in Hong Kong. Participants described the barriers and facilitators they encountered that affected their ability to provide quality patient care. We conducted a thematic analysis on the interview data. The same three categories emerged for both barriers and facilitators. These were Organizational, and Relationship Factors, and Leadership Issues. Each profession noted similar organizational factors that could impede or enhance providing patient care. However, each profession has different priorities when they spoke about relationship factors and what they felt was important for providing quality patient care. Similarly each profession prioritized different leadership issues that affected their ability to work cohesively and provide good patient care. These findings demonstrate how doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals have similar organizational concerns. However, they differ on what is most important with respect to relationship matters and leadership style. Discussion explores the fact that the three professions represent distinct cultures in the hospital system but are unified on their views of the organizational system.

Session 9: Political Communication and Public Perception

Talk: Stepping Down: How Political and Non-Political Resignations Shape Public Perceptions and Support

Fabio Fasoli^{1,2}, Aife Hopkins-Doyle¹, Francesca Guizzo³, & Joseph Nolan¹

¹University of Surrey

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Politicians resign for various reasons, these are categorised as either political (e.g., loss of party support) or non-political (e.g., voluntary departures). Across four studies (N = 897), we examined how the type of resignation conveyed in the resignation speech affects public perceptions of leadership, issue-handling capabilities (e.g., military, budgets, social policies), and support for a political comeback (e.g., voting intentions). Results revealed that politicians who resigned for non-political reasons were perceived as more moral, having greater integrity, and demonstrating stronger leadership compared to those who resigned for political reasons. In some studies, non-political resignations also enhanced perceptions of the politician's ability to address compassionate issues (e.g., assisting the poor) and equality issues (e.g., reducing the gender pay gap). Finally, participants were more likely to support the political comeback of politicians who resigned for non-political reasons. These effects were consistent regardless of the politician's gender, political affiliation, or the participants' political orientation. Our findings highlight the significant impact of resignation context on public attitudes toward politicians and their potential for future political success.

Talk: Should I stay or should I go? How inclusive language in organizational communication influences employees' decisions to leave

Denise Ruggieri, Monica Rubini, & Michela Menegatti

University of Bologna

In recent years, language policies promoting gender-fair language (i.e., language that avoids masculine generics) have become common in many institutions and organizations, yet little is known about their impact on employees. To address this gap, we conducted two correlational studies to examine the relationship between the use of inclusive language in organizational communication and employees' intentions to resign within an Italian public administration. In Study 1, employees assessed the inclusivity of the language used in the organization's formal communications (e.g., official documents), perceived workplace gender discrimination, their sense of inclusion in organizational processes, and their intention to quit. Results indicated that formal inclusive language reduced resignation intentions through employees' perceived inclusivity but not through perceived gender discrimination. Study 2 explored the role of inclusive, informal communication (e.g., casual conversations) in influencing resignation intentions through perceived inclusivity and job satisfaction. Findings showed that inclusive formal language reduced resignation intentions only when employees perceived high inclusivity in informal communication through the enhancement of perceived inclusivity that, in turn, increased job satisfaction. These results suggest that the effectiveness of inclusive communication depends on aligning organizational policies with employees' actual language practices and behaviors.

Session 9: Political Communication and Public Perception

Talk: A Communication Accommodation and Language Convergence/Meaning Divergence Analysis of Autism and Communication Accommodation with the Family

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¹Purdue University

²University of Oklahoma

Autistic individuals represent a neurominority group compared to the neurotypical population. Despite increasing media representation and societal awareness (Mittmann et al., 2023), deficit-based, medicalized views of autism persist, framing autistic behaviors as deviations from neurotypical norms and often misunderstanding them as disruptive (Radulski, 2022; Turnock et al., 2022). This results in stigmatization, which has been linked to adverse mental health and relationship outcomes. We conducted twenty-five semi-structured interviews with autistic individuals to explore their understandings of autism and experiences of communication (non)accommodation within their families. Families were chosen due to the formative power families have as socializing agents (Koerner et al., 2017). Initial analyses revealed that participants frequently described autism through metaphorical language (e.g., superhuman, alien, “turning the volume up”), contrasting with their families’ more medicalized, negative definitions. These divergent understandings influenced how participants perceived family members’ communication accommodation. Some participants noted that shared family understandings of autism fostered competent communication accommodation, enhancing their self-concept and sense of belonging within the family. Ongoing thematic analyses employ communication accommodation theory (Giles, 2016) and the framework of language convergence and meaning divergence (Dougherty et al., 2009) to further investigate these dynamics..

Information on Presentation Formats

3RD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
INTERGROUP COMMUNICATION



ISIC3 Conference Guidelines

*3rd Interdisciplinary Symposium on Intergroup
Communication*

TALKS

Duration:

15 minutes

+ 5 minutes Q&A

Format:

All talks are plenary: one session at a time (no parallel sessions).

Please upload your presentation directly to the conference computer (Windows system) in the morning before your session or just before your talk. Accepted formats: .pptx, .ppt, or .pdf.

POSTERS

Duration:

The poster session will last 60 minutes.

Format: Vertical format, size A1 (59 cm × 84 cm).

There will be two poster sessions, each featuring 9 posters

You can print your poster at (same-day printing available):

– Four Zeros (Leszczyńska 4, 00-339)

– Skarabeusz (Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, 00-927)

Information on Special Issues

Psychology of Language and Communication

As announced previously, we will edit a special issue to appear in the [Psychology of Language and Communication](#) based on submissions of the meeting. For those who plan to submit something, please find the summarized key facts below:

- **Submission:**
 - o Full papers need to be submitted **by July 31st via Editorial System:**
 - o <https://www.editorialsystem.com/plc/preRegister/>
- **Types of Contribution:**
 - o Regular papers: max. 150 words abstract, max. 8000 words text
 - o Short papers: max. 150 words abstract, max. 5000 words text, 40 items in the reference list
- For further information regarding PLC style, please consult the [PLC website](#)

Atlantic Journal of Communication

We are proud to announce another special issue emerging from the Symposium. It will be in the [Atlantic Journal of Communication](#) and will be called “Intergroup Communication Matters.” It will feature papers of all the keynote speakers, including the prologue, call to the field, and the epilogue. All the articles have already been submitted and we hope that the special issue will be available online in August.

Special Issue of *Atlantic Journal of Communication*, 33(5), 2025 titled “Intergroup Communication Matters”

Edited by Howard Giles, Antonis Gardikiotis, and Karolina Hansen

Material from the opening article:

Howard Giles, Karolina Hansen, and Antonis Gardikiotis. *Prologuing intergroup matters*.

Table 1. Key overviews of the IGC literature

SOURCES	AUTHORS AND DATES CHRONOLOGICALLY (see bibliography for cites)
Journal Articles	e.g., Gallois et al., 2018; Keblusek et al., 2017; Maass et al., 1989; Zabrodska, 2025
Articles in Journal Special Issues	e.g., Giles, 2023; Giles & Maass, 2016b; Clément, 1996b; Reid & Giles, 2005b; Sachdev, 2007
Chapters in Edited Books	e.g., Giles, 1978; Giles & Johnson, 1981; Giles et al., 2010b; Harwood et al., 2005; Kienzle & Soliz, 2017; Maass et al., 2014; Rakić & Maass, 2019
Encyclopedia Essays	e.g., Abeyta & Giles, 2017; Gallois, 2008; Giles & Reid, 2010; Giles & Watson, 2011; Pines et al., 2018

Intergroup Communication (IGC) Principles (amended originally after Giles, 2012b; Hogg & Giles, 2012; and subsequently, also, after: Abeyta & Giles, 2017; Belavadi & Giles, in press; Emler & Giles, 2025; Giles, 2023):

I: *Language* patterns and other diverse modes of *communication*² can serve, on- and off-line, as markers of, and sometimes criteria and boundaries for, the social categories to which group members belong³, and with which they are perceived by others.

II: Ingroup members’ *accounts* of their intergroup histories and demographics,⁴ along with their communicative practices, can signify distinctive cultures in terms of normative routines, values, and world views. These accounts and cultures can coexist with those of comparative others, from whom the ingroups can differentiate, and even denigrate and stigmatize, or dehumanize with hate speech.⁵

III: Ingroup members’ perceptions and interpretations of the rhetorical positions and linguistically-biased *messages of outgroups* directed towards them – even morality praise – can be negatively construed by recipients from the ingroup,⁶ often fostering within them anxieties and uncertainties, and even harmful psycho-chemical reactions.⁷

IV: Ingroup perceptions – often shaped by media and public discourse – of egregious outgroup actions against ingroup members can trigger emotionally-charged, polarizing *rhetoric*. This may amplify grievances, deepen intergroup divisions, mobilize retaliatory or collective action, and foster offline conflict and violence.⁸

V: Ingroup members of social disadvantaged and marginalized groups⁹ will strive, and sometimes be strategically encouraged (especially with the “allyship” and support of dominant or socially advantaged groups),¹⁰ to acquire the privileged group’s *communicative* features.¹¹ The privileged group can, ironically in reactance, move communicatively away from what would be construed as identity-threatening tactics.¹²

VI: Outgroup *narratives* negatively targeting disadvantaged minorities are likely to thwart the minority group’s mobilization toward collective action and redressal. This effect often occurs through routes of fear and helplessness and, potentially, can lead to deteriorated psychological well-being and health problems among the disadvantaged group.¹³

VII: Through the *communicative* creation and expression of group norms in their social networks and media platforms, ingroups can control and negotiate¹⁴ the normativity of everyday life, enabling their members to recognize deviancies by others that can lead to discrediting and marginalizing such offenders.¹⁵

VIII: Individuals who convincingly express the best normative *communicative* routines, values, and world views of their ingroup, can emerge as trusty leaders,¹⁶ thereafter, having the potential to fashion more distinctive cultures, social change, and justice movements¹⁷ with a stronger sense of community.

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BOOK SERIES



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