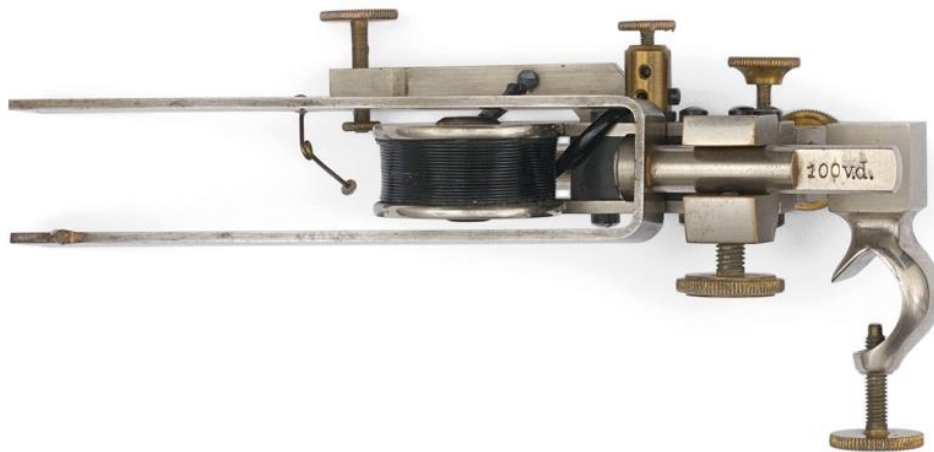


XXVIII SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

31st MARCH – 3rd APRIL, 2022.

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE



INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY
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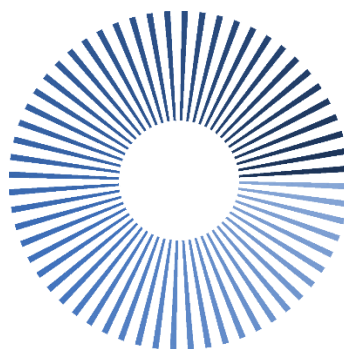
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PERCEPTION OF THREAT AND SOCIAL DISTANCE TOWARDS MIGRANTS IN
SERBIA AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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In recent years, Europe has faced the largest influx of African and Asian migrants in recent history. Despite the fact that a small percentage of migrants want to stay and seek asylum in the region, research from BiH and Serbia show that the domicile population show mostly negative attitudes towards them. According to Integrated threat theory, threat perception contributes to pronounced prejudice and heightened intergroup distancing. We dealt with the problem of predicting social distances towards migrants in BiH and Serbia, and the role of threat in that model. The survey was conducted in March and April 2021. on a sample of 822 residents of Serbia and 288 residents of BiH, through an online survey. The instruments used included measures of social distances (7-item, $\alpha = .87$) as a criterion and a set of predictor variables that consisted of sociodemographic variables (8 separate items), general life satisfaction (1 item), migrant threat perception (4 separate items), scales of cynicism (3-item, $\alpha = .65$), anomie (2-item, $\alpha = .72$), justification of violence (2-item, $\alpha = .57$) and right-wing authoritarianism (3-item, $\alpha = .60$). Regression analysis for the whole sample offered an optimal model that explains about 74% of the variance of the results ($R^2 = .74$, $F(5,1016) = 248.522$, $p = .000$) using the variables of perceptions of migrant security threats ($\beta = .418$; $p < .01$), perception of migrant threat to culture and values ($\beta = .267$; $p < .01$), religiosity ($\beta = .098$; $p < .01$), perception of migrant threat to job market ($\beta = .075$; $p < .01$) and general life satisfaction ($\beta = -.045$; $p < .05$). The results showed that the severity and psychological dynamics of distancing from migrants are similar in Serbia and BiH. Despite the relatively small number of migrants who pass through third countries, it is obvious that there is a distinct perception of threat posed by this population. This sense of threat, in line with the assumptions of threat theory, leads to dehumanization and significant social alienation from these people on the move.

Keywords: threat perception, social distances, migrants, refugees

INTERGROUP BIAS REDUCTION: WHAT MAKES OUR INTERVENTIONS
EFFECTIVE?

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Recent line of experiments that aim to reduce intergroup bias has explored the role of groups with dual identity - i.e. whether these groups can serve as a gateway between the two conflicted groups their two identities represent. For example, Bosniaks from Sandžak can be

portrayed as a gateway group, i.e. strongly identified with both Bosniak ethnic group and Serbian national group. This was shown to reduce Serbs' prejudice towards Bosniaks in general. The prerequisite to reducing bias is making participants endorse the idea that members of the gateway group have dual identity. This can be done in two ways: (1) minority perspective – portraying minority members as experiencing strong dual identification or (2) majority perspective – describing that ingroup (IG) members mostly perceive the gateway group as dually identified. In the first case, the key component of the intervention is gateway group members' experience; in the second, it is a descriptive social norm that the IG sets. We contrasted the two interventions in a single design and tested if they were equally effective in inducing the perception of the dual identity. We also examined if participants' political orientation moderated their effectiveness. Participants ($N = 123$, ethnic Serbs) first indicated their political orientation (left-right; 11-point scale). Then they were randomly exposed to one of the interventions: (1) Dual identity experience or (2) Dual identity as a descriptive norm. Finally, they indicated how strong they found the gateway group identified with (a) Serbs and (b) Bosniaks on the 100-point scale. We calculated the dual identity score that ranged 0-100. GLM analysis revealed that the Dual identity experience intervention was more effective in inducing DI ($M = 61.3$, $SD = 18.7$) than the norm-based one ($M = 57.2$, $SD = 22.9$), $F(1,117) = 7.10$, $p = .009$, $\eta^2 = .06$. While the main effect of political orientation was not significant ($F(2,117) = 2.83$, $p = .063$), intervention type * political orientation interaction was ($F(2,117) = 4.01$, $p = .021$, $\eta^2 = .06$). More precisely, the Dual identity experience intervention was equally effective across all levels of political orientation, while the norm-based one was ineffective for the conservatives. We showed that the two types of intervention might not be equally effective in inducing the idea of dual identity and that their potential to reduce intergroup bias should be further examined. Further, it seems that individual differences moderate their effectiveness. These findings should be taken into account when applying interventions in a wider social context.

Keywords: Dual identity, Intergroup bias, Experimental intervention

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CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE OF INTERPERSONAL CONFLICT
CHARACTERISTICS AND THEIR CONNECTION TO SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND
WELL-BEING

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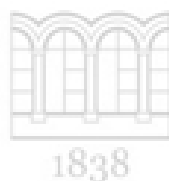
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Interpersonal conflicts are one of the most prominent, daily sources of distress. Due to their possible negative outcomes, it is important to explore their characteristics and specificities in different cultural settings. In that respect, the main goal of this study was to determine cultural differences of interpersonal conflicts and conflict management strategies between

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