



ABSTRACT BOOK

Challenges in Developmental and Social Research with Immigrant and Minority People

16 November 2019

**Department of Developmental and Social Psychology,
Sapienza University of Rome - Faculty of Medicine and Psychology
Via dei Marsi, 78 Rome (Italy)**



MIGRATION DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES



International Conference “Challenges in Developmental and Social Research with Immigrant and Minority People”

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Faculty of Medicine and Psychology

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Aula VII, 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m

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KEY NOTES



MIGRATION DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES



1.1 Opportunities and limitations in scientific research for the promotion of migrants' health

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Abstract

Health Promotion (WHO Ottawa Conference in 1986) plans to act individually and collectively to make people active protagonists of their own health. This is basically achieved through advocacy/empowerment interventions and intersectoral policies (according to the famous slogan "Health in All Policies"). However, it is essential to develop scientific research able to guide decision makers towards the adoption of policies able to respond to the real and prior health needs of the population. This is even more necessary for a multiform and complex population such as the immigrant population in Italy. In the experience of the Italian Society of Migration Medicine (a scientific society that, not coincidentally, has a strongly multi-professional and multidisciplinary composition), the best results emerge when it is possible to adopt research approaches that combine qualitative with quantitative research. Quantitative research on the health of immigrant communities face, in general, some technical-methodological difficulties and limits connected to the continuous availability of reliable data (health information systems for all health and health care dimensions) and to the possibility of disaggregating informations by relevant categories, as well as to the calculation of indicators (due to uncertainties related to both numerators and denominators). There are also difficulties in collecting some data that the national Privacy Authority considers too sensitive (in particular the condition of 'immigrant'). In addition to the same difficulties related to privacy, qualitative research generally experience difficulties to reach/involve migrants. Despite these difficulties, we believe it is essential to further increase and qualify the theoretical-practical research on the health of immigrants, also with a view to tackle health and health care inequities with a Public Health perspective.

Keywords: migrant and refugee health; scientific research; epidemiological studies; health promotion; public health



1.2 Multi-media and field studies about migration discourse and experiences from multi-voices and multi-agents perspectives

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with an intervention of Christian SCHAPAT

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Abstract

The contribution aims to present the various interrelated research lines of a wide research program on migratory experiences and discourse, articulated in “multi-media” and “field” studies. Main objective of the wider research program is to study: a. from one side the polarization in the media of social representations and attitudes according to the different ideological positions and identity affiliations, which guide the processes of social inclusion/exclusion towards migrants; b. from the other side the multiple experiential dimensions of migrants/refugees themselves. The media studies are aimed at reconstructing the “multi-voices” and “multi-agents” discourses about the contemporary migratory phenomenon: a) the scientific discourse (by experts), b) the political-institutional discourse (by policy makers, political leaders, institutions, NGO, etc.), and c) the social discourse (by journalists and lay people). The research material of the multi-media studies includes 6136 sources (as September 9, 2019) - currently increasing with new waves of data collection - based on: a) the international scientific literature, inspired by the social representations theory and other theories in social sciences; b) the discourse driven by or leading the institutional policies (at national and supranational level); c) the discourse by “journalists” in the Italian online press of different political orientation (La Repubblica, Il Fatto Quotidiano, Il Mattino, Libero) and broadcast (SKY Tg24); d. the communication “for” and “among” the citizens in the various scenarios of the social networks (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, You Tube). Systematic content, thematic and statistical analyses are based on multidimensional analysis supported by multiple software (IRAMUTEQ for Descending Hierarchical Classification and Specificities and Correspondence Analysis, SPAD for Correspondence Analysis, Graph Call for Network Analysis, Analysis of images and Videos, Sentiment Analysis, etc.). The research lines centered on "field studies" are aimed at reconstructing significant elements of the migration experience in different target populations (89 second-generation Filipino immigrant adolescents in Italy; 75 subjects among 43 migrants and adult refugees in Germany from different countries of the world, 32 humanitarian workers and citizens of local communities adjacent to the various reception centers). The results of the field studies have been detected through various research techniques devised ad hoc by de Rosa (a.



“drawing” integrated by "storytelling" about the travel from the origin to the host country, and -if imagined- the return; b. associative network; c. the WorldEuroSkyCompass technique; d. contextual interview), in order to identify experiences, emotions, memories, expectations, metaphors, connected to the experience of travel and hospitality, in relation to the identity feelings of belonging to the origin and host countries and their representational symbolic elements (natural and social environment, places, monuments, food, peoples, etc.). The presentation will be integrated by some background contextual notes concerning inclusive actions in Germany provided by Christian Schapat, Malteser Werke, who has facilitated the field study conducted in Germany. A selection of the results of the media and field studies will be presented in the Poster Session by the research team..

Keywords: Migration, multi-media discourse and experiences, polarised social representations, identity belonging, ideological and political positioning



1.3 The Transition to the Work of Non-Italian Graduates

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Abstract

The Uni.Co. data base allows the verification of the transition to employment of the entire Sapienza graduate population from 2008 to 2017 through mandatory communications. The data base also makes it possible to verify employment reports of the graduates of the most recent academic years: any employment reports that precede the university entrance, the ones during the studies and the ones after they graduate. There are approximately 9600 of non-Italian graduates of Sapienza in the observed period, which equals 5% out of 195000 graduates. There are 6300 female graduates and 3300 male graduates, the female gender presence being even higher than that of Italian students. This paper investigates the characteristics of 26967 contracts concluded for about 4 million days of work of non-Italian graduates in the observed period. The transition to employment of foreigners has characteristics similar to those of Italian graduates even if the percentage of graduates who obtain a job as employees or consultants is slightly lower than the one of Italian graduates. Just under a half of foreign students (46%) have contracts during their studies and the percentage is much higher than that of Italians. Studies and working conditions variables are analyzed before, during and after the course of studies to verify the extent to which the university and Italian society present themselves as a context capable of welcoming foreign students.

Keywords: Labour market, career guidance, internationalization, university, third mission



1.4 The perception of the dimensions of group morality, competence and sociability among Italian children and second-generation immigrants

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Abstract

Previous studies have confirmed that the perception of morality, sociability and competence has different effects on the formation of impressions and that morality constitutes the primary basis for the evaluation of others. This study aims to explore the perception among Italian and second-generation immigrants of these three dimensions, and to verify whether this perception is determined by social contact, political orientation and the level of identification with their in-group. Furthermore, we want to investigate whether the perception of morality, competence and sociability is a predictor of prejudice and stereotyped perception. Two hundred and forty five children participated in the research, of which 136 females and 109 males. Of all the participants, 93 belong to the category of second-generation immigrants, and the rest declared themselves to be Italian. A questionnaire containing various Likert-type measurement scales was administered. The results confirmed the main importance of the perception of group morality dimension in predicting the mutual prejudice between the participants.

Keywords: Second-generation immigrants, prejudice, stereotypes, morality, lifestyle



1.5 Evolution of Identity and Social Capital in Migrants and Refugees

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Abstract

Researches in the immigration field have shown that communities of origin and communities of resettlement provide migrants and refugees with different resources that foster their social integration (Eriksson et al. 2018; Bereins et al. 2007; Calhoun 2010). Because those resources are the result of social relationships, they constitute migrants and refugees' social capital. Social Identity plays a fundamental role in the creation and exploitation of social capital. According to a differentiation of social relationships on the basis of the social identity category three types of social capital have been distinguished: the bonding, bridging and linking social capital (Putnam, 1999; Sretzer, Woolcock, 2004). However, studies in the field have considered identity as an individual's fixed characteristic rather than a dynamic phenomenon that is negotiated in an interactive social context (Antaki, Widdicombe, 1998). For this reason, migrants and refugees' social capital has been explored as a result of a solely rigid identification with their community of origin. The present study has involved migrant and refugee founders of migrant-led associations aimed at fostering newcomers' social integration. Narrative interviews (Atkinson, 1998) have been carried out in order to explore participants' social identities while a questionnaire has analysed participants' (social) ego network. Results show that participants' social capital develops according to the evolution of their social identity, belongingness to different social groups and eventually to the progression of their social integration path.

Key words: Social capital, identity, social integration, refugees, migrants



1.6 The role of immigrant status in gambling problem severity:

Findings from an adolescent sample

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Abstract

It has been shown that being immigrant is significantly associated with greater gambling problem severity among adolescents, and some studies have found that immigrant status interacts with other individual variables in affecting the risk for problem gambling. This study aimed at better understanding the predictive role of immigrant status on adolescent gambling problem severity by exploring a moderation by sensation seeking. The study involved 994 Italian adolescents (64% boys, $M_{age} = 16.57$, $SD = 1.62$). Participants' immigrant status, sensation seeking, and gambling problem severity were individually assessed through respectively a socio-demographic questionnaire, the BSSS, and the SOGS-RA. Results showed that among immigrant adolescents, there were higher levels of gambling problem severity and a higher distribution of at-risk and problem gamblers, with respect to non-immigrant adolescents. Both immigrant status and sensation seeking had significant direct effects on problem gambling, with immigrant status and higher levels of sensation seeking which were predictors of greater severity. Moreover, moderation analysis – controlling for gender and age – showed that adolescents with higher scores of sensation seeking were more prone to experience gambling problems if they were also immigrant. These results have important implications for practice as they emphasized that specific interventions aimed at preventing problem gambling would be required for adolescents coming from immigrant families. In particular, it would be important to consider the role of sensation seeking in this specific target of youth.

Keywords: Immigrants, adolescents, gambling, sensation seeking, moderation



POSTER SESSION



MIGRATION DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES



2.1 Teaching Academic Strategies and Training Cognitive Functions: The Impact of a Two-Sided Intervention on a *Late Bilingual* Girl.

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Abstract

In this case study we analyzed the impact of ten weeks intervention on the fragile text production and comprehension of Francisca who was born in Italy from parents immigrated from the Philippines and whose exposure to Italian started only when she attended a preschool in Rome at the age of four. The intervention had two parts, the first targeting some basic cognitive functions (e.g., verbal working memory) whereas the second part taught strategies to produce descriptive and narrative texts. The research design included baseline, intervention, and follow-up that were compared in terms of change in standardized scores. The results showed that improvement of both some basic cognitive skills (e.g., sustained attention, verbal working memory) and academic learning (oral text comprehension and written text production) was remarkably higher after the intervention than after the baseline phase (with a difference of at least one standard deviation in the girl's standardized scores). Text production was within normal limits at the end of intervention and at the follow-up.

Keywords: bilingualism, text production, text comprehension, cognitive functions, cognitive training



2.2 The Perception of the Dimensions of Group Morality, Competence and Sociability Among Italian Children and Second-Generation Immigrants

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Abstract

Previous studies have confirmed that the perception of morality, sociability and competence has different effects on the formation of impressions and that morality constitutes the primary basis for the evaluation of others. This study aims to explore the perception among Italian and second-generation immigrants of these three dimensions, and to verify whether this perception is determined by social contact, political orientation and the level of identification with their in-group. Furthermore, we want to investigate whether the perception of morality, competence and sociability is a predictor of prejudice and stereotyped perception. Two hundred and forty five children participated in the research, of which 136 females and 109 males. Of all the participants, 93 belong to the category of second-generation immigrants, and the rest declared themselves to be Italian. A questionnaire containing various Likert-type measurement scales was administered. The results confirmed the main importance of the perception of group morality dimension in predicting the mutual prejudice between the participants.

Keywords: second-generation immigrants; prejudice; stereotypes; morality; lifestyles



2.3 Is the “Scientific Literature” Investigating the Migration Issue less Polarized than the Social Discourse by the “Politicians”, “Journalists” and “Lay People”?

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Abstract

Our research plan accounts for the complexity of the contemporary migratory phenomena and its social representations considering both “media” and “field” studies, analyzing different sources from “scientific”, “institutional” and “common people” discourses on migration. In this contribution we will focus our attention on the “scientific discourse” about migrants, analyzing 256 texts. The *keywords* for searching the texts were: *migrant, immigrant, refugees, migration, immigration.*- have been extracted from the three distinct repositories of the *SoReCom A.S.de Rosa @-library* (texts strictly inspired by: a. the social representations theory; b. communication and media studies (not referring to social representation theory) ; c. other theories and disciplinary approaches of the social sciences.). The data analysis was carried on through the statistic program IRAMUTEQ. In particular, two types of analysis were carried out: 1.the Specificity analysis both by author’s Continent (1.a.) and by the theoretical inspiration of the analyzed texts and therefore their inclusion in the sub sections *SoReCom A.S.de Rosa @-library* (1.b.); 2. the Cluster analysis. Our empirical results – based on the reply to the *key* question – among others: is the “scientific discourse” about migrants less polarized than the discourses by the “political leaders”, “journalists” and “lay people” of different ideological positioning?

Keywords: migration phenomenon, scientific discourse, media studies, polarised social representations



2.4 BRIDGES OR WALLS?

A Metaphorical Dichotomy of Pope Francis versus Donald Trump's Views of Transnational Migration

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Abstract

Within a wider research line focused on the policy driven institutional discourse on migration, in this contribution we will present empirical results aimed at detecting polarized social representations of migrants in 24 “political-institutional” discourses on migration by Pope Francis and Donald Trump. Statistical analyses have been carried out using IRAMUTEQ: a. the Specificity analysis of discursive forms (words); b. the Cluster analysis. From the analysis of the clusters, we can confirm that the Pope’s discourse on migration is more rich and complex, articulated into four clusters than that Trump’s one, that is oversimplified and stereotypical, originating just one cluster. *Pope Francis* uses the term *bridge* as metaphor - coherent with the system of ethical values inspired by dialogues and solidarity among peoples of all over the world - in response to the rhetoric of the Trump's walls, on which his whole speech seems to be focusing. *President Trump* underlines the need to build *walls* and *borders* to protect the AMERICANS, but also to reinforce an idea of strength and *grandeur*, typical of populist policies, inspired by the sovereign ideology: AMERICA FIRST!!!. He has no doubt that in the interconnected world the America FIRST may become just AMERICA ALONE !!!!

Keywords: migration phenomenon, political leader and religious authority’s discourse, metaphors as rhetorical device, polarised social representations



2.5 Inclusive/Exclusive Policies Faced to Migratory Flows by Multi-Agents of the “Political Institutional Discourses”

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Abstract

In this contribution we will present empirical results aimed at detecting polarized social representations of migrants in the “political-institutional” discourses through analyses of metaphorical dichotomies of inclusive/exclusive policies faced to migratory fluxes (like “open ports”/”closed ports” by political leaders affiliated to left/right wing parties or “bridges” versus “walls” in the exemplary discourses by Pope Francis versus Donald Trump’s polarized views of transnational migration presented in another contribution). For the analysis of the “Political-Institutional Discourse” was used a sample of 51 institutional/political texts, from a larger corpus of sources still increasing. Statistical analyses were carried out using IRAMUTEQ. Main results from all the multilevel analyses will be presented in this contribution showing empirical evidence of the distinct social representations toward the migratory flows according to the geo-cultural and political positioning of authors from Europe, US, Latin America and Asia; from international and national political *institutions* (like European Commission, European Council, national Parliaments, Senato della Repubblica Italiana, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and development, Germany ...) and NGO or *associations* like "IOM" (International Organization Migration), "OCED" (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), "CMS" (Center for Migration Studies), Save The Children", "UNHCR" (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) among others.

Keywords: migration phenomenon, inclusive/exclusive policies, institutional and political discourse, social representations



2.6 Polarised Social Representations of “*Immigrants-Migrants*” through the Multi-Media Lens of Skytg24

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Abstract

This contribution analyzes the communication made through an “all-news” Italian television network, as part of a broader research program, which - in addition to two ‘*field studies*’ conducted on different targets of migrant populations in Italy and Germany - includes various ‘*media studies*’. The data have been analysed by using the Spad program. This paper refers in particular to the results of the analysis of lexical correspondences applied to the “titles” of 806 images and videos on SkyTG24 broadcast. The results show the polarization of the differently characterized discourse.

For example on the 1st factor it clearly emerges the opposition between:

- On the positive semi-axis the semantic space determined by the *active variables* denotes empathy towards the "suffering", the "hope" of "refugees" and "victims" in their "odyssey" from the journey to the reception of the survivors and the meeting-conflict with the hosting populations;
- On the negative semi-axis the semantic space determined by the *active variables* denotes a high *personification* through the names of political leaders ("Salvini", "Conte", "Macron", "Di Maio", "Trump") from various countries ("Italy", "France"), institutions and their treaties ("EU", "Government", "Ministers", "Dublin"), NGOs and ships targeted by intervention policies ("Aquarius", "Diciotti", "Open Arms").

Keywords: immigrants-migrants, polarized social representations, social discourse, images/videos, SKY TG24



2.7 Twitter as a Lens to Look at the Social Representations of Inclusion/Exclusion Towards Migrants and Refugees

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Abstract

Grounded in the theoretical framework of the social representations and its empirical investigation in the 'social arena' according to the 'modelling paradigmatic approach', the research presented in this poster is part of a larger project aimed at reconstructing the 'multi-voices' and 'multi-agents' discourse about migratory phenomenon. Specifically this contribution focus on the exploration of co-constructing and sharing social representations about immigrants through communication via the social network Twitter. The data including 1958 tweets from national and international contexts (967 tweets in Italian and 991 in English) referring to the migratory phenomenon were organised in two corpora and were analyzed by two lexical correspondence analyses through SPAD. The results show a highly polarised social discourse "pro" and "anti" immigration. The positive attitude appears strongly linked to the social representations of migrants as "victims"; while the negative attitude corresponds to the social representations of the "executioners" migrants. An important element in both national and international contexts is the the reference to the totalitarian ideologies, used from one side as warming, social reporting tool to face the obstructionism against the migratory phenomenon, while from the other side counterparts cite terrorism and ISIS to manipulate in order to leverage feelings of fear.

Keywords: Twitter, social representations, social discourse, immigration, inclusion/exclusion.



2.8 The Controversial Discourse about ‘Immigration’ through Posts by *Right and Left Wing Political* Positioning on FACEBOOK

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Abstract

Within a wider research program including interrelated ‘*field*’ and ‘*media studies*’, this contribution is aimed at detecting social representations and attitudes towards immigrants in relation to the factors of social inclusion/exclusion, identity affiliations and ideological positions in the discourse ‘by’ and ‘for’ “lay people and citizens“ in *FACEBOOK*. We present the preliminary results on Left-Right wing discourse selected from 1054 textual posts via Facebook by using GRAPHColl. In brief the left-wing posts underline the need to respect human rights and therefore to allow reception, to emphasize the work and commitment of the people who work to allow these rights, to inform about the phenomenon of immigration and the malfunctioning of the reception centers, and any actions that may affect people's lives on the entire planet. The right-wing posts highlight the commitment and work of Minister Salvini, of any action proposed by the government to control the arrival of migrants, of the dangers that the immigration phenomenon brings with it, that is, the possibility of delinquent acts by illegal immigrants, the connection with the mafia, and stresses the importance of welcoming people who flee a war because it is right to allow the right to asylum.

Keywords: Facebook, polemical social representations, social discourse, immigration.



2.9 The Polarized Social Representations of Immigration through the Photographic Lens of INSTAGRAM and its Impact

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Abstract

Part of a larger project aimed at reconstructing the ‘multi-voices’ and ‘multi-agents’ discourse about migratory phenomenon, inspired by the ‘Modelling paradigmatic approach’ to social representations, this contribution focused specifically on the exploration of social representations about immigrants, through the photographic lens of *INSTAGRAM*. In this contribution we will focus on the textual elements concerning the hashtags and on iconic elements related to 456 photos - published from 2015 to 2018. The data have been analyzed by lexical correspondence analyses through SPAD software. The results show five different factors, indicating the polarized Social Representations of immigration through the photographic lens of *Instagram*. In particular, the semantic space organized by the first and second factors clearly shows the contrast between an inclusive/exclusive view expressed towards immigrants/refugee, significantly related to leaders both political leaders and religious authorities, different system of values and human rights conceptions centered on the opposed metaphors of open/closed ports and borders. In short the results confirm - also through the photographic lens of *INSTAGRAM* as in other media sources - the highly polarized social representations of immigration, showing the significant relation of the opposite views of the political leaders within a time frame coherently with their government power.

Keywords: *INSTAGRAM*, social representations, social discourse, immigration, inclusion/exclusion.



2.10 The Polemical Social Discourse about “Immigrants” in YouTube: a Focus on Social Media as Tool of Political Propaganda

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Abstract

Within a wider research program including interrelated ‘*field*’ and ‘*media studies*’, this contribution is aimed at detecting social representations and attitudes towards immigrants in relation to the factors of social inclusion/exclusion, identity affiliations and ideological positions in the discourse ‘by’ and ‘for’ “lay people and citizens” in *YouTube*. The multi-media research material includes 507 videos and their titles (under analysis through Spad software), related to the time frame 2013-2018. Preliminary results, based on the analysis of the frequency distribution of the keywords in the titles, show a wide differentiation in the geo-political contextualisation and characterisation of the ‘sources’ of the messages from Europe and in particular Italy, and from other continents (in particular from US and different African countries: Niger, Libia, Etiopia, Sudan, Marocco...) whilst there is a strong polarization in terms of the political positioning of the sources. Immediately behind the keywords used (migranti: F= 148, immigrati: F = 79; immigrazione: F: 77) in this contribution we will focus on the analysis of the communication by the Italian political leader using YouTube -the highest frequency of Salvini as the top word (f= 75)- as tool of political propaganda, coherently with the results detected through other social media discourses.

Keywords: YouTube, polemical social representations, social discourse, immigration, political propaganda



2.11 Drawing and Storytelling the Migratory Experience of Second-Generation Filipino Youth in Italy: Emotions, Memories, Expectations, Representational Symbolic Elements Related to Identity and Belongingness to Origin and Host Country

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Abstract

This research explored Filipino youth migrants' social representations of migratory experiences and multi-dimensional identities, as one of the two “field researches” conducted in the context of a broader investigation, including “field” and “media” studies. Inspired by the “*modeling approach*” to social representations, data was collected from 89 second-generation Filipino immigrant adolescents in Rome, students of the Philippine School through various research techniques. Results from the *associative networks* analyzed by SPAD revealed that their social representations of “*Filipino*”, “*European*” (both anchored to *socio-cultural* categorical dimensions) and “*Self*” (anchored to *conceptual* and *interpersonal* dimensions) were more positive, while they were less positive for “*Italian*” (anchored to *social practices* dimensions). Thematic analysis of the *drawings of the travel integrated by storytelling* captured significant images about migratory experiences, linked mainly to “people” and to symbolic cultural and place-identity” elements, revealing polarized representations marked by feelings of inclusion/exclusion at the host country. From the *contextual interviews*, it was found out that the reason for migration was family reunification, which was the biggest benefit of being in Italy. Notions of identity and belongingness were closely tied to the country of origin; while active engagement with socio-cultural practices and strong online presence helped sustain transnational relationships.

Keywords: social representations, multi-dimensional identities, migration, Filipino youth migrants



**2.12 Drawing and Storytelling Migratory Experiences to Germany:
Emotions, Memories, Expectations, Representational Symbolic Elements
Related to Origin and Host Country Identity**

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Abstract

The contribution aims to present initial results of one of the two “field researches” conducted in the context of a broader investigation that includes various interrelated lines of “field” and “media” studies.

The field research here presented is aimed at registering significant elements of the migration experience of 75 respondents: 43 adult migrants from different countries resettled in Germany and 32 adult citizens from receiving local communities or humanitarian workers). This study has been facilitated by the support of Malteser Werke gGmbH, German social aid organization specialized in working with refugees and migrants since 1989. The data gathering was accomplished mostly in the complex federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern – Germany. This contribution presents some significant exemplary initial results detected through the various research techniques devised *ad hoc* by de Rosa (A. “drawing” integrated with “storytelling” about travel from the origin to host country, and -if imagined- the return journey; B. *associative network*; C. *WorldEuroSkyCompass* technique; D. *semistructured interview*), in order to identify experiences, emotions, memories, expectations, connected to the dramatic experience of departing the home country to travel to a new destination with the challenges of the integration process in relation to identity feelings and their representational symbolic elements.

Keywords: Migration, social representations, identity, integration, human.



2.13 German and Malteser Werke gGmbH Background Context of the Field Study

"Drawing and storytelling migratory experiences to Germany: emotions, memories, expectations, representational symbols related to origin and host country identity"

Christian Schapat*, Malteser Werke gGmbH*

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Abstract

The Malteser Werke in Germany is a social aid organization and works in the fields of refugee and migrants' aid, family counseling, children and youth welfare, addiction care, and runs high schools, educational- and training centers. In the field of refugee and migrants' aid (since 1989) we run 51 housing facilities across Germany (1.312 employees and approx. 30.000 refugees in 2018). In our accommodations we support the people in all-day-issues, support them in administrative questions, integration in institutions like nurseries, schools, university, language- and integration-classes and search together for own housing space and job opportunities. In the federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern we take care of migrants since the early 1990's in behalf of the state government. According to a distribution quota for Migrants, every of the 16 federal states in Germany has to accommodate a certain number of the arriving asylum seekers in Germany. (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern = 2,01 %) In the two registration-centers in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Refugees get registrated, apply for asylum, receive medical care and get equipped with all-day-needs). That's also the place where they apply for asylum in Germany. we have space for 1.950 people, where 140 social workers are taking care of them 24/7. For the time till the decision of their asylum application the refugees move to our asylum seeker accommodations all over the state. The Malteser Werke run 19 of these accommodations. We are the biggest organization in this field in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Presently we are also involved in a scientific research project on integration with the European/Int. Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication of the Faculty of Medicine and Psychology - Sapienza University.



2.14 The 'Mirror Effect' and the Social Representation of a Refugee in Canadian Caseworkers

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Abstract

Within the complexities of political and socioeconomic tensions, current patterns of migrations in Canada and Europe have become a critical topic for understanding the social representation of a refugee. In 2015, the resettlement of 25000 Syrian refugees in Canada has not only put the social services workers under stress, but also re-examined their professional practices with the refugee population. Coming from similar cultural trajectories, caseworkers strive to provide efficient, caring, non-biased, and diverse range of social services to people and situations, in particular refugees. Due to their cultural proximity, it is therefore primordial for caseworkers to know and apprehend the social representation of the refugee in order to provide services and interact in a culturally competent manner with this population. Inspired by the social representation's theory (Moscovici, 1961) in particular the socio-anthropological (Jodelet, 2003), crossed with the social identity concept (Tajfel and Turner, 1974), this qualitative study follows an inductive method inspired by the grounded theory. Drawn from a pluri-methodological research design, including 15 individual interviews with Canadian caseworkers, field observation of integration activities in the Ottawa region, and thematic analysis of 731 online articles, this contribution - born from a doctoral thesis defended in 2018 within the *European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication* and at one of his partner Institutions in Canada (the University of Ottawa) - seeks to illustrate how the social representation of a refugee in Canadian caseworkers is highly connected to their past and current social identity, the social context when and where it was socio-generated from. Empirical results show the "mirror effect" of the caseworkers as a relevant concept to integrate and confront the *other distant* (refugee) to the self.

Keywords: "mirrored" social representation, social identity, Syrian refugees, caseworkers, social work,



2.15 Crossing Identity Borders in Healthcare Interactions with Foreign Patients

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Abstract

In healthcare encounters, participants' cultural and social identity plays an important role on their mutual understanding, affecting the shared construction of meanings and practices during the visit (Bischoff et al., 2008; Degrie et al., 2017). Whereas traditional psychological approaches consider social identity as a stable, given entity, qualitative, discursive perspectives examine the situated ways in which identities and positions (Harré and Davies, 1991) are made relevant in talk (Antaki e Widdicombe 1998), through a variety of linguistic resources. The in-depth examination of medical interactions with foreign patients can contribute to understanding whether identity categorisation hinders or fosters the intercultural communication in health setting. Combining a discourse analytic framework with quantitative analyses, our study aims to analyse identity markers emerging in doctor-patient interactions with native and non-native patients. Preliminary findings from 60 video-recorded cancer consultation visits, including 20 visits with foreigner patients indicated that, in interactions with foreign patients, both institutional identities (i.e. doctors' team, patient's group) and culturally-related identities (geographical, linguistic) are prevalent and made relevant by both doctors and patients. Analyses revealed how these references are sequentially managed throughout the different phases of the visit, helping to overcome or thicken communicative and cultural borders.

Keywords: identity markers; cultural identity; interculturality; doctor-patient communication; ethnomethodology



2.16 Predictors of Prosocial Behavior and School Well-Being in Native and Immigrant Very-Low-Income Adolescents: The Role of Needs Satisfaction

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Abstract

According to the Self-Determination Theory (Deci & Ryan, 1991), this study investigated the relationships among needs satisfaction, prosocial behavior and school psychological well-being in native and immigrant very-low-income adolescents. Participants ($N=250$; $M_{age}=12.75$; $SD_{age}=2.35$; age-range: 9-18; 41.6% girls; 19.2% immigrants) completed measures of prosocial behavior, school well-being, and three needs satisfaction (autonomy, competence, and relatedness) across two measurement points (6-month time lapse). A multivariate regression model investigated the role of gender, age, immigrant background and the three needs at T1, in predicting respectively prosocial behavior and school well-being at T2, controlling for the corresponding baseline levels. The model showed good fit: $\chi^2(2)=0.13$, $p=.93$, RMSEA=.000, CFI=1.00, SRMR=.005. Need for autonomy, $beta=.13$, $p=.04$, and age, $beta=.13$, $p=.01$, significantly predicted prosocial behavior, whereas need for competence, $beta=.17$, $p=.02$, significantly predicted school well-being. Moreover, a multigroup analysis showed that the need for relatedness significantly predicted prosocial behavior among immigrants, $beta=.35$, $p=.03$, but not among natives, $beta=.001$, $p=.99$, (Wald test $\chi^2(1)=3.56$, $p=.05$). Our findings enlightened the specific role of need for relatedness for the positive development of immigrant adolescents, with implications for research, prevention and education.

Keywords: Immigrants; Very-low-income adolescents; Prosocial behavior; School well-being; Needs satisfaction.



2.17 Exploring Intersectionality in Sexual Minority People with a Migratory Background:

A Qualitative Approach

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Abstract

The intersectional perspective allows to analyse the way in which multiple forms of identities (sex, gender, race, social class, education, age, immigration history, etc.) combine or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals/groups, impacting their health. Concerning sexual minorities, previous researchers examined the intersection between experience of minority stress and various forms of oppression using tools such as identity mapping (Narvaéz et al., 2009) or combining this method with qualitative approaches (Frost et al., *in press*) in order to understand the development of identity across the life course. Based on these previous studies, we developed a semi-structured interview which combines different component methods, to investigate the intersection between multiple stigmatized identities in sexual minority people migrated to Italy. The interview extends through three main sections: (1) multiple identities' identification; (2) identities' construction and change over the migration course; (3) interaction between ethnicity and sexual identity. An exploratory study to test the interview protocol was conducted with 16 participants with a sexual minority status and a migratory background. The three sections of the interview protocol prompted participants to reflect on the developmental trajectories of their life and the mutual influence between sexual minority status and migratory motivations.

Keywords: intersectionality; immigration; sexual minority; LGBT; qualitative method



2.18 The Role of Need for Closure and Perceptions of Ingroup and Outgroup Morality in the Prejudice Toward Immigrants: Feelings of Moral Superiority and Moral Inferiority

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Abstract

Individuals rely on their group shared norms as morality to formulate judgements and may feel confused when meeting another view presented by an immigrant. This should be true especially for those with a higher urgency to have a stable epistemic reference, i.e. with a higher need for closure (NFC; Kruglanski, 2004). The study aims to explain how the perception of morality of the ingroup and the outgroup (i.e., immigrants) interact with NFC in predicting prejudice toward immigrants. The study involved 751 participants. Results showed that high NFC individuals experience higher levels of prejudice, especially when they perceive low outgroup morality and high ingroup morality (“moral superiority”). However, the level of prejudice decreases considerably if the outgroup is seen as high in morality but ingroup as low in morality (“moral inferiority”). The innovative characteristics of this study are (1) investigating prejudice in relation to both the morality attributed to the ingroup and the outgroup; (2) investigating, in this mechanism, the role of the NFC. Findings highlight how, in the prejudice toward immigrants, social morality perceptions can be more important than NFC. Ultimately, they suggest intervening on these social and malleable perceptions to prevent prejudice.

Keywords: need for closure, morality, prejudice, immigrants, shared reality



2.19 Social Exclusion and Anti-Immigration Attitudes in Europe: The Mediating Role of Interpersonal Trust

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Abstract

Managing immigration is a challenge at political, economic, and social level. Clarifying the social psychological antecedents behind the onset of negative attitudes towards people seeking a better future in a new country, might help to overcome this challenge. In such contexts, the present study aims at investigating whether the experience of being socially excluded shapes a reduction in generalized interpersonal trust which, in turn, leads to the rise of hostile attitudes towards immigration. We anticipated that: 1) the higher social exclusion the lower generalized trust towards others; 2) social exclusion showed a positive direct association with the emergence of antiimmigration attitudes; 3) social exclusion showed a positive indirect association with antiimmigration attitudes, through generalized interpersonal trust. The predicted relationships were examined on a representative sample of the European population, using data from the European Social Survey 8. A 1-1-1 multilevel mediation model confirmed our expectations across 23 European countries. Overall, the present work provides a preliminary overview of a possible explanation about the rise of negative and prejudicial attitudes in Europe and sheds light on factors which might facilitate a climate of integration and acceptance.

Keywords: social exclusion, interpersonal trust, anti-immigration attitudes, multilevel mediation



2.20 Justification of Discriminatory Behaviors Against Immigrants in Italy: Perceived Threat and Positive Beliefs Mediate the Effect of Contact with Immigrants

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Abstract

The present study aimed at investigating whether the effects of intergroup contact on justification of discriminatory behaviors against immigrants was mediated by perceived threat from immigrants and positive beliefs toward immigrants. Using data from the Italian national survey on “Discrimination by Gender, Sexual Orientation and Ethnic Origin,” which followed a multi-stage stratified cluster sampling procedure, a representative sample of 5,509 Italian residents (53.4% women), aged 18 to 74 years, participated. Findings showed that contact with immigrants was negatively related to perceived threat, and positively related to positive beliefs toward immigrants. Mediation analysis conducted by structural equation modelling, indicated that justification of discriminatory behaviors was positively associated with perceived threat, and negatively associated with positive beliefs toward immigrants. The model showed reasonably high goodness of fit, $\chi^2/df=18.25$, $p<.001$; $CFI=.93$; $TLI=.92$; $RMSEA=.056$; $SRMR=.059$. Both variables together mediated the relationship between contact with immigrants and justification of discriminatory behaviors against immigrants, accounting about 30% of the total association (mediated effect = $-.04$, $BootSE=.006$; $p<.001$, $CI_{95\%}=-.051, -.026$); individually, indirect relationships were also significant. To promote interaction between natives and immigrants by reducing the perceived threat and strengthening positive beliefs toward immigrants might lessen justification of discriminatory behaviors against immigrants.

Keywords: immigration, contact, discriminatory behaviors, perceived threat, beliefs



2.21 Need for Closure Effect on Collective Action Intentions and Behavior Toward Immigrants in Italy: The Mediation of Binding Foundations and Political Conservatism

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Abstract

Why are people (de)motivated to mobilize in favor of immigrants? Addressing this question, we investigated the role of individuals' need for closure in influencing the process of becoming motivated to participate in collective action in favor of immigrants in Italy. Specifically, the mediational role of binding moral foundations and political conservatism in explaining the relationship between need for closure and collective action in favor of immigrants was examined in three studies. We hypothesized that a heightened need for closure would be indirectly and negatively associated with collective action in favor of immigrants, sequentially mediated first through binding moral foundations and then political conservatism. We found support for this prediction when either dispositional measure (Study 1 and Study 2) or an experimental induction (Study 3) of need for closure were used, and when both collective action intentions (Study 1 and Study 3) and behavior (Study 2) were assessed. The results suggest that need for closure constitutes a powerful motivational force that leads individuals to engage in uncertainty-reducing evaluations and actions. Theoretical implications, limitations, and future research are discussed.

Keywords: uncertainty; emigrants and immigrants; Italy; politics; motivation



2.22 Verbal, Physical, and Relational Peer Victimization:

The Role of Immigrant Status and Gender

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Abstract

The main objective of the study is to examine the relationship between different kinds of peer victimization, gender, and immigrant status in a representative sample of Italian youth. This research used data from a cross-sectional national Italian survey administered to students on “Integration of Second Generations”, which comprised a sample of 68,127 students in grades 6 to 13 (49,2% females; 47% immigrants). We used multinomial logistic regression analyses to examine the association between gender and immigrant status with verbal, physical, and relational victimization, after adjusting for sociodemographic variables. Immigrant students and male participants were more likely to be classified as victimized frequently. The significant interaction effect between gender and immigrant status revealed that male immigrant students were more likely to belong to the frequently relationally victimized category compared to counterparts. Our study highlights the importance of including immigrant status disparities on peer victimization research. Prevention efforts and intervention strategies should be implemented to create safe environments in Italy.

Keywords: peer victimization; immigration; students; gender; intersectionality



2.23 Elementary School Teachers' Self-Perception on Teaching Refugee and Immigrant Students

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Abstract

Considering that refugee and immigrant students come up to their education life from behind, having them in the classroom puts more responsibility on elementary school teachers' shoulders (Akpınar, 2008) to encourage those students to continue higher education. Knowing that, it is a must to pay attention on teacher opinions to identify current issues on teaching refugee and immigrants within that teachers can help foreign students to integrate better into society. Recently Italian education system is challenging more to educate refugee and immigrant students. Therefore, in this study, which was conducted in year 2019 in Rome and in the province of Rome in Italy, an online survey (Cronbach's Alpha= .858) was conducted with elementary school teachers (N=190) to examine the beliefs and attitudes of the teachers towards the following factors in meeting the needs of refugee and immigrant children: perceived self-efficacy of teachers, attitudes towards implementing new and innovative practices, cultural competences, preventive preparation and general competence and perceptions on the needs of refugee and immigrant students (Aarons, 2014; Schwarzer, Schmitz & Daytner, 1999; Kurbegovic, 2016). The on-going analysis showed that teachers are open to apply new practices to their current teaching strategies, even though they consider themselves efficient enough.

Keywords: elementary school teachers; teacher perceptions; refugee minors; immigrant students; quantitative study



2.24 Binge Drinking and Drunkorexia Among Italian Adolescents and Second-Generation Immigrants

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine the differences on binge drinking and drunkorexia among Italian natives and second-generation immigrants in a sample of 530 adolescents (121 second-generation immigrants and 409 Italian natives). The short form of the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT-C) and the Compensatory Eating and Behaviors in Response to Alcohol Consumption Scale (CEBRACS) were used to assess respectively alcohol abuse and drunkorexia. The factorial Anova 2x2 showed two principal effects related to gender and birth status. There was not interaction effect between variables. Italian natives reported more unhealthy drinking behaviors than second-generation immigrants and boys were more likely to engage in binge drinking. For drunkorexia behaviors, 40% of the overall sample reported to limit their caloric intake before or after drinking. The ANOVA did not show gender differences. A statistically significant effect of immigrant status was found among the adolescents who report to engage in drunkorexia behaviors. This research highlighted the importance to realize programs to prevent and decrease the prevalence of this peculiar risky behavior during adolescence.

Keywords: drunkorexia; binge drinking; immigrant; risk behaviors; adolescence.



2.25 “Parlaspesa”: an App for Enhancing the Vocabulary in 5 Years Old Sequential Bilinguals

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Abstract

Parlaspesa is an educational app for sequential bilingual preschool children who are approaching Italian as a second language (L2). Parlaspesa aims to enhance vocabulary in a semantic content which is closely related to preschool children's everyday life and skills. The project was tested on 32 children (+5yrs old), who were sequential bilingual. The results showed a statistically significant improvement of the children's vocabulary, with the acquisition of a new set of words. Both receptive and expressive lexicon in the target semantic area improved after a single use of the app. After three weeks of interaction with Parlaspesa, the children were able to understand 61% of the target words. At the beginning of the experiment, such words were either completely new or understood only when included in a meaningful context. The results also showed that children could name 26% of the target words and that the new vocabulary was maintained at follow-up after two weeks, both at a receptive and expressive level. In conclusion, if used consistently, this tool could have a strong potential to enhance the lexicon of bilingual children.

Keywords: language development, sequenzial bilingualism, preschool children, enhancing vocabulary, educational softwares



2.26 Proficiency in the Host-Country Language Predicts Psychological Well-Being Among Immigrant Children: A Study Based on an Italian National Sample.

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Abstract

The study investigated the impact of proficiency in the host-country language on psychological well-being at school one year later, in first and second-generation immigrant children, controlling for the effects of gender, SES, and classroom composition. The sample is composed by 2334 immigrant children (49% females; 65% second-generation immigrants) attending to the fifth-grade. Gender, family SES, classmates' characteristics, and school psychological well-being were assessed. Proficiency in the national language was measured with the grades in the Italian language at the end of the previous academic year. The hypothesized structural equation model fitted the data well: CFI = .97; RMSEA = .03; SRMR = .02. Findings revealed that greater linguistic proficiency corresponded to higher levels of psychological well-being at school the subsequent year ($\beta = .23, p < .001$), and this positive relationship was equally valid for first and second immigrant generations (S-B $\chi^2(1) = 1.74; p = .19$). The study identified the unique role of language competency in predicting psychological well-being, whereas other individual variables were not significant, suggesting that previous research may have overestimated their importance in predicting immigrants' psychological well-being. These findings may have implications for education, prevention, and future research.

Keywords: psychological well-being; language proficiency; immigrant children; background factors.



2.27 The Epistemic Bases of Prejudice

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Abstract

In the current research, we investigated the role of need for closure (NFC), or the general desire for epistemic certainty, on the experience of sympathy, or the desire to protect individuals in need—the lack of which constitutes a form of affective prejudice—towards Muslim immigrants in Italy. As a disadvantaged outgroup, these immigrants are especially in need of sympathy from natives and, given the tensions of the immigration debate, are at-risk for low sympathy. Conceptually, high NFC individuals can strongly adopt traditional cultural norms as a way to acquire their desired stable knowledge; this can make sympathy towards immigrants less likely. Consistent with past research on NFC and the binding moral foundations (i.e., the preference for traditional cultural norms) on prejudice towards outgroups, we proposed that individuals with a high NFC, and who endorsed the binding moral foundations, would be particularly likely to have decreased sympathy towards Muslim immigrants in Italy. In a sample of 186 Italian university students (43.9% female), we found that high NFC individuals had decreased sympathy towards these immigrants through the binding foundations, controlling for cultural identification and individuals' proclivity to take others' perspectives.

Keywords: immigration; prejudice; need for closure; sympathy; moral foundations



2.28 ETNA – A Project of Analytical Ethnopsychology for the Health of Migrant People

Mariapaola Lanti on behalf of the ETNA group*

*ETNA – Analytical EThNopsychology project, Roma, Italy

Abstract

Since 2006 the shift to a multicultural society engaged a group of jungian analysts in the definition of a psychotherapeutic model appropriate to meet the psyche of people from different cultures. “**ETNA** – project of analytic ethnopsychology”, a social promotion association was founded in 2008. **ETNA**, thanks to the professionals who work there, is committed to contribute for providing a response to the increasing **request for psychological support** for migrants – for the treatment of mental traumas – sufferings and distress caused by migration, torture, war, sexual abuse, perpetrated in the countries of origin, on the journey and by the current situation of uncertainty – through the enhancement of the resilient aspects present in each of them. Since its foundation, **ETNA** has activated collaborations and agreements with reception centers, SPRAR (also for minors, women and patients with psychic vulnerability), social services, municipalities, private entities dealing with migration. **Training** and **supervision** have been offered to shelters’ operators, psychologists and psychotherapists working in immigration’s contexts. **Studies** and **research activities** have been promoted in order o better understand the challenges of migration. In particular **ETNA** attention was focused on: unaccompanied minors, women suffering for violence and their families, refugees’ psychotherapy, the empowerment of migrant women, migrant children.

Keywords: immigration; ethnopsychology; ethnopsychotherapy; analytical psychology.



2.29 CivicoZero: A Multidimensional Intervention Aimed at Welcoming, Protecting and Promoting Social Inclusion Towards Unaccompanied Minors and Young Adults

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www.civicozero.eu

Abstract

Since 2009, CivicoZero carries out a wide-ranging intervention addressed to unaccompanied minors, through multiple actions implemented mainly in two different settings: the street and the drop-in center. Starting from the street, the outreach activities are aimed to build a relationship with troubled youths. The main interventions, carried out in a combined and integrated way, include harm reduction, street animation activities, legal orientation and referral to “CivicoZero” Center. The actions implemented within the daily center unfold along three levels: the first one includes all measures of immediate protection and services aimed at ensuring the satisfaction of basic needs, psychological support, legal intake and orientation, recreational opportunities. The second level is characterized by art and creative workshops (self-narrative, theatre, photography, rap, video-making) and several opportunities for interaction with external stakeholders. The third level includes actions carried out in order to improve specific skills, such as Italian language courses and employee orientation. Through those integrated actions, CivicoZero supports youths along a path aimed at promoting simultaneously protection and empowerment in behalf of individuals involved. Both those goals could be considered as essential precondition for a real transition from vulnerability to resilience and for social inclusion paths undertaken by unaccompanied minors and young adults.

Keywords: unaccompanied minors, immigration, social inclusion, vulnerability, empowerment.



2.30 The Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow Program: Reducing Inter-Ethnic Prejudice in Schools

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Abstract

Different studies showed the possibility to change explicit and implicit inter-group prejudices in children thanks to the activation of psychological states, as emotional empathy, and contextual stimuli, as family or school (Blair, 2002; Gwaronski & Bodenhausen, 2006). The inter-group contact (Allport, 1954) has been demonstrated to be effective to modify racial attitudes towards other groups (Turner, Hewstone & Voci, 2007). School results to be an optimal context to contrast the development of ethnic prejudice (Hello et al., 2004; Baron, 2015) through educational strategies promoting real or imaginary contact (Batson et al, 2002; Birtel & Crisp, 2012). An educational program for pupils in schools was designed to reduce the prejudice against migrants, using an imaginary contact through drawings of migrants/refugees. To verify the effects of the educational program on pupils' prejudice, a pilot study was conducted with 77 Italian children (age: 10-11) distributed in experimental (n: 37) and control (n: 40) groups. Implicit and explicit inter-ethnic prejudice was evaluated with standardized tests (Pirchio et al., 2018) before and after the intervention. Results show a statistically significant reduction of implicit ($t(30)=2,01$; $p=.05$) and a statistically tendentially significant reduction of explicit prejudice ($t(32)=1,95$; $p=.06$) in the experimental group, not in the control group.

Keywords: prejudice; migrants; empathy



MIGRATION DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES

Website: <http://dip38.psi.uniroma1.it/ricerca/progetto-dipartimenti-di-eccellenza>