



**Identity fragility: Psychological antecedents and  
consequences of living in permanent crisis and  
political instability**

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Flexible populist ideology during Russia's war in Ukraine: Multimodal constructions of in- and outgroups through internet memes <i>Katarina Pettersson, Jari Martikainen, Inari Sakki</i>	1
The role of conflicting war narratives on attitudes toward Ukrainian refugees in Romania and Moldova <i>Ana-Maria Bliuc, Daniel S. Courtney, Robb Norrie</i>	2
Neighboring the war: Comprehensive links between collective angst, unwillingness to take solidarity actions and conspiratorial thinking <i>Tomasz Besta, Krzysztof Jędrzejewski, Anna Gajda, Ewa Przybylska, Michał Jaśkiewicz</i>	3
Why them and not us? Competitive victimhood and relative deprivation jeopardise solidarity between displaced Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian migrants and refugees participating in integration programs <i>Soha Abboud, Emanuele Politi, Antoine Roblain, Zacharia Badi</i>	4
Prejudice, multiculturalism, nationalism, collective action and social cohesion in South Africa <i>Deanne van Rensburg, Anna Kende</i>	5
Institutional acknowledgment of the chosen trauma in the background of its denial: A field experiment across conflicting groups <i>Luca Andrighetto, Samer Halabi, Ankica Kosic, Nebojša Petrović, Nedim Prelić, Chiara Pecini, Arie Nadler</i>	6
Histories that tear us apart: the interplay of attachment toward historical narratives and entrenched identities in Balkans' post-conflict societies <i>Marija Branković, Teodora Savić, Zdravko Stavrov</i>	7
The complex nature of apologies: The role of emotions and perspectives <i>Sophie Russell, Erica Hepper, Fabio Fasoli, Aife Hopkins-Doyle, Felien Boone</i>	8
Too obsessed with one's identity: How centrality makes minorities' and majorities' social identity fragile <i>Michał Bilewicz, Dominik Puchala</i>	9
Identity and resilience in the face of antisemitism: Psychosocial outcomes and coping strategies among Jews in Germany <i>Maor Shani, Dana Goldberg, Maarten van Zalk</i>	10
Exploring ethnic identity, intergroup threat, and acculturation expectations among Croatian elementary school students <i>Margareta Jelić, Ena Uzelac, Dinka Čorkalo Biruški, Antonija Vrdoljak, Nikolina Stanković, Rachel Fasel, Fabrizio Butera</i>	11
Intergroup attitudes in the face of crisis: Understanding prejudice during the COVID-19 pandemic <i>Matilde Tumino, Luciana Carraro, Luigi Castelli</i>	12
Perceived allies' egalitarian and paternalistic motives and socioeconomic vulnerability as antecedents of migrants' participation in different types of collective actions <i>Ana Urbiola, Cristina Carmona, Soledad de Lemus</i>	13

From history to action: The Holocaust's role in shaping Israeli resistance to the 2023 judicial reform <i>Slieman Halabi, Anna Baumert, Michał Bilewicz</i>	14
Collective action and online engagement during the 2019 protests in Chile <i>Pablo de Tezanos-Pinto, Maria Chayinska, Daniel Miranda</i>	15
"The wolf looks after the pack and the pack looks after the wolf": The antecedents and consequences of social leadership as fragile and threatened identity in Colombia <i>Huseyin Cakal, Claudia Pineda Marin, Manuel Beltran</i>	16
Who should I be? Social exclusion dismantles immigrants' bicultural identity <i>Marco Marinucci, Christina Bauer; Paolo Riva</i>	17
Examining the mutuality approach to acculturation and adaptation of refugees: correlational and meta-analytical findings <i>Imge Terzi Oznep, Rita Guerra, Kinga Bierwiazzonek</i>	18
Impacts of (de)territorialization on processes of subjectivation: migratory experiences of Venezuelan refugee women in Bogotá <i>Núbia Vale Rodrigues, Isabela Saraiva de Queiroz, Aida Milena Cabrera Lozano</i>	19
How narratives of inherently fragile identities contribute to the disempowerment of disadvantaged individuals <i>Christina Bauer, Greg Walton</i>	20
Make us great again: Nostalgic deprivation predicts populist radical right support in Germany <i>Carla Grosche, Tobias Rothmund</i>	21
Identity threat to belonging: A partial mediator between populism and its cultural and economic perceptions of threat in five liberal democratic countries <i>Efio Manunta, Maja Becker, Vivian L. Vignoles, Paul Bertin, Eleonora Crapolicchio, Camila Contreras, Alin Gavreliuc, Roberto González, Claudia Manzi, Salanova Thomas, Matthew J. Easterbrook</i>	22
Highlighting commonalities contributes to the legitimization of delegitimized voices in an unstable democracy: Evidence from an intervention tournament <i>Lee Aldar, Yossi Hasson, Ruthie Pliskin, Eran Halperin</i>	23
Intersectional perspectives on allyship: Exploring LGBTQIA+ and ethnic minority perceptions of solidarity in social movements <i>Bao-Thi Van Cong, Thomas Morton, Hema Preya Selvanathan, Séamus Power</i>	24
Navigating normative sources: How adolescents talk about refugees from Ukraine and the Roma <i>Xenia Daniela Poslon, Barbara Lášticová</i>	25
"Their win is our loss... Or is it?": Framing equality in positive-sum (vs zero-sum) terms can overcome advantaged group's resistance to anticipated social change <i>Morgana Lizzio-Wilson, Emma F. Thomas, Michael Wenzel, Emily Haines, Danny Osborne, Linda J. Skitka</i>	26
Advantaged groups align collective action with prejudice <i>Craig McGarty, Amelia Henry, Nida Denson</i>	27

# Flexible populist ideology during Russia's war in Ukraine: Multimodal constructions of in- and outgroups through internet memes

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The social media have become an increasingly important vehicle for constructions of in- and outgroups in populist mobilization and persuasion. In this study, we explore how populism as a flexible ideology becomes articulated and re-constructed in times of international political turmoil. More precisely, we focus on the multimodal construction of right-wing populist ideology in the political memes produced by the Finns Party after Russia's attack on Ukraine in spring 2022. Our multimodal discourse analysis shows that the memes constructed national security and sovereignty, (gendered) anti-elitism, and anti-refugee arguments through drawing upon historical and current narratives of the 'Russian threat' as a central discursive resource. Further, it demonstrates how the specific features of Internet memes – humour, entertainment, open-endedness and interactivity – can be creatively utilised in populist political communication to draw boundaries between 'us', the rightful yet fragile national people, and 'them', external and internal threats to this people. This study sheds light on Internet memes as a channel for political persuasion and mobilization. Further, it advances our social psychological understanding of populism as a 'thin' ideology that can flexibly adapt to societal and political crises by constructing itself as the protector of the nation and national identity in unstable times.

# The role of conflicting war narratives on attitudes toward Ukrainian refugees in Romania and Moldova

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The Ukraine war has significant global impacts. This research examines the ideological divisions resulting from conflicting war narratives and their effects on Ukrainian refugees in countries which are supportive of Ukraine. One of the war's direct impacts is evident through the refugee influx in neighbouring Moldova and Romania, countries already economically strained and threatened by the conflict's proximity. Our study has two aims: first, examining the formation of these opposing narratives and second understanding how narrative support affects attitudes and actions towards Ukrainian refugees. In Study 1, we examined online posts and comments (N=230) from Romanian and Moldavian social media, using topic modelling and thematic analysis to identify argument categories and strategies for different narratives. In Study 2, we surveyed Romanian and Moldavian participants (N=1420) online, employing structural equation models to understand the factors influencing narrative support and how such support affects attitudes and behaviours towards Ukrainian refugees. Our findings show that faced with deeply traumatic events occurring in close geo-political proximity, our participants developed contrasting interpretations of the social reality in line with their moral values and individual definitions of national identity. However, our findings imply that fostering pro-social behaviours towards refugees is achievable through a more nuanced understanding of the narratives used to interpret immediate social realities.

## Neighboring the war: Comprehensive links between collective angst, unwillingness to take solidarity actions and conspiratorial thinking

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We conducted five comprehensive studies in Poland to investigate the intricate relationship between collective anxiety and two distinct societal phenomena: collective actions aimed at assisting Ukrainian refugees and the emergence of conspiracy theories related to migration. Our research delved into whether there exists a substantial negative correlation between feelings of anxiety and the willingness to engage in benevolent acts while simultaneously revealing a positive connection with the inclination toward conspiratorial thinking. Importantly, we considered a wide array of established factors that influence out-group prejudice, extremist behaviors, and the adoption of conspiratorial beliefs. Specifically, we examined the impact of collective narcissism, the desire for uniqueness, the quest for meaning, zero-sum beliefs, and intergroup interactions. The outcomes of our investigations provided robust support for our initial hypothesis that collective anxiety serves as a noteworthy predictor of anti-Ukrainian sentiments, even when factoring in all the controlled variables.

# Why them and not us? Competitive victimhood and relative deprivation jeopardise solidarity between displaced Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian migrants and refugees participating in integration programs

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The Ukrainian humanitarian crisis has brought to the forefront the issue of “double standards” in the reception and treatment of displaced Ukrainians in Europe, contrasting with the reception and treatment accorded to other third-country nationals. This disparity is likely to amplify the perceived competition among fragilized migrant communities, posing a threat to the unity and collaborative efforts between these groups. Indeed, research has shown that solidarity and competition are opposite forces influencing the quality of inter-minority intergroup relations (Burson & Godfrey, 2019). This competition concerns not only the perception of relative deprivation for limited resources (Smith et al., 2012), but also the perception of competitive victimhood for the recognition of their suffering (Young & Sullivan, 2016). The present study examines how this perceived competition, both in terms of relative deprivation and competitive victimhood, affects solidarity between displaced Ukrainian (N = 250) and non-Ukrainian migrants and refugees (N = 336) enrolled in Belgian civic integration programs. Notably, as for September 2022 these programs became optional for Ukrainians but mandatory for other third-country nationals, emphasizing the double standard. As hypothesized, non-Ukrainian refugees and migrants reported higher levels of relative deprivation and competitive victimhood compared to displaced Ukrainians. Furthermore, these forms of competition were associated with reduced intentions of outgroup solidarity. Overall, these findings underscore the need for policy makers to adopt a more equitable approach in their treatment of these fragilized migrant communities to prevent negative effects stemming from competition and the erosion of inter-minority solidarity.

## Prejudice, multiculturalism, nationalism, collective action and social cohesion in South Africa

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The research aims to explore the interplay between superordinate national identity and multiculturalism as an influence on collective action and social cohesion in South Africa as well as how these variables may be mediated by prejudice and moderated by in-group projection building on the AMIGAS model (Achieving Multicultural Integration of Groups Across Society) AMIGAS suggests that a multicultural commitment can be a driver of both improved intergroup evaluations and promotion of collective action for reduced inequality (Urbiola et al., 2021). The research was conducted via an online survey from White and Black South African participants. Preliminary results support the hypothesis that endorsing multiculturalism positively influences collective action for both ethnic groups. Both White and Black South Africans displayed a positive correlation between collective action and multiculturalism, emphasizing the importance of embracing diversity for fostering collaborative initiatives. Moreover, social cohesion was significantly associated with multiculturalism for both groups. However, the relationship between social cohesion and superordinate national identity varied. For White South Africans, a strong association was observed. Conversely, this connection was not significant for Black South Africans, suggesting that different factors influence social cohesion in diverse communities. Lastly, White South Africans exhibited a robust connection between collective action and superordinate national identity. However, this link was non-significant for Black South Africans, underscoring the complexity of identity dynamics within different communities.



# Institutional acknowledgment of the chosen trauma in the background of its denial: A field experiment across conflicting groups

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Chosen traumas represent a key component of collective identities that deeply shape the behaviors and intergroup relations of group members, especially within conflicting or post-conflicting contexts. Similar to other forms of group victimization, their acknowledgment by outgroup rival representatives would be a crucial factor in promoting peaceful relations. However, research on reconciliation has revealed that the institutional acknowledgment of outgroup suffering, including chosen traumas, does not always lead to improved intergroup relations. To gain a better understanding of this issue, we conducted a field experiment to explore whether the effectiveness of acknowledgment is dependent on the collective background against which it is provided. We engaged citizens (N = 975) from societies trapped in recent or ongoing conflicts (e.g., Bosnia, Serbia, Palestine, Israel) and examined the effects of institutional acknowledgment of a chosen trauma when the denial of such acknowledgment by the majority (vs. minority) of outgroup members was made salient. The results revealed that making salient the institutional acknowledgment was effective in increasing trust toward outgroup representatives. In contrast, such acknowledgment did not improve people's willingness to reconcile and hope for change, which were mainly influenced by the levels of denial by outgroup members. However, for these latter variables, significant differences emerged depending on the conflictual versus post-conflictual context. The implications of our findings for group identities and intergroup reconciliation are discussed.

## Histories that tear us apart: the interplay of attachment toward historical narratives and entrenched identities in Balkans' post-conflict societies

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In the Balkans, the history still divides us. This study examined the interplay between perceptions of history, patriotism, and perceptions of adversarial groups and their historical narratives in two enduring and recently revived conflicts. In Serbia, we examined how attachment to the dominant historical narratives of the ethnic group (FENCE) affected openness to counter-narratives in general and to a specific counter-narrative related to the history of Kosovo. We presented a counter-narrative about the inter-ethnic relations of Serbians and Albanians, showcasing repressive policies toward Albanians by the Yugoslav government before World War II. A survey among ethnic Serbs (N = 233) revealed positive relations between FENCE and both blind and constructive patriotism and the ethos of conflict. Attachment to dominant narratives predicted the lack of openness to counter-narratives. Important, this measure mediated the relationship between blind patriotism and adverse reactions to the counter-narrative depicting the ethnic ingroup in a negative light. In Macedonia, the study focused on the recently polarized conflict between Bulgaria and Macedonia that delves around the specificity of the Macedonian ethnic identity, which is challenged as a separate identity by Bulgarians. A survey study (N = 300) showed that attachment to the dominant narratives fully mediated the relationship between blind patriotism and (negative) attitudes toward the dispute with Bulgaria, which has significant political consequences for the country. These findings suggest that nurturing a critical view of the dominant one-sided narratives is crucial in advancing perceptions of commonality and inclusiveness in society.

## The Complex nature of apologies: The role of emotions and perspectives

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Apologies are complex and can even backfire in some instances. Thus, we propose it is important to consider the ways emotions can impact multiple parties (i.e., victims, perpetrators, and bystanders) in the context of apologies. We conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis on the effectiveness of apologies; synthesizing evidence on the impact of emotions on four indicators of effective apologies: 1) sincerity, 2) emotions experienced or elicited, 3) forgiveness, and 4) social change. We found that expressing emotions can generally facilitate better apology-related outcomes; specifically, expressing self-conscious emotions can lead to perceiving the perpetrator as being more remorseful/emotional, greater empathy towards both the victim and perpetrator, greater forgiveness, and less anger towards the perpetrator. This review highlighted the need to expand and improve the way that emotions are both measured and manipulated in future research, as well as the importance of studying multiple perspectives and contexts. Finally, this research identified that there has been a lack of research on empathy, anger, and social change in the apology context. As a result, we also conducted an experimental study which tested the impact of expressing empathy for victims' vs guilt for past actions vs no emotion expression in the context of gender wrongdoing. In this study counter to previous research, we found that expressing empathy triggered the most forgiveness. Cumulatively, this research suggests it is important to further examine this dynamic interplay between emotions and perspectives in apologies, particularly in contexts where wrongdoing is often overlooked and doesn't result in societal change.

## Too obsessed with one's identity: How centrality makes minorities' and majorities' social identity fragile

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Recent research has commonly viewed collective narcissism as a fragile and detrimental facet of social identity. In this presentation, we propose a different perspective, suggesting that collective narcissism should not be considered a distinct form of identity, but rather as a consequence stemming from a specific aspect of identity that renders the overall identity more fragile and susceptible to various threats – namely, high ingroup centrality. Drawing from three-factorial model of social identity (Cameron, 2004), we argue that ingroup centrality results in markedly different outcomes compared to other dimensions of social identity, such as ingroup affect and ingroup ties. This presentation compiles findings from multiple studies that examine the role of these three components of social identity within both majority and minority groups. Our findings demonstrate that ingroup centrality among minority group members, exerts negative effects by hindering active engagement, amplifying acculturation stress, and fostering psychological distress in critical situations, such as during a pandemic. Among majority group members, ingroup centrality is associated with heightened hostility, increased social distance, and a more negative attitude towards minority groups. Significantly, it also cultivates collective narcissism, rendering the group vulnerable to intergroup threats. Collectively, we assert that social identity should not be perceived as a uniform phenomenon; rather, it encompasses both fragile and destructive elements, such as ingroup centrality, as well as more constructive components, like ingroup ties.

# Identity and resilience in the face of antisemitism: Psychosocial outcomes and coping strategies among Jews in Germany

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In contemporary European societies, Jewish identity epitomizes a fragile identity, manifested in a complex intersection of enduring cultural traditions, historical trauma, and ongoing experiences of antisemitism. Despite a recent surge in antisemitic incidents, the psychosocial consequences among Jews remain under-studied in psychology. Moreover, the literature lacks an exploration of identity-driven coping mechanisms to mitigate stress from antisemitic incidents, particularly within the framework of the rejection-(dis)identification model. To address these gaps, we conducted a study among 420 Jews in Germany (Mage = 40.71, 57% female, 50% born in Germany). Our study examined the relationships between both blatant and subtle anti-Jewish discrimination and indicators of mental health and social participation. Further, we assessed the mitigating roles of ethnic, religious, and national identities in coping with antisemitism, and compared coping strategies involving vigilance - characterized by concealment and social withdrawal - with those involving civic engagement and activism. Our findings revealed that daily experiences of blatant, subtle, and collective antisemitism were significantly correlated with poorer mental health and diminished social participation. While religious and ethno-cultural identification had an adaptive function in coping with collective and subtle antisemitism, they were maladaptive in the context of blatant antisemitism. National identification did not mediate the impact of antisemitism on the outcomes measured. Lastly, vigilance strategies failed to buffer negative psychosocial outcomes, whereas civic engagement enhanced well-being and social participation. These findings illuminate the nuanced roles of identification with fragile social identities in coping with hatred and offer insights for interventions fostering resilience among affected minorities.

## Exploring ethnic identity, intergroup threat, and acculturation expectations among Croatian elementary school students

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Growing up in multiethnic communities can foster tolerance, multiculturalism, and the development of multiple identities. However, it can also represent a threat to one's ethnic identity and result in a fragile identity leading to a confined sense of self and negative attitudes towards other groups. To explore this dynamic, we conducted two studies on Croatian elementary school students. The first (longitudinal) study examined the relationship between ethnic identity and intergroup threat in multi-ethnic communities where the ethnic minority enjoys the right to education in their own language. We measured ethnic identity as attachment to one's own group and as ethno-nationalism of members of the majority as well as of minority ethnic groups. Intergroup threat was measured as intergroup anxiety and perceived symbolic threat. Our results highlight the role of anxiety in shaping nationalism but symbolic threat in shaping ethnic identity. The second study involved Croatian elementary school students who attend classes with at least one refugee child enrolled (mainly from the Middle East countries) and focused on acculturation expectations from refugee peers. We aimed to explore how ethnic identity and intergroup threat shape the acculturation expectations from refugee peers, i.e. the preference for assimilation and integration, as two opposing acculturation strategies. Results suggest that anxiety, threat and ethnic identification are predictors of the expectation of assimilation, while only intergroup anxiety predicts the preference for integration. Results are compared with other relevant predictors (e.g. empathy, parental norms, intergroup contact) and highlight the importance of intervention programs to improve intergroup attitudes.

## Intergroup attitudes in the face of crisis: Understanding prejudice during the COVID-19 pandemic

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The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a global crisis with far-reaching consequences, extending beyond health and economics to profoundly affect social interactions and the perception of others. As individuals complied with unprecedented prevention measures, such as social distancing and face mask mandates, a fundamental shift occurred in socio-cognitive processes. The pandemic, notably, introduced novel constraints in everyday social encounters, shedding light on the theme of identity fragility, which encompasses the psychological antecedents and consequences of living in a highly threatening situation. The pandemic outbreak led to an alarming surge in negative attitudes and discriminatory behaviors towards immigrants and national outgroups. The present research synthesizes evidence from diverse research lines and methodologies, revealing that the pandemic has amplified prejudiced attitudes. Study 1 showed that low perceived outgroup (i.e., Chinese, Romanians, North Africans) compliance with preventive measures is associated with more negative intergroup attitudes, and it might also be a cue for inferring the minority group's sentiments toward the majority ingroup. Similarly, experimental studies 2 and 3 showed that making COVID-related norms salient induced stronger negative intergroup attitudes when the outgroup was violating the norms, and this effect was modulated by the outgroup identity. The Behavioral Immune System theory suggests that reducing the fear of contagion may alleviate negative responses towards outgroups. The literature has shown that individuals who feel safer exhibit more positive attitudes towards outgroups, particularly when they engage in normative behaviors. The theme of identity fragility is further explored through research that examines the potential for mitigating negative attitudes during a pandemic: the present project highlights how the pandemic has not only exposed the effect of outgroup identity on intergroup attitudes but also offers insights into potential avenues for mitigating negative intergroup attitudes, calling for a deeper understanding of the challenges posed by living in an era of permanent crisis and political instability.

# Perceived allies' egalitarian and paternalistic motives and socioeconomic vulnerability as antecedents of migrants' participation in different types of collective actions

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The consideration of the perspective of disadvantaged groups on intergroup alliances is essential to achieve egalitarian social change. While part of the majority population contributes to migrants' struggles with xenophobic behaviors, others choose to become migrants' allies and stand in solidarity for their rights. However, the consequences of the way in which these intended allyships are perceived by migrants is quite unknown. In three studies conducted in Spain with migrants of different levels of vulnerability and countries of origin (N Study 1=182; N Study 2=160; N Study 3=418) we evaluated: How perceived ally motives (egalitarian, paternalistic and performative) impact different types of migrants' collective action participation: pro-alliance, led by Spaniards and led by migrants, and whether the level of vulnerability of the participants moderates the role of perceived paternalistic motives on participation. Additionally, we evaluated what type of alliance (one-group recategorization or coalition) migrants prefer to build with advantaged members. The results confirm that perceived ally egalitarian motives predict higher support for pro-alliance collective action, as well as those led by Spanish allies. Perceived paternalistic motives have greater impact on socioeconomically vulnerable migrant support for collective action tendencies than on less vulnerable ones. This research contributes to a better understanding of the role of paternalistic and egalitarian motives perceived in advantaged allies on social change and confirms how social vulnerability can influence social mobilization as well as the acceptance of paternalism.



## From history to action: The Holocaust's role in shaping Israeli resistance to the 2023 judicial reform

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In recent years, concerns about the support for anti-democratic laws and reforms have grown globally, prompting the emergence of new collective identities to resist such changes. Israel, a state without a formal constitution, relies on "basic" laws that hold the status of constitutional laws. In January 2023, the Israeli government proposed a judicial reform that aimed to curtail the powers of the Supreme Court, especially in overruling laws it deemed anti-democratic or in violation of basic laws. Given the centrality of the Holocaust in Jewish history, our study explored whether a lesson never to give hand to totalitarian rule predicts actual participation, future participation and legitimising non peaceful collective action. In July 2023, we conducted a survey among N = 750 Israeli citizens who opposed the judicial reform and varied in their level of participation in anti-reform protests. Our findings revealed that the Holocaust's lesson positively correlated with actual and future participation in protests and the legitimisation of both normative and non-normative collective actions. However, it negatively correlated with violent actions against the police. Additionally, the lesson positively correlated with personal and collective efficacy, which in turn mediated its indirect influence on future participation. Meanwhile, individual efficacy, rather than collective efficacy, mediated the link to actual participation. These significant findings will be discussed.

## Collective action and online engagement during the 2019 protests in Chile

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Our study focused on how participating in protests during the social uprising in Chile in 2019 was related to engagement in social media during this period, and how that relationship may develop differently for younger and older citizens. Data collection (N = 983) started on September 1st, was briefly interrupted because of the protests in October, and then resumed until March 2020. Our results show that engagement in social networks and protest participation follow the same general pattern over time: they markedly increased in October 2019 and then decreased to their original levels around January 2020. Importantly, the quadratic relation between engagement and time was found to be moderated by respondents' age in both cases, with older participants reporting less variation in their participation over the course of data collection. Furthermore, our research provides compelling evidence that the relation between civic engagement in the online sphere and protest participation in the offline sphere is not the same for individuals of different age groups. We found that greater engagement in social networks predicted greater participation in street protests among older adults, indicating the prevalence of a so-called spillover or stepping stone effect; but this association had the opposite direction among young people (i.e., greater engagement in social networks predicted lower participation in protests), indicating the prevalence of the substitute effect (see Chayinska et al., 2021; Schumann & Klein, 2015).

## "The wolf looks after the pack and the pack looks after the wolf": The antecedents and consequences of social leadership as fragile and threatened identity in Colombia

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Since 2016, over 1,000 human rights defenders and social leaders have been killed in Colombia, indicating persistent threats. The Human Rights Ombudsman reported a significant increase, from 145 in 2021 to 215 activists killed in 2022 catapulting Colombia into the first place as the deadliest country for social leaders globally, with a record 46% of the global total. The impact of social leader killings goes beyond the immediate loss, affecting communities by stifling the fight for peace and instilling fear. Colombian social leaders, representing a fragile social identity, lack research on how their identities emerge within already threatened groups (indigenous, rural, afro, victims of the Colombian conflict) and their role in in the multi-actor (left wing guerrilla groups, right wing militia, private armies of the bit landowners, narco groups, and the state) Colombian conflict. Across 2 qualitative (Study 1 Social Leaders N=12; Study 2, community members, N=15) and 1 quantitative (N=1100) studies we show that social leaders thrive on community trust and recognition exhibiting a multifaceted identity as resistance mobilizers, community managers, spokespersons, and human rights activists (Study 1) and community members perceive them as transformers of lives who guard the community against violent actions, warn them of dangers, mobilise massively to visibly support and defend them. We contextualize these findings in the ongoing Colombian peace process (Study 3). A fused identity with social leaders motivate both normative and non-normative support to the ongoing negotiations via hope. We discuss the implication for future research and theory.

## Who should I be? Social exclusion dismantles immigrants' bicultural identity

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Immigrants are a vulnerable group targeted with persistent and pervasive social exclusion. This poses a challenge to immigrants' development of a bicultural identity representing their belonging to both their origin and host societies. Previous literature linked social exclusion and bicultural identity in the rejection-(dis)identification models, predicting social exclusion to lead to higher identification with one's ingroup and dis-identification from the host society. However, empirical evidence for these predictions is mixed, and the underlying identification processes remain unexplored. The current research presents two datasets from forced and voluntary immigrants in Italy (Study 1) and Germany (Study 2). The studies investigated the impact of social exclusion on immigrants' bicultural identification processes, considering the components of identity ties, centrality and affects (Study 1), and compatibility (Study 2) and their ultimate repercussions on well-being. Correlational Study 1 (N=208) indicated that social exclusion harmed well-being by reducing identity ties with Italians and increasing the stigma attached to the migrant identity. Study 2 was a two-wave longitudinal study tracking 260 immigrants in Germany over five months. Results showed that social exclusion predicted an increased identity incompatibility over time, which related to decreased life satisfaction. While clarifying the conflicting literature on the rejection-(dis)identification frameworks, the research emphasizes social exclusion as a critical determinant of immigrants' identity fragility. Social exclusion at interpersonal and group levels emerged as a triple threat to immigrants' identity towards their ingroup (by enhancing the group stigma), the host group (by eroding ties), and the interplay between the two (by hindering their perceived compatibility).

## Examining the mutuality approach to acculturation and adaptation of refugees: correlational and meta-analytical findings

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Taking a mutuality approach to acculturation, we aim to provide robust data on the acculturation process of refugees, an understudied group in the field. The present project consists of two studies. Study 1 examined the social-psychological factors associated with the adaptation of Syrian refugees in Turkey. Building on the mutuality approach to acculturation, it considered both the role of refugees' acculturation orientations towards culture maintenance and contact with the Turkish society, refugees' meta-perceived acculturation orientations of the Turkish host society, and the impact of perceived (dis)concordance of acculturation orientations and perceived identity threat (i.e., discrimination) on their psychological and sociocultural adaptation. One hundred and nine Syrian refugees in Turkey completed a questionnaire measuring the variables of interest. Contrary to the expected, own culture maintenance was negatively related to psychological adaptation, whereas own desire for contact was not associated with sociocultural adaptation. Refugees' perceived acculturation orientations from Turkish society, particularly perceived desire for contact, were positively related to psychological and sociocultural adaptation. Finally, perceived discordance of acculturation was negatively associated with psychological and sociocultural adaptation and positively related to perceived discrimination. Study 2 consists of a meta-analysis, includes 35 studies that quantitatively measured perceived discrimination, acculturation orientations, and cross-cultural adaptation among refugees and immigrants. The goal is to test (a) how strongly these variables are related across the literature and (b) whether their mutual relationships can be captured by a mediation model. Data are currently under analysis, relying on robust variance estimation and meta-analytical structural equation models.

## Impacts of (de)territorialization on processes of subjectivation: migratory experiences of Venezuelan refugee women in Bogotá

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This research, anchored on social psychology and decolonial studies, analyzed the impacts on the processes of subjectivation of Venezuelan women who have been confronted with a movement of (de)territorialization. The research field was Bogotá, which has received the largest number of Venezuelan migrants. The presence in the city was made possible by an academic exchange carried out in the second half of 2019, by a partnership between Brazilian and Colombian universities (Universidade Federal de São João del-Rei and Universidad Santo Tomás). An agreement was signed with the Centro de Atención al Migrante, which receives UNHCR projects, and narrative interviews were conducted with seven women, taking as a starting point the voice of mutilated subjects who have been historically silenced. Six major themes were identified: life before leaving the place of origin, motivation for leaving, traffic at the border, arrival at the place of destination, (non) adaptation and integration, and impacts generated by the migration process. Those were discussed in the light of four concepts: (de)territorialization; process of subjectivation and identity metamorphosis; feminization of migration and gender coloniality; and ethical-political suffering. Consequences of the cycle of (de)territorialization of being-between-places include the construction of deviation paths and resistances that give meaning to the experience and the challenges that emerge on the new path. Such elements are material to encourage reflections on the Latin American migration context, the experience of positionality of the researcher, and how narrative and cartographic methodologies can be relevant tools in identity studies.

## How narratives of inherently fragile identities contribute to the disempowerment of disadvantaged individuals

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Background: As a result of adverse experiences, disadvantaged individuals such as refugees or low-SES-individuals are often seen as being inherently weak and fragile. Such narratives of inherently fragile identities fail to recognize the strengths people often show, including in contending with adversity. Question: Four experiments investigate how these narratives may contribute to the disempowerment of disadvantaged individuals by i) triggering disempowering treatments of individuals and ii) impairing individuals' goal pursuit. Result: Two experiments show that exposure to inherent-fragility-narratives leads people to treat disadvantaged individuals in disempowering ways; to donate more money to disempowering organizations that undermine low-SES aid receivers' confidence in their abilities (Study 1: N=205); and to encourage a refugee student to quit challenging learning opportunities (Study 2: N=205). Further, two randomized-controlled field experiments suggest that narratives can impair individuals' goal pursuit. We show this by manipulating narratives. When low-SES (Study 3: N=470) and refugee (Study 4: N=533) students were represented as strong and agentic rather than weak and fragile by their university, they showed better grades over one semester (Study 3) and higher learning-engagement over one calendar year (Study 4). Discussion: While disadvantaged individuals may certainly experience fragilities tied to their identity, the present research highlights i) the dangers of framing this fragility to be inherent and all-encompassing to individuals' identity and ii) the opportunities that lie in highlighting the strengths individuals show in the face of adversity.

## Make us great again: Nostalgic deprivation predicts populist radical right support in Germany

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The return to 'old glories' is one of the main promises of radical right parties, tapping into the widespread yearnings of sympathizers for a collective past. Many argue that support for radical right actors is driven by relative deprivation, meaning the perception of being unfairly worse off than others. However, we argue that, particularly within privileged groups, radical right support can also be linked to nostalgic deprivation - perceiving an unjust decline in group status in the present compared to the past. Preliminary findings support this notion, showing that a yearning for a glorified past predicts radical right voting as well as anti-immigrant and populist attitudes. However, psychological theorizing is scarce and previous studies differ in their conceptualization and measurement of nostalgic deprivation. To address this gap, we aim to introduce and validate a standardized self-report measure of nostalgic deprivation. Based on a literature review, we started with a concise definition and conceptualization of nostalgic deprivation. Second, we developed a nine-item self-report scale to capture nostalgic deprivation, as indicated by (a) collective temporal disadvantage comparison, (b) perceptions of injustice and (c) collective anger and nostalgia as affective responses. Third, we estimated the reliability and validity of our measure using empirical indicators of demographics, voting behavior, political attitudes and personality measures in a German quota sample (N = 1206). Our data confirm the predictive power of nostalgic deprivation for populist radical right support, beyond the scope of existing measures.



## Identity threat to belonging: A partial mediator between populism and its cultural and economic perceptions of threat in five liberal democratic countries

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Populism is on the rise across liberal democracies. A core scientific issue is to understand the social psychological underpinnings of this increasing endorsement of populist ideology. Previous empirical studies have demonstrated an economic distress pattern leading to populism through relative deprivation, identity threat and/or social exclusion. The study reported here aimed to replicate this pattern, and test an alternative model based on the cultural backlash pattern— including anomie and collective narcissism as predictors of populism, and identity threat as partial mediator of both economic and cultural predictors of populism. We conducted an online survey study among adult samples from five different countries: France, United Kingdom, Italy, Romania, and Chile (Total N = 9105). Multigroup structural equation models supported both economic distress and cultural backlash patterns to populist thin ideology endorsement. In both patterns, the identity threat to belonging played a significant role as partial mediator. In addition, an integrative model showed that the two patterns were not mutually exclusive, and presented the expected significant effects on populism when employed simultaneously. However, comparisons based on parsimony showed that the economic distress pattern was more parsimonious than both the cultural backlash pattern and the integrative model. We discuss the implication of these findings for the existing literature on the role of economic distress, cultural backlash, and identity threat as explanatory variables of populism.

## Highlighting commonalities contributes to the legitimization of delegitimized voices in an unstable democracy: Evidence from an intervention tournament

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Delegitimization and moral exclusion of critical voices, such as organizations and movements committed to the advancement of democracy and human rights, has emerged as a symptom of weakening democratic practices across societies in places such as Brazil, Russia, Hungary, Turkey and Israel-Palestine. It is particularly salient in unstable societies, where an advantaged majority might feel threatened by changes to the status quo pursued by some members of the ingroup. Our research addresses the question of what psychological interventions can contribute to the (re)legitimization—i.e., the recategorization of a target from illegitimate to legitimate—of such critical voices. We consider two approaches: (1) interventions encouraging this recategorization based on common preferences, values or the ingroup identity; and (2) interventions highlighting inconsistencies between delegitimizing attitudes and ingroup identity, values or interests. Through an intervention tournament, six psychological social media-based interventions were developed and tested against a generic control condition. Specifically, the tournament aimed to illuminate which intervention(s) would be most effective in increasing a target organization's legitimization among Jewish Israeli participants (N = 1,221). Two of the six interventions— Highlighting Mainstream Activities and Alternative Us vs. Them—were found effective in increasing the organization's legitimacy. These interventions, both highlighting commonalities between the delegitimized group and the majority—can be applied to amplify and relegitimize excluded voices as part of the effort to combat the harmful consequences of identity fragility. The results carry implications for the public legitimization and inclusion of critical actors, affective polarization, and democracy.

## Intersectional perspectives on allyship: Exploring LGBTQIA+ and ethnic minority perceptions of solidarity in social movements

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In the study of social justice movements, emphasis has traditionally been on the motivations of disadvantaged groups challenging inequality. More recently, there has been burgeoning interest in the motivations of advantaged group allies. While their solidarity is often deemed to be conducive to social change, the perceptions of minority groups regarding ally participation are seldom addressed. This research delved into how LGBTQIA+ individuals conceptualize allyship in Denmark. Through 26 interviews with participants from queer pride events, a thematic analysis identified a three-leveled framework of allyship including specific behavioral indicators at the personal, relational, and structural level. The analysis also revealed that allyship manifests differently within and across various (sub)groups, shedding light on intersectional challenges within LGBTQIA+ communities. A follow-up survey study with 388 LGBTQIA+ individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds in the US explored variations in perceptions of movement strategies aimed at supporting ethnic minorities within the LGBTQIA+ movement. Preliminary findings indicate that ethnic groups vary in their perceptions regarding the inclusion of ethnic minorities in the queer movement and related movement strategies. This research underscores the multifaceted nature of allyship, particularly for those with intersecting marginalized identities, such as ethnicity and LGBTQIA+ status. Our findings emphasize the importance of studying minority perspectives and intersectional dynamics in social movements.

## Navigating normative sources: How adolescents talk about refugees from Ukraine and the Roma

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Study explores how Slovak adolescents discursively construct normative contexts of support for refugees from Ukraine as victims of direct violence, and for the Roma, the victims of structural violence. We examine whether and how social norms are reflected in their talk and how they justify their views in the microcontext of focus groups. We draw on studies on the denial of prejudice that point to the presence of ideological climates where openly expressing racist sentiments is unacceptable. However, such norms are not immune to change and discursive strategies can also be used for constructing admissions of racism. Our analysis of five focus groups with 22 Slovak adolescents conducted immediately after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine allowed us to examine how participants collectively negotiated situational norms related to prejudice expression and help towards refugees. Even though participants considered racism as prevalent in Slovakia, they have pointed to the presence of norms condemning racist sentiments. Participants' use of various strategies of prejudice mitigation further suggests that they avoided being labeled as prejudiced. However, the perception that many people share the negative attitude seemed to encourage expressions of prejudice. Participants further engaged in differentiation between groups of people based on the deservingness of our help and collaboratively constructed the normative expectation of the those that may be worthy of our solidarity. Structural violence of the Roma was only recognized when used as justification for the exclusion of other groups, while it is not normatively acceptable to question the help toward refugees as victims of direct violence, given that they meet the "criteria for deservingness."

## "Their win is our loss... Or is it?": Framing equality in positive-sum (vs zero-sum) terms can overcome advantaged group's resistance to anticipated social change

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How can we encourage advantaged groups to support and strive for equality with disadvantaged groups? Recent work suggests that imagining an ideal, positive future in which equality has been achieved (utopian thinking) can encourage support for social change and promote actions to achieve this new reality. However, this exercise might elicit resistance from advantaged groups, because they are being asked to imagine a future in which their status and privilege has been eroded (status threat) and their wellbeing and opportunities have been constricted (realistic threat). This experience of threat, in turn, might increase their intentions to engage in actions to protect their group's rights and opportunities at the expense of equality (reactionary collective action). Across 3 studies (N = 974), we found that members of advantaged groups (White people, men, cis-gendered people) experienced heightened status and realistic threat when imagining a future in which equality with Black people (Study 1), women (Study 2), or trans-gender people (Study 3) had been achieved. This, in turn, predicted stronger reactionary and lower progressive collective action intentions. However, these effects only emerged when equality was framed as being achieved at the advantaged group's expense (zero-sum future framing). But when equality was framed as mutually benefitting both groups (positive-sum future framing), advantaged group members reported lower threat which, in turn, predicted lower reactionary and stronger progressive action intentions. Thus, increasing advantaged group's support for equality may lie in framing anticipated future changes in terms of mutual benefits for both groups.

## Advantaged groups align collective action with prejudice

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Collective action and intergroup prejudice have been treated as separate phenomena in social psychology. Collective action is usually seen as something disadvantaged groups do to change their social position and prejudice is usually seen as something advantaged groups do to maintain their position. However, the collective action taken by advantaged groups to maintain their social position can be (strategic) expressions of prejudice. In her PhD Amelia Henry conceptualized relations between advantaged and disadvantaged groups as mapping two forms of prejudice expression (veiled and overt prejudice) onto three collective intergroup strategies (deflection social creativity, conflictual social creativity, social competition). She tested this by recruiting (total N = 2764) male, white, US citizens through MTurk to consider disadvantaged target groups in the USA in 2020: African Americans, women, homeless people, disabled people, undocumented immigrants, Chinese Americans, and lesbian women and gay men. The test was replicated using another sample considering African American targets (recruited N = 730). In general veiled prejudice maps onto deflection social creativity and overt prejudice maps onto conflictual social creativity and social competition. The findings suggest that successful social change may rest on overcoming the deliberate strategies taken collectively by powerful advantaged groups.