

A Comparative Analysis of Socio-Cognitive Mechanisms in Intergroup Conflict Resolution

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Abstract. This study investigates the interplay between socio-cognitive mechanisms and intergroup conflict resolution strategies, examining how different psychological frameworks can mitigate tensions. By employing a mixed-methods approach, we analyzed data from diverse cultural contexts and evaluated the efficacy of competing models, including Social Identity Theory and Contact Hypothesis. Our findings reveal that nuanced understandings of group identity and collective memory significantly influence conflict resolution outcomes. Additionally, we propose an integrated model that synthesizes these approaches, offering insights for practitioners seeking to foster intergroup harmony. In conclusion, tailored interventions grounded in a deep understanding of socio-cognitive dynamics can bridge divides and promote peace across varying social landscapes.

Keywords: Intergroup Conflict, Social Identity Theory, Contact Hypothesis, Conflict Resolution, Cognitive Mechanisms, Cultural Dynamics, Psychological Interventions, Social Psychology

Introduction

The persistence of intergroup conflicts remains a critical concern in contemporary society, particularly as globalization intensifies cultural interactions and divisions. As we approach 2024-2026, understanding the psychological underpinnings of these conflicts is paramount. Intergroup conflicts often arise from deep-rooted historical grievances, identity politics, and misconceptions of the 'other.' These factors contribute not only to social fragmentation but also to collective violence, thus necessitating a thorough examination of the socio-cognitive mechanisms at play. This paper seeks to delineate the complexities of intergroup dynamics through a comparative analysis of prevailing psychological theories. We focus on Social Identity Theory, which posits that group identification drives in-group favoritism and out-

group discrimination, and the Contact Hypothesis, suggesting that intergroup contact can reduce prejudice and hostility. Through extensive empirical studies and qualitative assessments, this research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of these conflicting approaches in conflict resolution. Our exploration is structured as follows: first, we outline the theoretical frameworks underpinning our analysis; second, we present our methodological approach and data sources; third, we discuss the empirical findings; and finally, we synthesize our conclusions and recommend practical applications based on psychological insights.

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