

## Hostility and Recognition: Social-Psychological Dynamics of Intergroup conflict

Conflict-supporting narratives, collective memories and identities, and psychological factors such as intergroup bias, selective information processing, and resistance to change play a major role in the eruption and the persistence of intergroup conflicts. Despite the recognition of the negative role played by such factors in preserving intergroup conflicts, the existing literature devotes little attention to possibilities of dialogue between conflicting identities and narratives as part of intergroup contact and dialogue encounters held in settings of ethno-political diversity and conflict.

This course aims to enable a reflective investigation and understanding of identities, narratives, and social and psychological needs of groups and individuals in ethnically and culturally diverse societies and in settings of intergroup conflict. In the course, we will examine the role played by narratives, identity-based motivations, and other psychological factors in escalating intergroup conflicts and in strengthening exclusive and polar identities that deny the legitimacy of the other, as well as the constructive role that these factors may play in promoting processes of intergroup dialogue and peacebuilding.

The following topics will be covered during the course: Social-psychological dynamics of intergroup relations; narratives and life stories in a multicultural society; personal and collective identities in settings of intergroup conflict; and models of intergroup encounter.