

# Segregation & Tolerance: Issues of Integration & Engagement

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# 1. Studying Segregation

## Questions Addressed:

- Does it represent constraint, discrimination or choice on the part of *minorities*?
- What are its consequences for integration?

## Questions to be Addressed:

- What are its psychosocial effects?
- How does it impact upon the *majority*?

## 2. Segregation & Integration

- Types of integration:
  - Spatial: living together.
  - Structural: participating in social institutions such as work, education and politics.
  - Cultural: adopting majority values & customs.
- Assimilation theory – adjusted over time.
- Multiculturalism – now under question.
- What about social integration?
- What about the “isolated and suspicious majority”?

# 3. Key Elements of Tolerance

- Three key elements:
  - Disapproval
  - Choice
  - Power
- “The deliberate choice not to interfere with conduct with which one disapproves”.

(Hancock & Matthews 2001)
- “To tolerate someone is an act of power; to be tolerated is an acceptance of weakness”.

(Walzer 1997)

# 4.Intolerant Assessments & Static Tolerance

Table 1: Intolerant Assessments

Assessment	Rationale
Dislike	Offends our taste or preferences
Object	Infringes our privacy or quiet enjoyment
Offended	Goes against our moral code
Oppose	Harmful to our interests or well-being
Disapprove	Harmful to the perpetrator (and with social costs)
Condemn	Threat to social norm or social organization

Static Tolerance = non-intervention about those things with which we do not agree, despite our aversion to the conduct/object and its perceived impacts.

# 5. Tolerance is Context-Dependent

- Determinants of (in)tolerant responses:
  - Familiarity
  - Expectations
  - Exposure & Risks
- Contextual Influences:
  - What is at stake?
  - Who are we talking about?
  - What are we used to?

## 6. Segregation, Intolerance & Static Tolerance

- Segregation affects tolerance by:
  - Restricting inter-group familiarity.
  - Lowering expectations of inter-group interaction.
  - Raising perceptions of risk from others when interaction does occur.
  - Inhibiting understanding & appreciation of others.

## 7. Stereotypes & Metaphors

- Stereotype: associating the presence of a group with the occurrence of a problem.
- Metaphor: interpreting an observed phenomenon (e.g. presence of migrants) as indicative of a broader problem.



# 8. Snap Judgements & Visual Interaction

- Malcolm Gladwell (2005): *Blink*.
- “the power of knowing in the first two seconds”.
- “value in the blink of an eye”
- “snap judgements...can be every bit as good as decisions made cautiously and deliberately.”

But...

- “there is a dark side [sic] to rapid cognition that is at the root of a great deal of prejudice and discrimination”
- The dangers of a reliance on visual interaction, e.g. the misreading of facial emotions.

## 9. Culturally-Specific Body Language

- Hall (1966): *The Hidden Dimension* – the study of proxemics.
- Culturally specific body language and definition of personal space.
- Feeling comfortable in the presence of others is an important part of acceptance.

# 10. Reconsidering Integration

- **Psycho-political Integration:**
  - Considering all members of society as a legitimate and welcome presence.
- **Psycho-social Integration:**
  - Seeking inter-group interaction.
  - Civil and courteous interaction.
  - Higher quality interaction.

# 11. Dynamic Tolerance

Table 2: Tolerant Responses

Response	Content
<i>Static response:</i>	
Pure tolerance	Disapproval plus non-intervention
<i>Dynamic responses:</i>	
Behavioural Response	Raised threshold of tolerance through behavioural adaptation, e.g. avoidance
Psychological Response	Raised threshold of tolerance through improved coping mechanisms
Ameliorative Co-existence	Toleration plus adjustment of expectations and attempted moderation of the perpetrator's behaviour
Cognitive response	Reduction in disapproval through changed moral code or via understanding

# 12. Co-Presence & Tolerance

- Co-presence may:
  - Increase the likelihood of everyday inter-group engagement.
  - Reduce distrust, fear and prejudice.
- Co-presence needs:
  - Support mechanisms within communities.
  - To be given political and social value.

# 13. Conclusion

- Liberal toleration is self-defeating.
- The development of a 'community of moral judgement' in conditions of social pluralism which is more 'socially inclusive' (Herman 1996).
  - Requires mutual adjustment in values that represents a positive social development in conditions of diversity.
- Segregation makes this harder to achieve.



"Integrate, integrate. Can't you do that in your own country?"