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Gateway groups

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Gateway Groups: The potential of multiple identity groups to improve intergroup relations

Propositions:

1. "The human mind must think with the aid of categories [...] Categories are the basis for normal prejudice. We cannot possibly avoid this process" (Gordon Allport, 1954)
2. "The mere fact of division into groups is enough to trigger discriminatory behavior" (Henri Tajfel, 1970)
3. Social dynamics are seldom binary, and in almost any intergroup context, be it inter-racial, inter-national, inter-ethnic, inter-religious etc., there are Gateway Groups that challenge common social categorization by being affiliated with two distinct social categories simultaneously (this thesis).
4. "In my blood is the slave and the master it's like the devil playing spades with the pastor. White people told me as a child playing with his toys I should be ashamed to be black, and some black people look ashamed when I rap Like my great granddaddy didn't take a whip to the back" (Logic, biracial hip hop artist, 2017)
5. The presence of Gateway Groups can positively influence the relations between their distinct social counterparts in the context of intergroup conflict (this thesis).
6. Exposure to Gateway Groups can increase the complexity of social perception, and decrease negative group based emotions and social identification (this thesis).
7. The positive impact of Gateway Groups on intergroup relations does not necessarily have to entail any active participation on their part, and can arise from simply making their presence salient (this thesis).
8. "We can only sense those things to be related which we have previously somehow isolated from one another; things must first be separated from one another in order to be together [...] we are at any moment those who separate the connected or connect the separate" (Georg Simmel, 1908).