

# Prejudice Reduction at Scale:

## *How Institutional Inclusion Reduces Social Exclusion*

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In my dissertation and ongoing book project I theorize and test how and when diversity in public institutions can reduce majority group members' prejudice towards minorities. I argue that employing minorities in public institutions can affect intergroup relations and shape majority group perceptions of minorities through two distinct mechanisms relating to:

- **Positive intergroup contact between minority civil servants and citizens**, which facilitates a sense of commonality.
- **Exposure to Information about the role of minorities in society**, which corrects misperceptions and stereotypes.

To test my theory I focus on healthcare institutions, a central arena of public goods provision where diversity is prescribed as a policy tool to promote more equitable societal outcomes. In my [job market paper](#), recently published in *the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, I provide evidence for the first mechanism of my theory relating to intergroup contact. I further test the second mechanism of my theory in a [Middle East Initiative working paper](#) reporting results from a series of survey experiments implemented in Israel and the U.S. during the height of the first Covid-19 pandemic wave of 2020.

I am currently combining the empirical tests of my theory, along with several theoretical and descriptive chapters, into a book monograph. The primary contribution of my monograph is in laying out an institutional approach for prejudice reduction, demonstrating how public institutions and the people within them can shape intergroup relations in divided societies. My book will include eight substantive chapters:

1. **Introduction.**
2. **A theory of prejudice reduction through diversity in public institutions** – In which I lay out the different mechanisms through which diversity in public institutions can reduce majority group prejudice towards minorities in divided societies.
3. **The Stability of Jewish Prejudice Towards Palestinians** – A descriptive analyses of my dependent variable – Jewish Israeli prejudice towards Palestinians, in which I contextualize the nature of prejudice in Israel since 1948, and provide quantitative evidence for the stability of Jewish Israeli exclusionary attitudes since the early 21st century.

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4. **How and Why do Institutions Diversify?** A descriptive account of my independent variable in which I examine government documents and policy reports to explore the process of diversification in Israeli public institutions as well as the stated motivations of elected officials, bureaucrats, and civil society organization, in promoting diversity in Israeli public institutions.
5. **How Intergroup Contact with Out-Group Doctors Reduces Prejudice** – A test of the first mechanism of my theory, relating to intergroup contact.
6. **How Information about Diversity in Public Institutions Reduces Prejudice** – A test of the second mechanism of my theory, relating to information.
7. **Generalizability and Scope Conditions** – A test of geographical and institutional scope conditions of my theory based on a series of survey experiments in Israel and the U.S.
8. **Conclusion** – In which I reflect on the ability of public institutions to promote scalable and sustainable prejudice reduction.