

Openness, Intergroup Contact, and Antisemitic Attitudes

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INTRO

- Antisemitic attitudes reflect a historically enduring form of prejudice and are shaped by a confluence of individual, interpersonal, and sociocultural factors.
- Those high in the personality trait of openness are often less prone to prejudicial views,¹ and greater propensity for intergroup contact might in part account for this effect.²
- In this study, we examined if contact with Jewish individuals mediated the relationship between openness and antisemitic attitudes.

METHODS

- Data come from 1,442 non-Jewish individuals collected as part of a representative panel study of Americans (the UAS).³

MEASURES

Trait Openness

- 10 items from the Big Five Inventory⁴ rated on a 5-point scale
- E.g., "is curious about many different things," "has an active imagination."

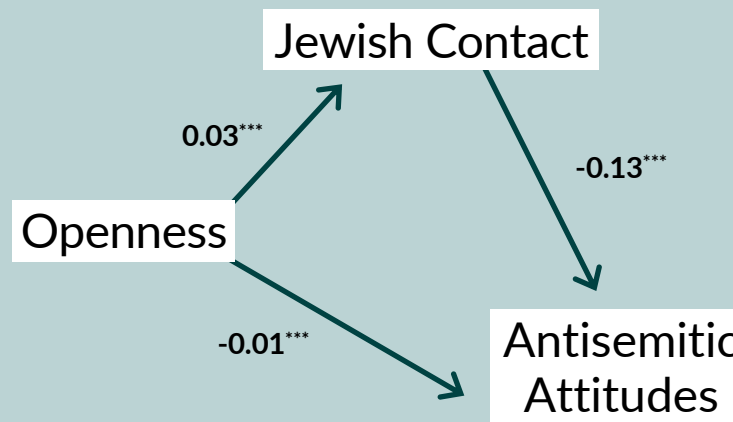
Jewish Intergroup Contact

- Single item rated on a 6-point scale.⁵
- Participants reported their frequency of interaction with Jewish individuals. Responses ranged from having "never met a Jewish person" to interacting with Jewish individuals "very often."

Antisemitic Attitudes

- 11 item ADL Global 100 Index⁵ rated on a 5-point scale.
- Participants rated agreement with statements such as "Jews have too much control over the United States government" and "Jews are just like everyone else"

Higher trait **openness** predicted reduced **antisemitic attitudes** and **24.7%** of this effect was accounted for by increased propensity for **intergroup contact**.



Mediation Analysis Results

	Estimate	95% CI	p
Average Causal Mediated Effect	-0.003	[-0.005, -0.002]	<.001
Average Direct Effect	-0.011	[-0.018, -0.005]	<.001
Total Effect	-0.015	[-0.022, -0.009]	<.001
Proportion Mediated	0.247	[0.138, 0.445]	<.001

The *mediation* R package⁶ was used to implement model-based causal mediation analysis.

Bootstrap confidence intervals obtained with percentile method (simulations = 1000).

RESULTS

Regression Results from Mediator and Outcome Models

	Jewish Contact			Antisemitic Attitudes		
	Estimate	SE	p	Estimate	SE	p
(Intercept)	-0.02	0.04	.677	-0.02	0.03	.436
Openness	0.03	0.01	<.001	-0.01	0.00	<.001
Politics	0.03	0.01	.007	0.01	0.01	.164
Age	0.01	0.00	<.001	-0.00	0.00	.103
Gender (Male)	0.04	0.06	.554	0.05	0.04	.269
Income	0.04	0.01	<.001	-0.02	0.01	<.001
Education	0.12	0.02	<.001	-0.04	0.01	<.001
Jewish Contact				-0.13	0.02	<.001
R ²	0.14			0.12		
F(df)	40.04*** (6, 1435)			26.82*** (7, 1434)		

Note. Continuous predictor variables were centered prior to analysis. ***p < .001.

DISCUSSION

- Consistent with hypotheses, openness predicted reduced antisemitic attitudes, and this relationship was partially mediated by intergroup contact.
- Effects held controlling for demographic covariates (age, gender, political orientation, education, and income) and were robust in weighted and unweighted samples.
- By identifying intergroup contact as a behavioral mechanism downstream of personality that may account for individual differences in susceptibility to adopting antisemitic views, results highlight the potential value of contact-facilitation strategies for addressing antisemitism.

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