

Interdisciplinary Workshop on

Identity

and Politics

May 15-16, 2024
Toulouse

Info & registration



INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP ON IDENTITY AND POLITICS

BOOKLET

CONFERENCE VENUE

Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse (IAST)
1, Esplanade de l'Université - 31 000 Toulouse, France
Auditorium 3 - JJ Laffont (Ground Floor)

ORGANIZERS

Felix DWINGER (IAST)
Marijn KEIJZER (IAST)
Giacomo LEMOLI (IAST)

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Valérie Nowaczyk & Magali Bouley
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REGISTRATION & INFORMATION DESK

For any queries please refer **to the organizers** or email: lpi.workshop@iast.fr

WIFI

Network: **UT1**

Login: **ut1_workshop**

Password: **69gleuvaisruitio**

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Coffee breaks and lunches will take place in the **Cafeteria (ground floor)**.

TRANSPORTATION

300 meters: « Compans Caffarelli » underground metro station (line B) and airport shuttle bus stop

50 meters: Toulouse local bike station « Vélô Toulouse »

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

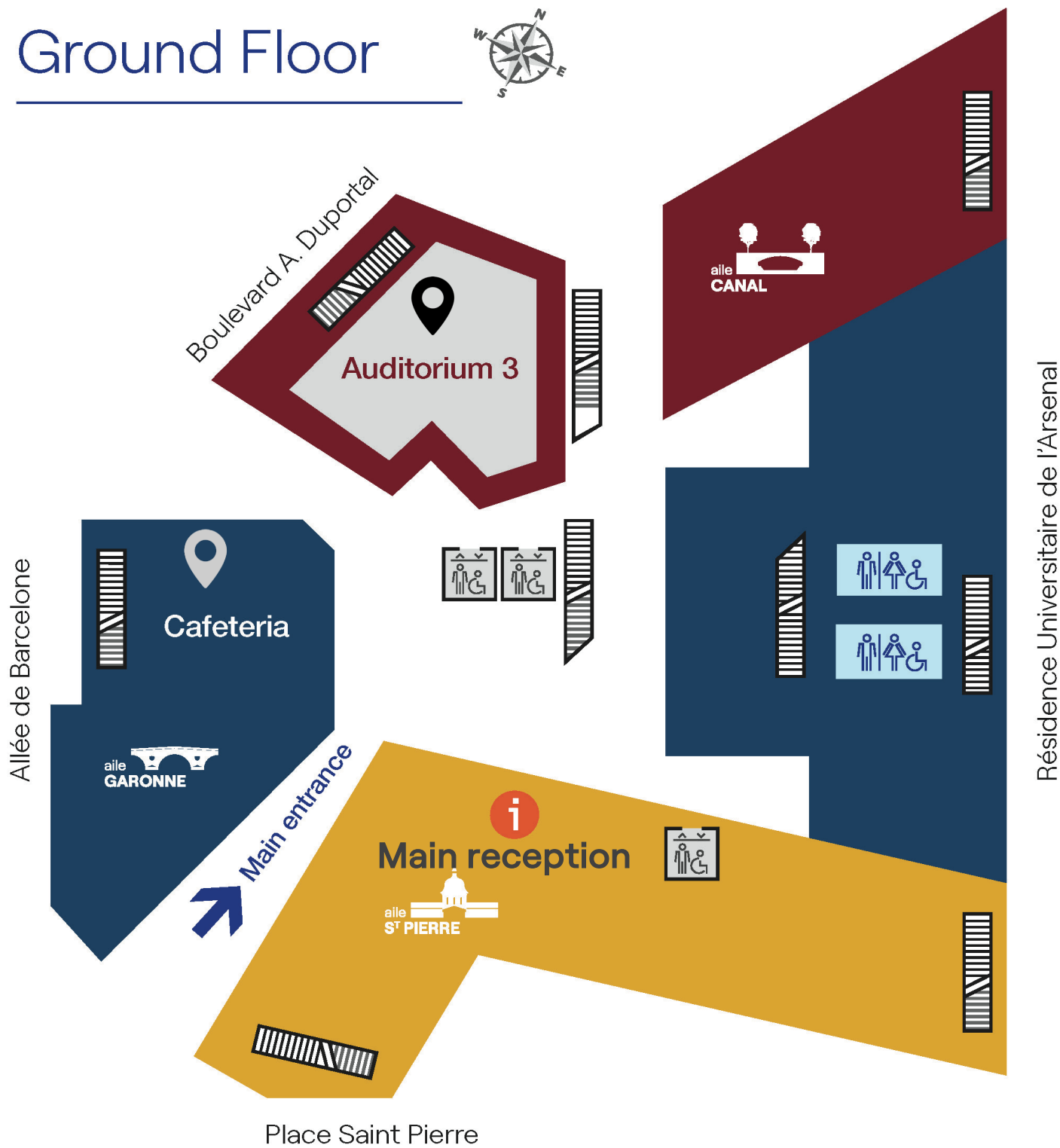
15 – For serious medical emergency


17 – Police

18 – Fire Brigade

112 – International Emergency Call

Ground Floor



 **Cafeteria**
Coffee Breaks
Lunches

 **Auditorium 3 – JJ Laffont**
Presentations, May 15–16

 **Toilets**

 **Address**
1, Esplanade de l'Université
31080 Toulouse cedex 06

WEDNESDAY MAY 15

9:00–9:20	<i>Registration</i>
9:20–9:30	<i>Welcome words</i>
9:30–10:30	PRESENTATIONS
10:30–10:50	<i>Coffee + snacks</i>
10:50–12:20	PRESENTATIONS
12:20–13:50	<i>Lunch</i>
13:50–15:20	PRESENTATIONS
15:20–15:40	<i>Coffee + snacks</i>
15:40–16:40	PRESENTATIONS
16:40–17:00	<i>Break</i>
17:00–17:45	ROUNDTABLE I
19:30	<i>Dinner (Invitation Only)</i>

THURSDAY MAY 16

9:00–9:30	<i>Coffee</i>
9:30–10:30	PRESENTATIONS
10:30–10:50	<i>Coffee + snacks</i>
10:50–12:20	PRESENTATIONS
12:20–13:50	<i>Lunch</i>
13:50–15:20	PRESENTATIONS
15:20–15:40	<i>Coffee + snacks</i>
15:40–16:40	PRESENTATIONS
16:40–17:00	<i>Break</i>
17:00–17:45	ROUNDTABLE II
19:30	<i>Dinner (Invitation Only)</i>

PLEASE NOTE

An updated version of the program will be available in Auditorium 3 – JJ Laffont

WEDNESDAY MAY 15

09:00-09:20 *Registration*

09:20-09:30 *Welcome words*

Thinking & Shaping Imagined Communities

09:30-10:15 **Carl Müller-Crepon** *LSE*

Bound Together: How Political Units and Ethnic Groups Shape Each Other.

Discussant: Mateo Montenegro TSE

10:15-10:30 **Luisa Carrer** *Bocconi & TSE*

Municipal-Level Gender Norms: Measurement and Effects on Women in Politics.

10:30-10:50 *Coffee + snacks*

10:50-11:35 **Aleksandra Cichocka** *University of Kent*

Collective Narcissism Undermines Social Cohesion.

Discussant: Sebastian Thieme TSE & IAST

11:35-12:20 **Matthias vom Hau** *IBEI*

The Information Capacity of States, Ethnic Diversity, and Social Development.

Discussant: Anne Degrave TSE & IAST

12:20-13:50 *Lunch*

Dynamics of Intergroup Contact & Polarization

13:50-14:35 **Paul Smaldino** *UC Merced*

The Evolution of Parochial Social Learning.

Discussant: Paul Seabright TSE & IAST

- 14:35-15:20 **Sabina Čehajić-Clancy** *Stockholm University*
Interventions for Improving Intergroup Relations
in Contexts of Conflict.
Discussant: Nafees Hamid KCL
- 15:20-15:40 *Coffee + snacks*
- 15:40-15:55 **Felix Dvinger** *TSE & IAST*
War against Democracy: Identities,
Democratization, and International Conflict.
- 15:55-16:40 **Andreas Flache** *University of Groningen*
The Opinion Dynamics of Affective Polarization.
Discussant: Marion Hoffman TSE & IAST, UZH
- 16:40-17:00 *Break*
- 17:00-17:45 **Roundtable I**
Frontiers in Identity and Politics.
Moderator: Kristin Michelitch TSE & IAST
*Panelists: Aleksandra Cichocka University of
Kent*
Mina Cikara Harvard
*Andreas Flache University of
Groningen*
Matthias vom Hau IBEI
- 19:30 *Dinner (Invitation Only)*
[Le Bon Vivre](#) 15bis Place du Président Thomas
Wilson

THURSDAY MAY 16

09:00–09:30 *Coffee*

Endogenous Identity Formation

09:30–10:15 **Guido Tabellini** *Bocconi*

Identity Politics.

Discussant: Felix Dwingler TSE & IAST

10:15–10:30 **Violeta Haas** *Humboldt University of Berlin*

The Electoral Effects of State-Sponsored Homophobia.

10:30–10:50 *Coffee + snacks*

10:50–11:35 **Alexandra Scacco** *WZB*

Intergroup Contact, Empathy Education, and Native-Refugee Relations in Lebanon

Discussant: Giacomo Lemoli TSE & IAST

11:35–12:20 **Andreas Kotsadam** *University of Oslo*

Is Support for Authoritarian Rule Contagious? Evidence from Field and Survey Experiments.

Discussant: Enrique Seira Bejarano MSU

12:20–13:50 *Lunch*

Beliefs & Misbeliefs about Others

13:50–14:35 **Lauren Young** *UC Davis*

Repression and Dissent in Moments of Uncertainty: Panel Data Evidence from Zimbabwe.

Discussant: Ahmed Mohamed TSE & IAST

- 14:35-15:20 **Matthew Levendusky** *UPenn*
Our Common Bonds: Using What American Share to Help Bridge the Partisan Divide.
Discussant: Marijn Keijzer TSE & IAST
- 15:20-15:40 *Coffee + snacks*
- 15:40-15:55 **Giacomo Lemoli** *TSE & IAST*
Moral Evaluations of Leaders' Ethnic vs Partisan Favoritism: Evidence from Kenya.
- 15:55-16:40 **Mina Cikara** *Harvard*
Meta-Perceptions as a Psychological Security Dilemma.
Discussant: Jean-François Bonnefon TSE & IAST
- 16:40-17:00 *Break*
- 17:00-17:45 **Roundtable II**
From Theory to Practice.
Moderator: Kristin Michelitch TSE & IAST
Panelists: Matthew Levendusky UPenn
Sabina Čehajić-Clancy Stockholm University
Andreas Kotsadam University of Oslo
Paul Smaldino UC Merced
- 19:30 *Dinner (Invitation Only)*
[Aux Pieds sous la Table](#) 4 Rue Arnaud Bernard

ABSTRACTS



Mina Cikara **Meta-Perceptions as a Psychological Security Dilemma**

By many accounts politics is becoming more polarized, potentially contributing to dire consequences for democracy and trust in government. Yet a growing body of research on so-called false polarization finds that perceptions of ‘what the other side believes’ are inaccurate—specifically, overly pessimistic—and that these inaccuracies exacerbate intergroup conflict. This talk documents the incidence of these misperceptions, one strategy for correction, and the limitations of what these corrections can reasonably achieve.

Aleksandra Cichocka **Collective Narcissism Undermines Social Cohesion**

Social psychological approaches typically highlight benefits of ingroup identification. We argue that these benefits might depend on the way people identify with their group. We differentiate positive forms of ingroup identification from collective narcissism - a belief that one’s group is exceptional and deserves privileged treatment. While there is extensive evidence linking collective narcissism to intergroup hostility and political extremism, recent work investigates its role in intragroup relations. I will review studies conducted in the context of national, ethnic, and partisan identities, which examined collective narcissism (versus ingroup identification) as predictors of ingroup loyalty, solidarity, and treatment of ingroup members. We find that those high in collective narcissism express attitudes and support policies that prioritise the image of the ingroup over the well-being of its members. These findings suggest that collective narcissism undermines not only intergroup but also intragroup relations, challenging the notion that ingroup love always benefits the group.

Andreas Flache Effects and Emergence of Affective Polarization: Linking Agent-Based Models to Empirical Data

Affective polarization, a process in which different groups develop increasingly negative attitudes about each other, can be both a cause of opinion polarization and a consequence of the very social influence dynamics through which opinion polarization arises. In this paper, I present computational agent-based models of how differences between societies in affective polarization affect opinion dynamics on salient societal issues, and models of how affective polarization emerges from fundamental processes of social interaction in a diverse society.

Next, I demonstrate some results of recent efforts to identify and empirically test crucial assumptions and implications of these models, demonstrating different complementary approaches. This includes on off- and online experiments testing critical micro-level assumptions of social influence models, work using stochastic-actor oriented models of the co-evolution of intergroup attitudes and social network relations in multiethnic school classes, and work assessing which of a range of competing theoretical models of how intergroup-attitudes affect social influence processes at the micro-level can best match observed variation in macro-level opinion polarization between countries in Covid-19 related issues.

Andreas Kotsadam Is Support for Authoritarian Rule Contagious? Evidence from Field and Survey Experiments

Why are some individuals in democracies open to more authoritarian rule? We propose that a social environment shapes authoritarian orientations. We assess the role of social influence on support for leaders with authoritarian tendencies in pre-registered field and survey experiments in the Norwegian Armed Forces. The field experiment randomly assigned soldiers to different rooms during boot camp, so soldiers lived among peers with varying levels of openness to authoritarian rule. We found that many individuals changed their own privately reported authoritarian orientations in line with their peers. Further survey-experimental evidence among soldiers and the general Norwegian population confirms, in controlled settings, that learning about others' level of support for authoritarian rule changed both perceptions about the preferences of others' and their own attitudes. Our results suggest that support for authoritarian rule can have a social basis, which implies that authoritarianism could spread through social contagion in established democracies.

Guido Tabellini Identity Politics

We offer a theory of changing dimensions of political polarization based on endogenous social identity. We formalize voter identity and stereotyped beliefs as in Bonomi et al. (2021), but add parties that compete on policy and also spread or conceal group stereotypes to persuade voters. Parties are historically connected to different social groups, whose members are more receptive to the ingroup party messages. An endogenous switch from class to cultural identity accounts for three major observed changes: i) growing conflict over cultural issues between voters and between parties, ii) dampening of political conflict over redistribution, despite rising inequality, and iii) a realignment of lower class voters from the left to the right. The incentive of parties to spread stereotypes is a key driver of identity-based polarization. Using survey data and congressional speeches we show that – consistent with our model – there is evidence of i) and ii) also in the voting realignment induced by the “China Shock” (Autor et al. 2020).

Matthew Levendusky Our Common Bonds: Using What Americans Share to Help Bridge the Partisan Divide

Americans today seem to be more divided than ever before. It is not simply that they disagree on abortion, gun control, and other issues, but they increasingly dislike and distrust those from the other political party, a phenomenon known as affective polarization, which has numerous damaging effects. Can we ameliorate this animus and lower the temperature of our politics? I argue that we can, and this book outlines a set of strategies to accomplish this goal. Affective polarization stems, in part, from the significant misperceptions partisans hold about those from the other political party. I argue that by correcting these misperceptions—especially about how much Democrats and Republicans actually have in common—animus will abate. To do that, I highlight the common bonds that Democrats and Republicans share across the partisan divide. In particular, this book focuses on three such techniques: a set of shared identities, a set of cross-party friendships, and a set of shared issue positions and values identified through civil cross-party dialogue. Using a variety of different survey and experimental evidence, I show that each of these strategies works to lessen affective polarization. I also show that there are downstream consequences of reducing partisan animosity, including lessening ideological polarization. The book concludes by discussing what these findings mean both for political science theory, as well as for real-world efforts to reduce partisan hostilities.

Matthias vom Hau The Information Capacity of States, Ethnic Diversity, and Social Development

A growing body of work has started to endogenize ethnic heterogeneity by focusing on the identity-shaping role of states. Combining cross-national statistical analysis and in-depth historical case studies of Argentina, this paper draws on the recent “informational turn” in the study of the state to identify the specific channels by which state capacity affects ethnic diversity. We show that when states were able to gather and analyze accurate information about their populations, they were more effective in eradicating ethnic minorities and/or socializing them into the dominant national identity, resulting in less diversity over time. In advancing this argument we accumulate more evidence against the diversity-deficit hypothesis, by focusing on a so far unexplored channel through which informational capacity shapes diversity and social development. We also show which variants of ethnic heterogeneity (i.e., ethnoracial and ethnolinguistic diversity) are more likely and which ones (i.e., ethnoreligious diversity) less likely to be affected by informational capacity.

Paul Smaldino The Evolution of Parochial Social Learning

Humans often learn preferentially from ingroup members who share a social identity affiliation, while ignoring or rejecting information when it comes from someone perceived to be from an outgroup. This sort of bias has well-known negative consequences---exacerbating cultural divides, polarization, and conflict---while reducing the information available to learners. Why does it persist? Using evolutionary simulations, we demonstrate that similarity-biased social learning (also called parochial social learning) is adaptive when (1) individual learning is error-prone and (2) sufficient diversity inhibits the efficacy of social learning that ignores identity signals, as long as (3) those signals are sufficiently reliable indicators of adaptive behavior. We further show that our results are robust to considerations of other social learning strategies, focusing on conformist and payoff-biased transmission. We conclude by discussing the consequences of our analyses for understanding diversity in the modern world.

Sabina Čelhajić-Clancy Interventions for Improving Intergroup Relations in Contexts of Conflict

The recent surge in intergroup conflicts around the globe emphasizes the importance of finding ways to improve relations between adversary groups and in that way ensure effective conflict resolution and prevention. By following these societal demands, social psychologists have recently shifted their focus from descriptive to more interventionist goals by developing evidence-based intergroup interventions aimed at addressing social-psychological barriers to improved intergroup relations. In this presentation, I will discuss effectiveness and limitations of established intergroup interventions designed to address critical psychological barriers such as high importance of ethno-national identities coupled with negative perceptions and emotions felt towards adversary groups. I will share empirical evidence from various conflict settings, highlighting the effectiveness (and limitation) of intergroup helping, self-affirmation and moral exemplar interventions.

Carl Müller-Crepon Bound together: How Political Units and Ethnic Groups Shape Each Other

Political units such as states or regions and ethnic groups are constitutive features of modern political systems and shape many social and economic processes. Instead of taking both for granted, I draw on recent and ongoing research to explore the bidirectional causal relationship through which both shape each other. Exhibiting fractal characteristics, the mutual shaping of political units and ethnic groups works at multiple levels of administrative hierarchy, at the state, as well as sub-state levels. Drawing on data from Europe over the past 150 years, I will show how the geography of ethno-linguistic groups shaped states, which in turn (violently) homogenized their populations. At the subnational level, I observe parallel processes of unit formation and changing ethnic geography in Sub-Saharan Africa since the early 20th century. The talk finally highlights theoretical and empirical implications of the endogenous formation of political units and ethnic groups.

Alexandra Scacco Intergroup Contact, Empathy Education, and Native-Refugee Relations in Lebanon

Can intergroup contact improve native-refugee relations? Are any positive effects of contact amplified when combined with empathy-building education? We address these questions using a large-scale field experiment that brings together 1000 Syrian refugee and native Lebanese teenagers for several months of psycho-social support (PSS) programming in Lebanon, where refugees make up 25% of the population. In a two by two design, we randomly assign participants to a heterogeneous (mixed Syrian-Lebanese) or homogenous (all Lebanese or all Syrian) PSS classroom, and to a curriculum that emphasizes empathy and conflict management or a curriculum that emphasizes health and nutrition. This design allows us to assess the independent and joint effects of contact and programming that explicitly promotes intergroup empathy and cooperation. We ask whether contact and empathy-oriented educational programming of this form independently or jointly reduce prejudiced attitudes, increase empathy, and shift norms and behavior toward outgroup members.

Lauren E. Young Repression and Dissent in Moments of Uncertainty: Panel Data Evidence from Zimbabwe

State repression and protest are common in modern authoritarian and hybrid regimes, yet individual responses to these events are not well understood. This article draws on unique panel data from the months spanning Zimbabwe's 2018 election, which we view as a moment of uncertainty for most Zimbabwean citizens. Using a difference-in-difference estimator, we assess change in individual protest intentions following exposure to repression and dissent, and we assess three individual-level mechanisms hypothesized to drive responses. We find evidence that exposure to local repression and dissent are mobilizing among opposition supporters and non-partisans. Analysis of potential mechanisms suggest that the effects of exposure to dissent may be driven by information updating, while relational and emotional mechanisms seem to drive backlash against repression, despite increased perceptions of risk. We find no evidence of counter-mobilization by ruling party supporters, and little effect of exposure to contentious events over social media.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Assenza	Tiziana	TSE/IAST
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