

Segregation & Tolerance: Issues of Integration & Engagement

Ade Kearns & Jon Bannister
University of Glasgow, UK

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?"