**2020 Winter Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Feeling pressured to perform: Interacting with people when you fear prejudice** |
| **Positions available:** | **2** |
| **Project duration:** | * *Please insert number of expected hours per week (minimum 20, max 36)* * 20 hours x 5 weeks |
| **Description:** | Note – this is a collaborative project conducted as part of a larger team.  Social psychologists have long suggested a simple solution to racism: interracial contact. Hundreds of studies show that for majority group members, positive contact with members of different minority groups improves attitudes towards them (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006). **The bulk of the literature, however, has overlooked how interracial interactions might be experienced by, and affect, minority group members** (for commentary see Dixon, Durrheim, & Tredoux, 2005; Tropp & Pettigrew, 2005). For contact to be a viable anti-racism intervention, it must also be beneficial, or at least benign, for minority group members. We suggest that minority group members are keenly aware that the contact they have with majority group members will impact how their entire group is seen. **In the current proposal we test the novel proposition that** because of this, intergroup contact is sometimes *not* benign, and instead **the pressure to curate positive contact experiences for majority group members can lead to minority burnout, exhaustion, and self-segregation**. We aim to:  (1) build on the nascent literature on minority perspectives of contact;  (2) document the personal, social, and societal impact of feeling pressured to “perform” positive contact  (3) tie together contact, social identity, emotional labour, and acculturation perspectives to understand when and why contact benefits vs damages minority group well-being |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Students will work on a literature review and ethics application, and ideally have the opportunity to collect data. A literature review and oral presentation will also be expected. |
| **Suitable for:** | Someone with a keen interest in racism/prejudice research. Someone who is interested in learning how to do literature reviews, and is open for a challenge.  Ideally someone in 2-3rd year, as stats skills will be needed. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Associate Professor Fiona Barlow |
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