What can we learn from previous theory, research and practice on segregation and integration in Northern Ireland?

Tuesday 25 October
Contact Theory (Allport, 1954)

- Contact between members of different groups can, under certain conditions, reduce prejudice
  - Equal status
  - Pursuit of shared goals
  - Cooperation
  - Institutional support/authority sanction

- Key processes: friendship potential, reducing negative affect (e.g., intergroup anxiety), inducing positive affect (e.g., empathy and perspective taking)

- The contact hypothesis has been tested and verified (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006)
Intergenerational Contact

• A direct form of contact between members of differing age groups

• Research suggests that children experiencing regular, sustained contact with older adults express more positive attitudes towards older adults (e.g., Allan & Johnson, 2009; Caspi, 1984; Meshel & McGlynn, 2004)
  – They key is **quality** not quantity (e.g., Bousfield & Hutchison, 2010; Hutchison et al., 2010; Schwartz & Simmons, 2001)
Transgenerational Contact

- Builds upon *extended contact*, an indirect form of contact in which contact experienced by a close other effects the self
- Explores how the contact experienced by the child or young person influences the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours of the parent/caregiver
References


