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THE IMPACT OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT FRIENDSHIPS ON INTERGROUP RELATIONS

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNITY COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY.

Declarations

I declare that this dissertation is my own unaided work. It is being submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Masters in Community Counselling Psychology, at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted for any degree or examination in any other University.

_____ _____

Tsholofelo Cecilia Maano Date

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Abstract

The extended contact hypothesis was tested using a questionnaire completed by 229 first year Psychology students. This theory posits that an individual's awareness that an in-group member has an outgroup friend can increase positive evaluation of the out-group, thus reducing prejudice (Wright et. al., 1997). The results show that the greater the amount of contact one has with members of the out-group the lower the prejudice, social distance, and intergroup anxiety. Secondly, they show that when one has more direct friends of the out-group the lower the prejudice, social distance and intergroup anxiety. Similarly, the more extended friends one has of the out-group the lower the prejudice, social distance, and intergroup anxiety.

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