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Location: Online / Zoom

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Time and Date: 14. June 2023 14:00

Title:

Power balance or threat: ethnic diversity in schools and adolescents' socialemotional adjustment

Abstract:

Different and seemingly incompatible theoretical assumptions exist about the relationship between ethnic diversity in school and indicators of social-emotional adjustment (positive peer relations vs. victimization). For example, the balance-of-power thesis (Juvonen et al., 2006) proposes that social dynamics in schools are more positive when there are multiple numerically balanced ethnic groups in a context. In contrast, ethnic competition theory (Scheepers et al., 2002) proposes that members of the ethnic majority feel threatened by increased diversity, leading to increased competition and poorer relationships. This paper proposes that the two perspectives are in fact compatible because they relate to different diversity contexts. It also sheds light on the extent to which teachers' support behaviors have a moderating role. The data basis is the CILS4EU study (n students = 18,716; n classes = 958).