

A Longitudinal Analysis of The Effect of Intergroup Contact In A Peace Dialogue Program

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In Conjunction with

Seeds of Peace 

The logo for Seeds of Peace, featuring three stylized human figures in green, standing on a green branch with leaves.

The Seeds of Peace Model



- One of the largest peace dialogue programs
- Teenagers from conflict regions in the Middle East and South Asia
- Annual 3-week summer camp held in Maine (USA)
 - Neutral-setting intervention

Research Questions

- Can contact between groups (Israelis and Palestinians) longitudinally predict attitude change toward the other side of the conflict?
 - Tests “Intergroup Contact Theory” among antagonistic groups
- Will any attitudinal changes created during camp remain after participants return to their respective countries within the conflict region?
 - Addresses the “Re-Entry Problem”

Measuring The Effect of Camp

1. Pre-Camp survey
2. Post-Camp survey
3. Follow-up survey (6-9 months after camp)

5 years of data collection (2010-2014).

Sample questions from surveys

1. Measure of “friendship” with the outgroup:

“Think of the people at camp to whom you feel most close. To make sure you are thinking of specific people, please list their initials below. ... You can list people in any delegation. After you list them, indicate which delegation each person is part of by checking the appropriate box.”

2. Positive attitudes toward the outgroup:

Validated psychological measures such as –

How do you feel about people from the other side of your conflict? (1=Very negative; 7=Very positive)

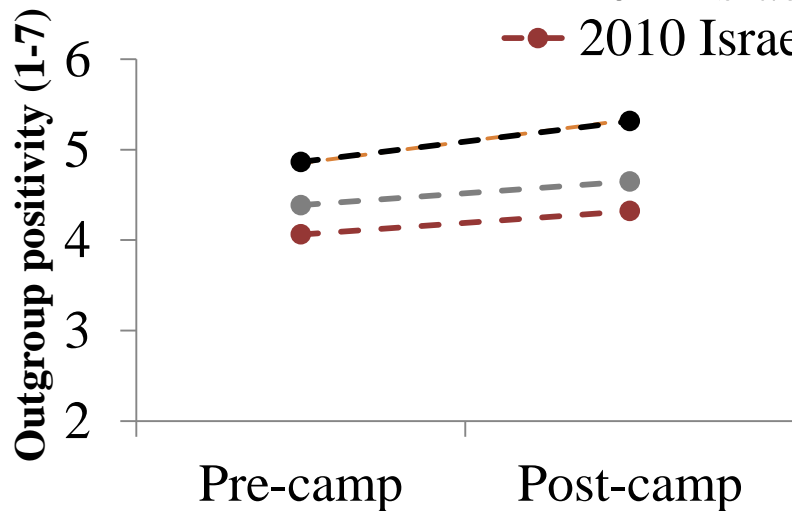
Results

Does attending camp improve attitudes toward outgroup?

- Yes (in all 4 years, 2010-2013).

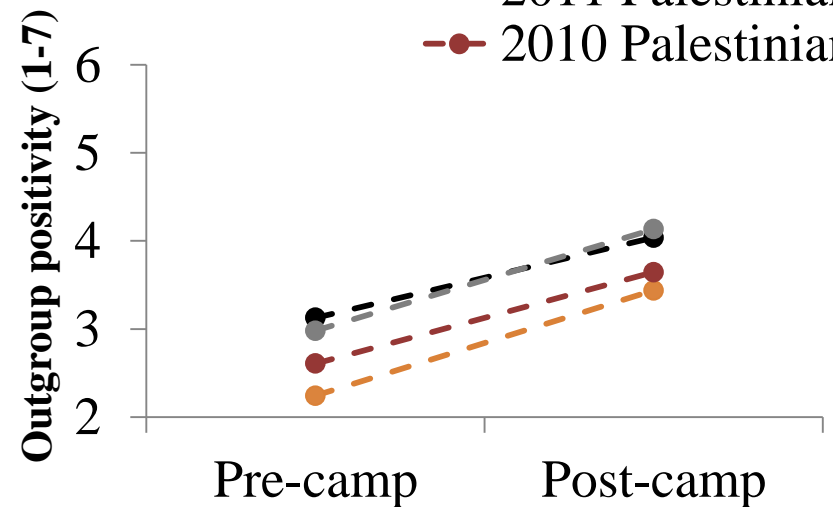
Positivity Israelis

- o- 2013 Israeli
- 2012 Israeli
- 2011 Israeli
- 2010 Israeli



Positivity Palestinians

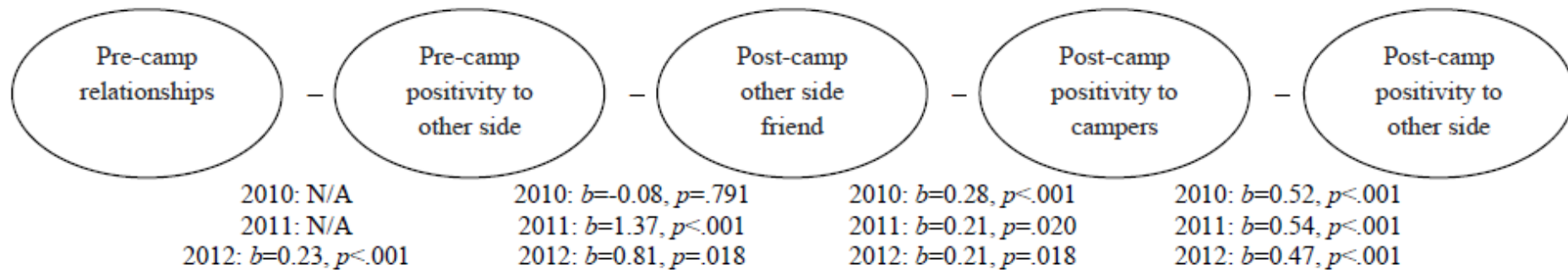
- o- 2013 Palestinian
- 2012 Palestinian
- 2011 Palestinian
- 2010 Palestinian



Results

Does making contact with an outgroup member predict attitude change?

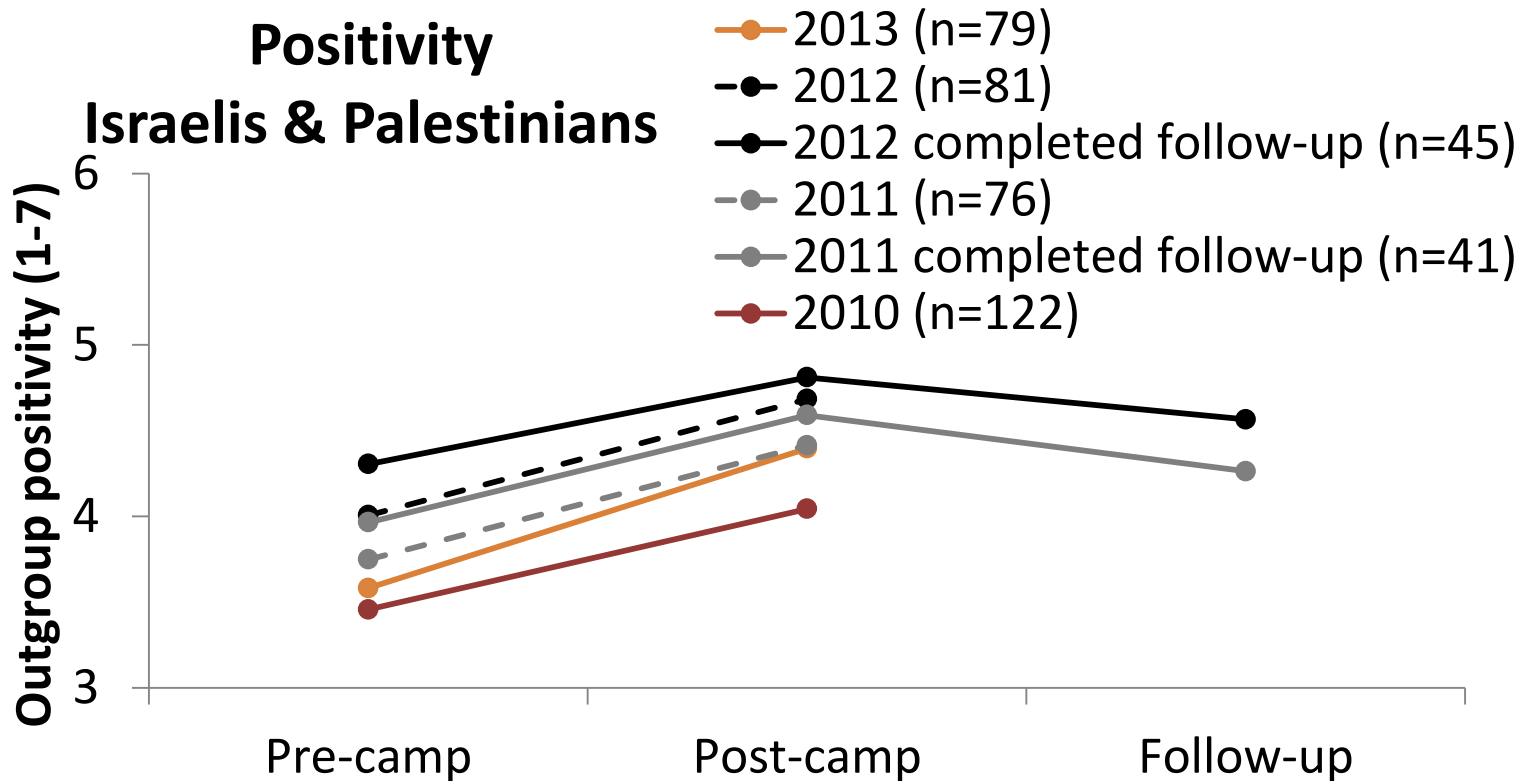
- Yes (in all years we measured this, 2010-2012).



Results

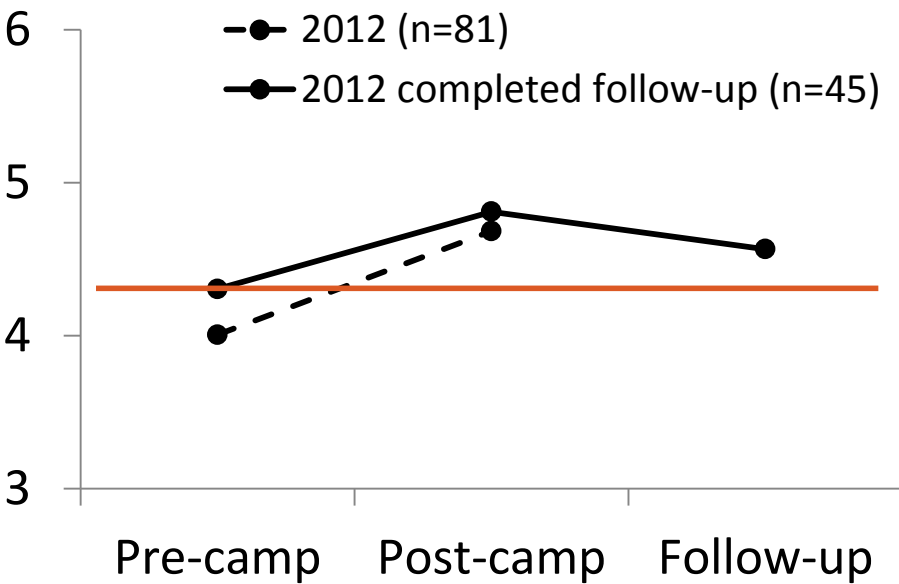
Does the attitude change fade after re-entry?

- Somewhat – but residual positivity remains (in 2011 & 2012).

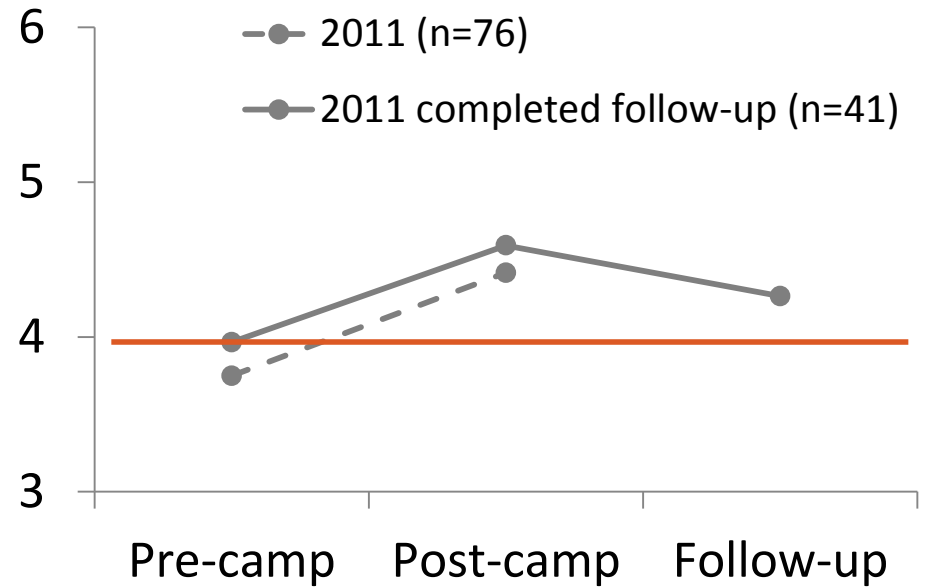


Results

**2012 Positivity
Israelis & Palestinians**



**2011 Positivity
Israelis & Palestinians**



Summary of Findings

- Dramatic & consistent changes in outgroup attitudes from pre-camp to post-camp in support of Intergroup Contact Theory.
- Attitudes toward outgroup campers generalized to all members of the outgroup and outgroup friendships predicted attitude change at camp.
- Re-entry causes attitude erosion but some positivity still remains.

Future Directions

- Network analysis
- Comparison groups:
 - Applicants & national samples
- Interventions to promote friendship formation
- Spread of attitude change
 - Siblings

Thank You

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