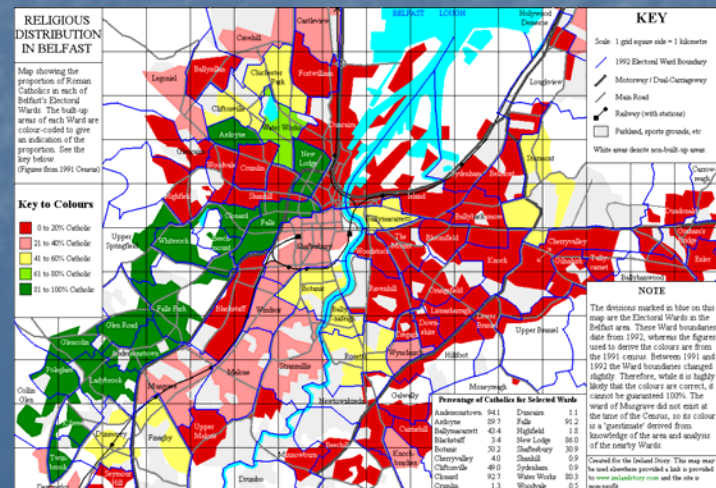




Living apart, living together: How inter-group contact can underpin integration

Miles Hewstone, *University of Oxford*

'The World in Our Neighbourhoods' -- Haringey, December 11, 2006



Outline

- Effects of mixed neighbourhoods
- The idea of inter-group contact
- Effects of direct contact
- Effects of indirect contact
- Conclusions

Impact of Group Proportions vs Real Inter-Contact on Attitudes

- What is 'neighborhood contact'?
 - Mere presence/proportion of out-group?
 - Actual *contact* with its members?
- Do these different measures have different effects?

Threat or opportunity for contact?

Threat Theory



Contact Hypothesis



'The Idea of Inter-group Contact'

(Allport, 1954)

Positive contact with a member of another group (often a negatively stereotyped group) can improve negative attitudes:

- not only towards the specific member,
- but also towards the group as a whole

Key questions:

- *How* -- by what processes -- does contact work?
- *When* is contact most strongly related to attitudes?
- How to ensure that positive effects of contact generalize from a specific member to the group as a whole ?

Key Dimensions of Contact

- Equal status
 - Stereotypes are disconfirmed
 - Cooperation
 - Situation allows participants to get to know each other properly
 - Norms support equality
-
- Cross-group friendships
 - Extended/indirect contact

How Does Contact Work?

- Most effectively by changing how we *feel* about the other group, and its members
- **Reducing** negative feelings
 - Intergroup anxiety
 - Negative intergroup emotions
- **Promoting** positive feelings
 - Encouraging empathy + perspective taking
 - Promoting mutual sharing of personal information
 - Positive intergroup emotions

When Does Contact Work?

- Contact is most effective when we do *not* lose sight of each other's group memberships
- This means seeing the member of the other group as somewhat *typical*
- And being *aware* of group memberships during contact

Why look at Cross-group Friendship?

- To reduce prejudice, contact should involve
 - Close interaction
 - Exchange of intimate information
 - Extensive and repeated contact
 - These are all associated with friendship
- Friendship automatically meets many of the conditions which optimise intergroup contact:
 - common goals, co-operation, equal status

No direct effect

Mixed
Neighborhood

Intergroup
Friends

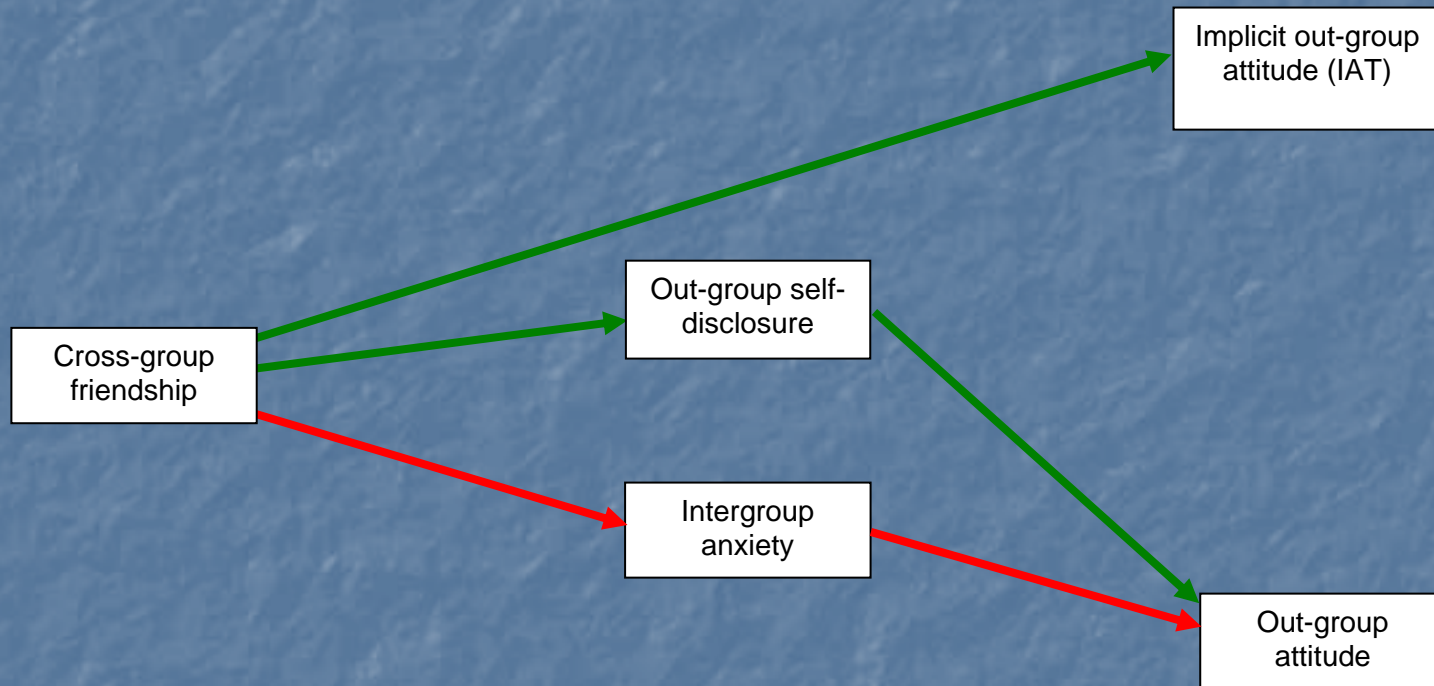
Prejudice

From Neighbourhoods to Friends to Reduced
Prejudice

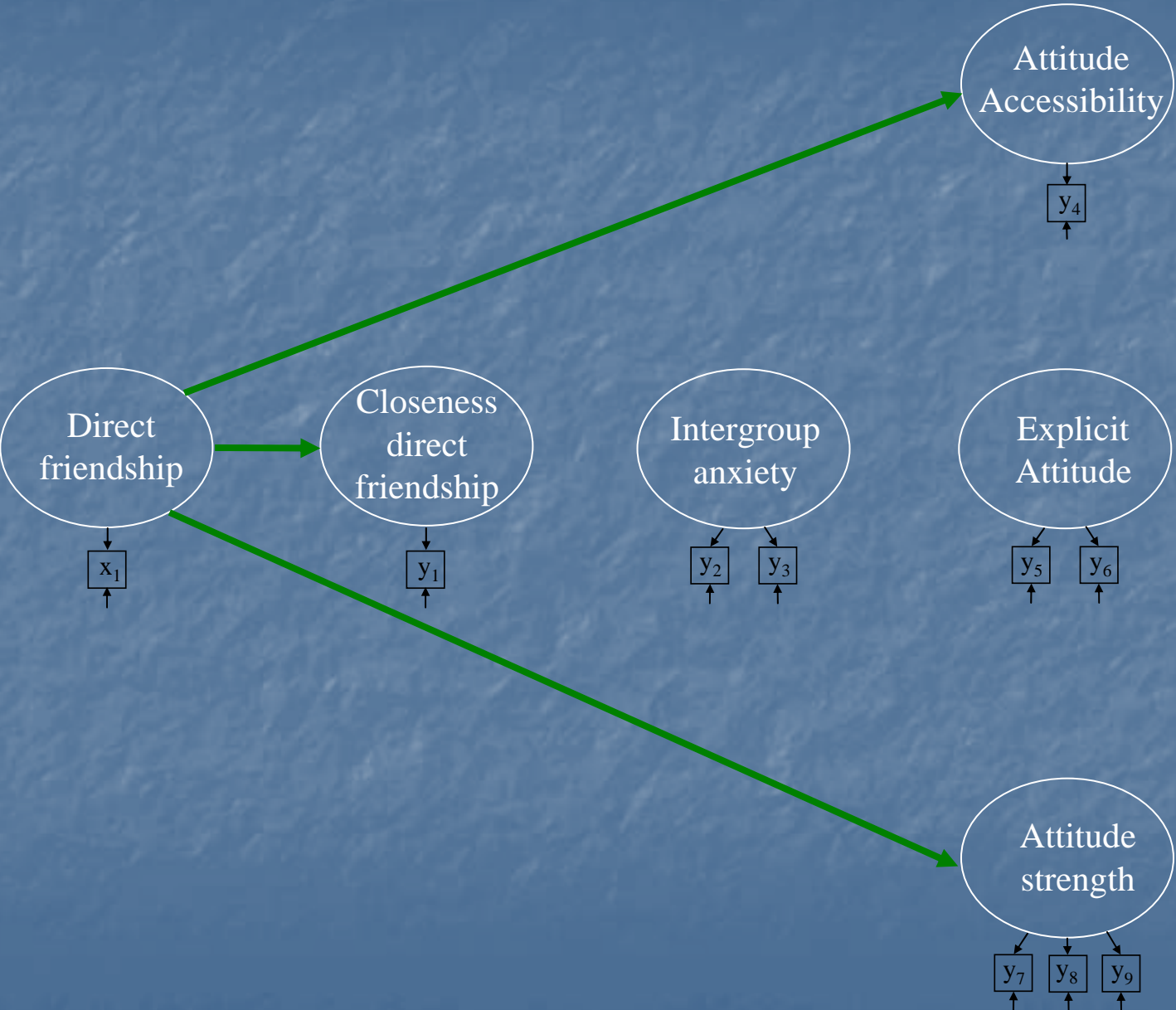


From Neighbourhoods to Friends to Reduced Prejudice

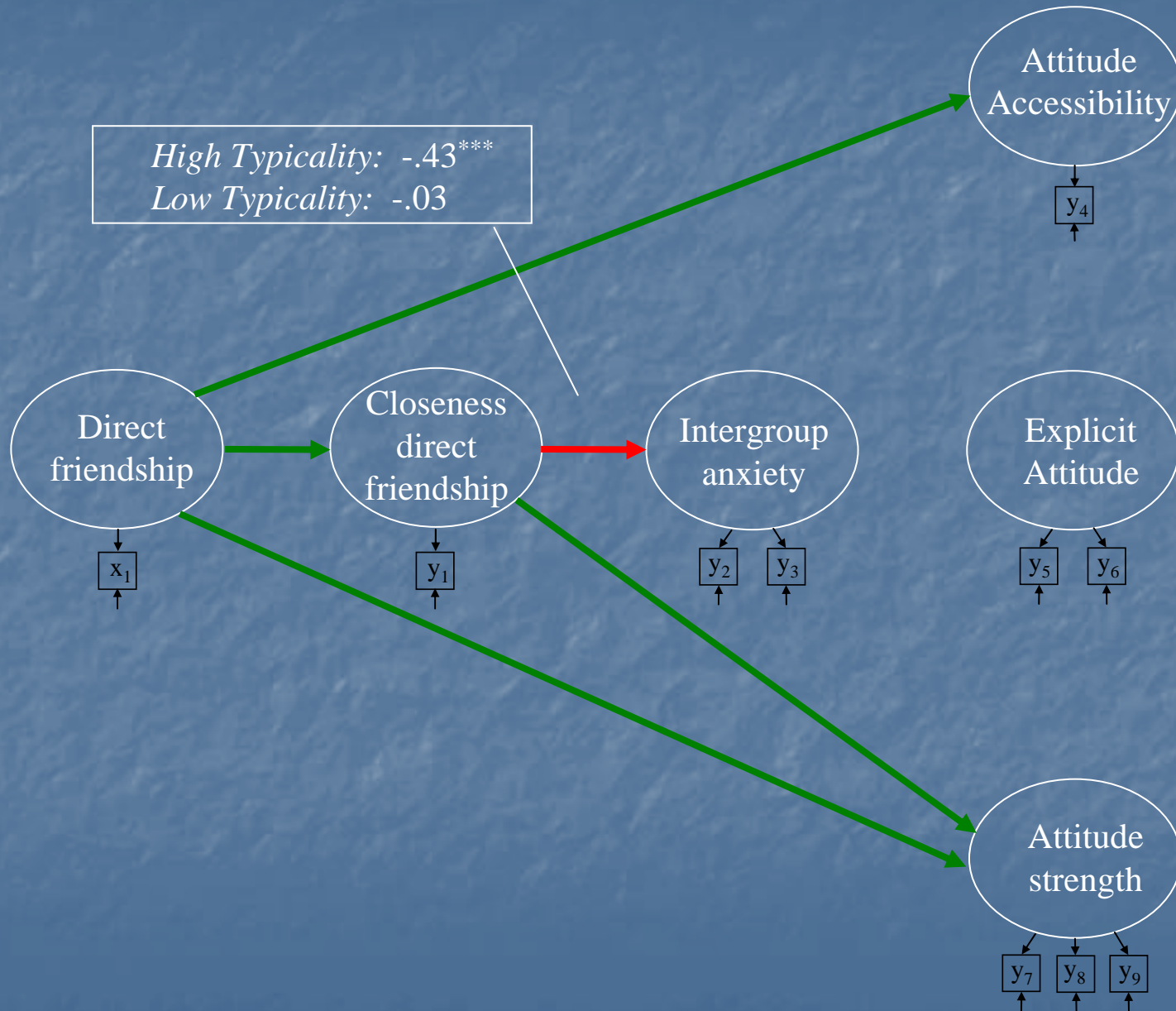
Impact of White Children's Cross-Group Friendships on Attitudes to Asians



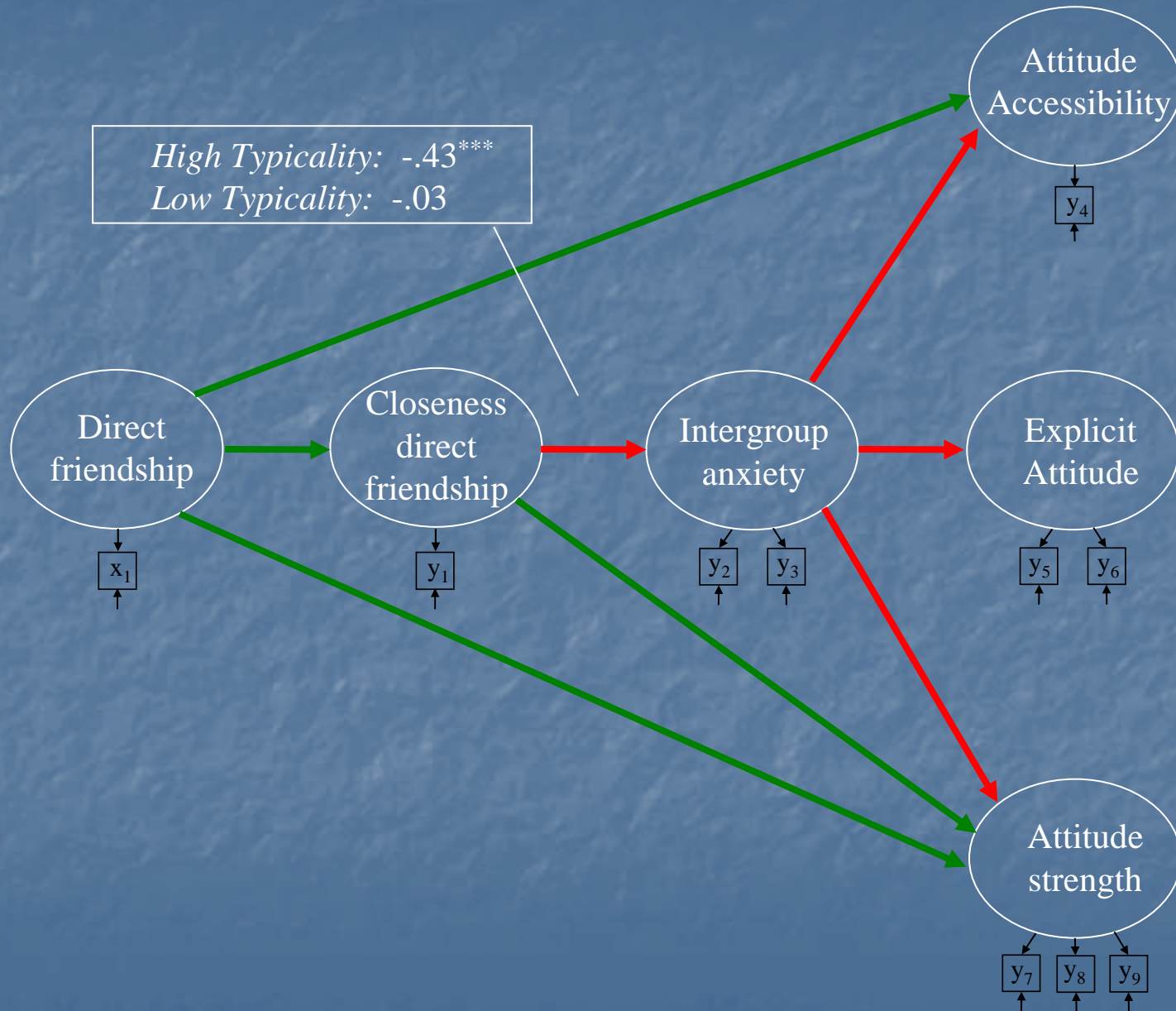
Straight people's attitudes towards Gays



Straight people's attitudes towards Gays



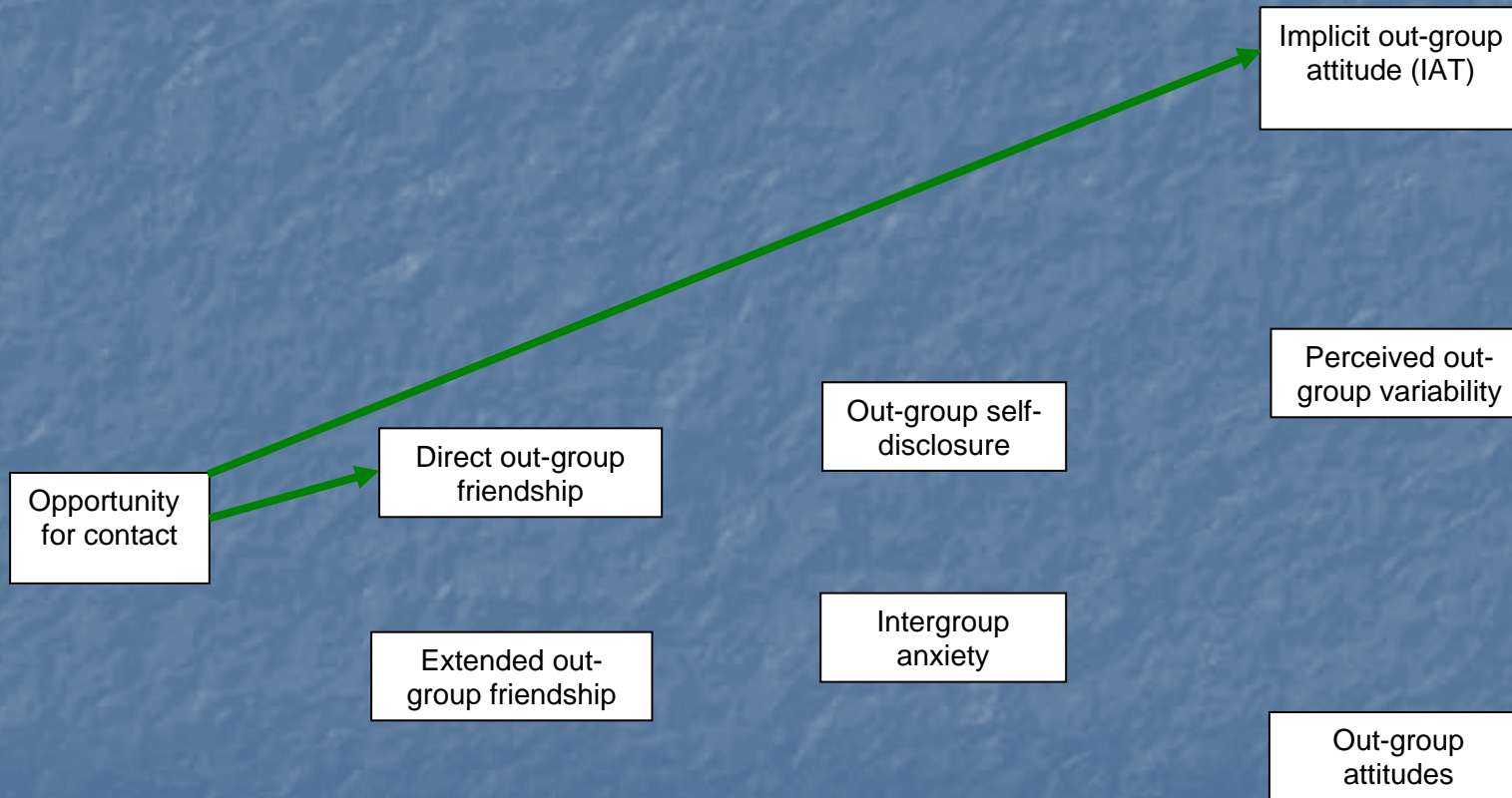
Straight people's attitudes towards Gays



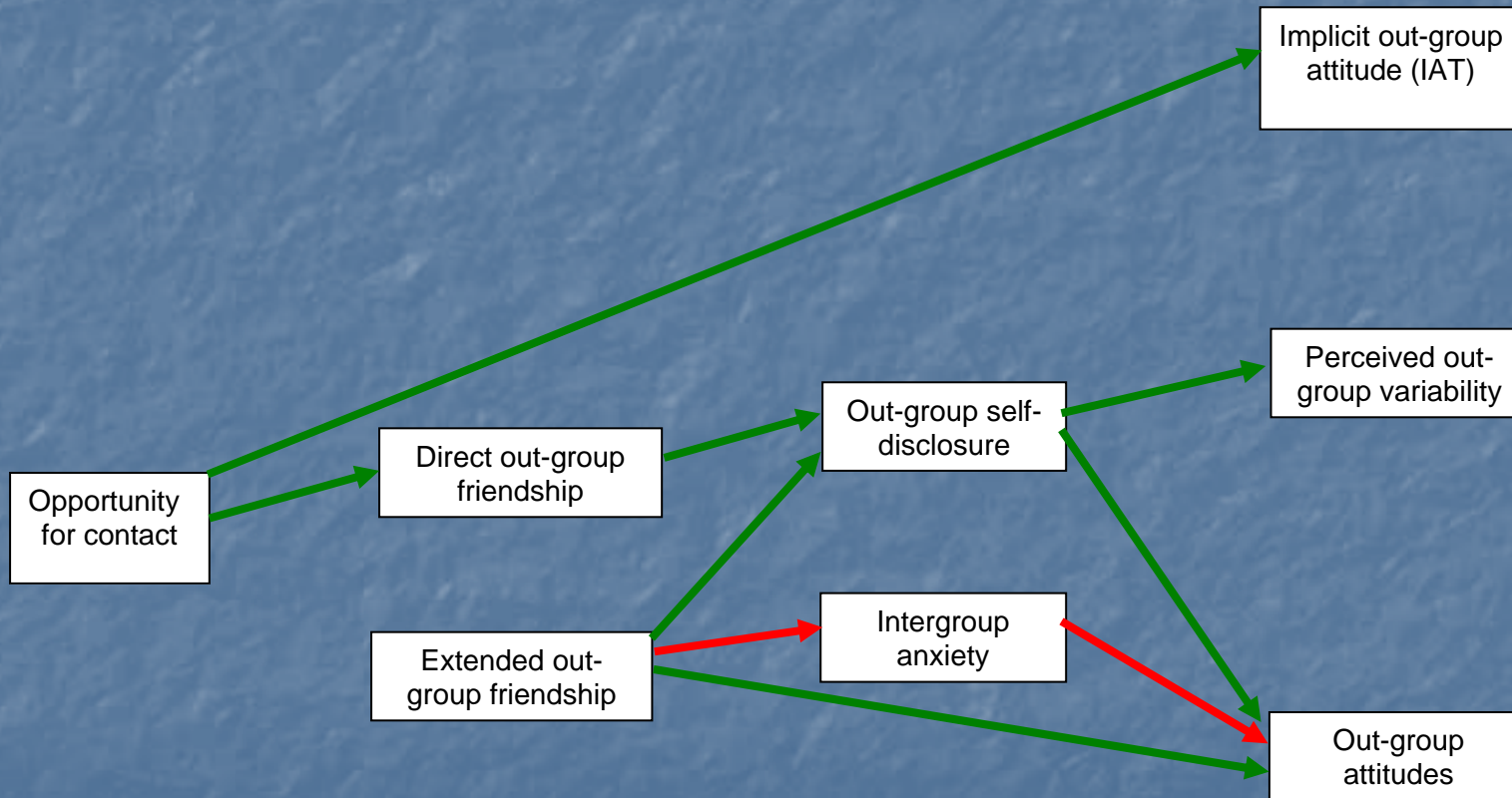
Some of my best friends have friends who are . . .

- **'Indirect' or 'extended' Cross-group Friendship**
 - Just *knowing* other people your group who have out-group friends might improve attitudes to the out-group
- **4 key advantages of extended contact:**
 - Provides for large-scale optimal contact
 - Best use of cross-group friendships
 - Group memberships are clearer for observers vs participants
 - Less likely to lead to intergroup anxiety

Effects of Direct and Indirect Contact on White and Asian Young People's Attitudes towards Each Other (Bradford)



Effects of Direct and Indirect Contact on White and Asian Young People's Attitudes towards Each Other (Bradford)





Extended Contact does **not** Rely on Mixed Neighbourhoods

Does Contact Help to Reduce Prejudice?

A Conclusive Answer

- Review of more than 500 studies
- Highly significant negative relationship between contact and prejudice
- The more rigorous the research, the larger the effect
- Effects occur across a variety of outgroup targets and contact settings.
- For intergroup contact to increase prejudice, there must be directly negative factors operating in the situation
 - Such as high anxiety and threat.

Conclusions

- Meaningful contact is *crucial* for integration
- Just living together is *not* enough
- Contact works by changing how we *feel* about out-groups
- But categories should remain *clear* during contact
- Contact can work both *directly* and *indirectly*
- It *does* work!