

# A Summary of Research Findings on the Effects of Intergroup Contact

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# **Meta–Analysis of Intergroup Contact Effects**

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- **Quantitative integration of research studies testing intergroup contact effects**
  - Total of 515 studies (713 independent samples)
  - Studies conducted between 1940s and 2000
  - Data from 250,089 study participants
- **Research conducted in diverse contexts**
  - Contact studies from 38 different countries
  - Participants from different ages, groups, settings
  - Studies gathered from multiple disciplines  
(e.g., psychology, sociology, political science, education, social work)

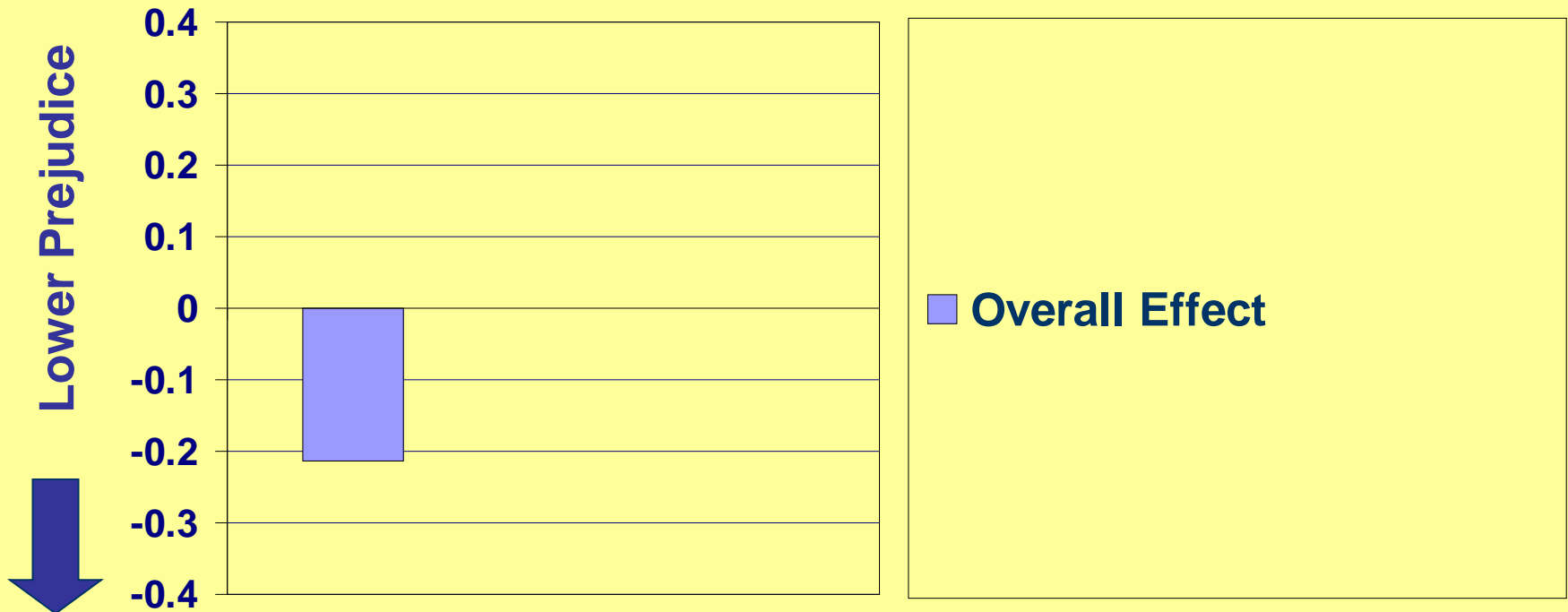
# Does Intergroup Contact Reduce Prejudice?

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Answer: YES

Greater intergroup contact is typically associated with lower intergroup prejudice

(mean correlation coefficient,  $r = -.21$ )

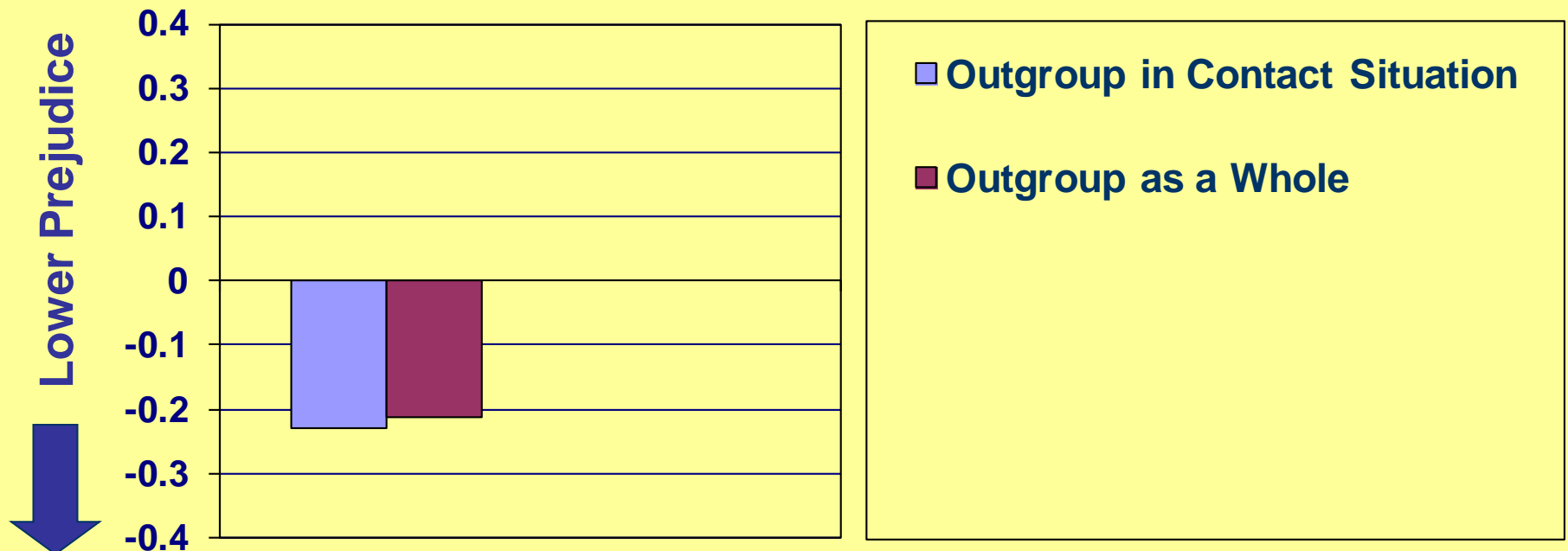


# Does Level of Generalization Matter?

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**Answer: Not Really**

**Contact typically reduces prejudice regardless of whether assessed in relation to outgroup members in contact situation, or outgroup as a whole (beyond contact situation)**

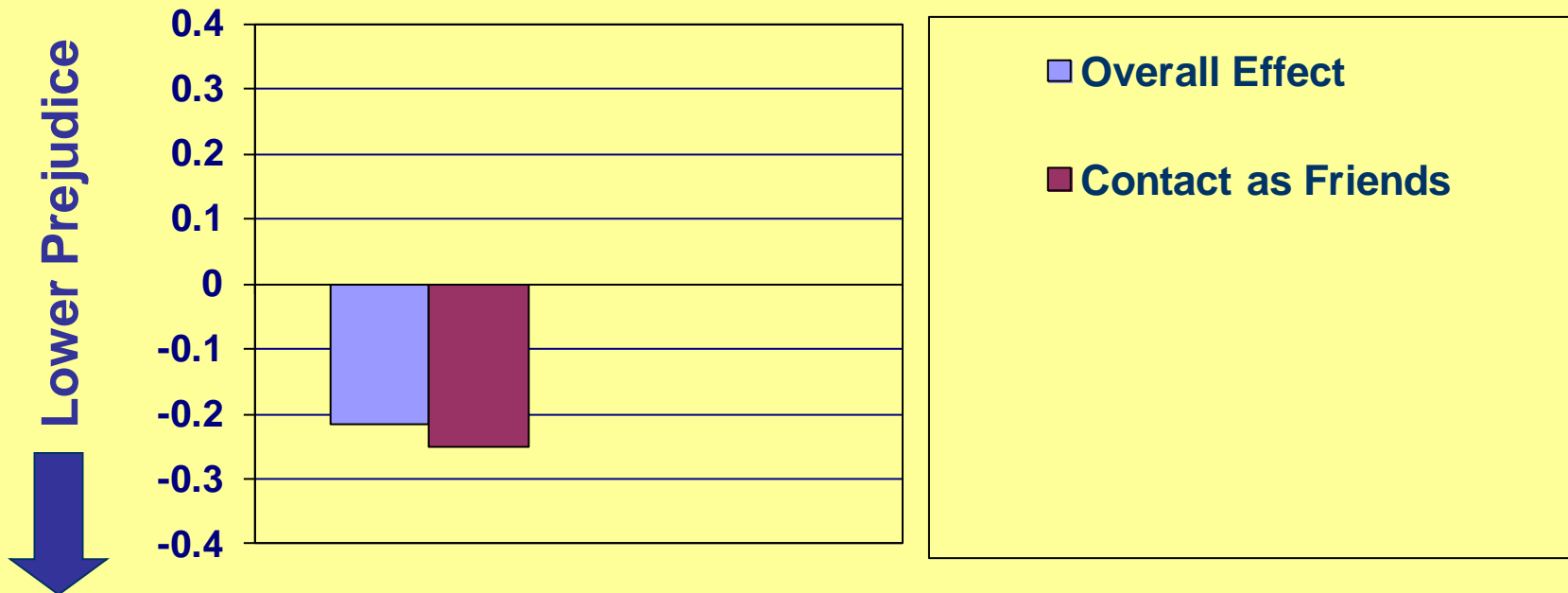


*(Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006; 2011)*

# Does Type of Contact Matter?

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Answer: YES, contact as friends shows stronger effects

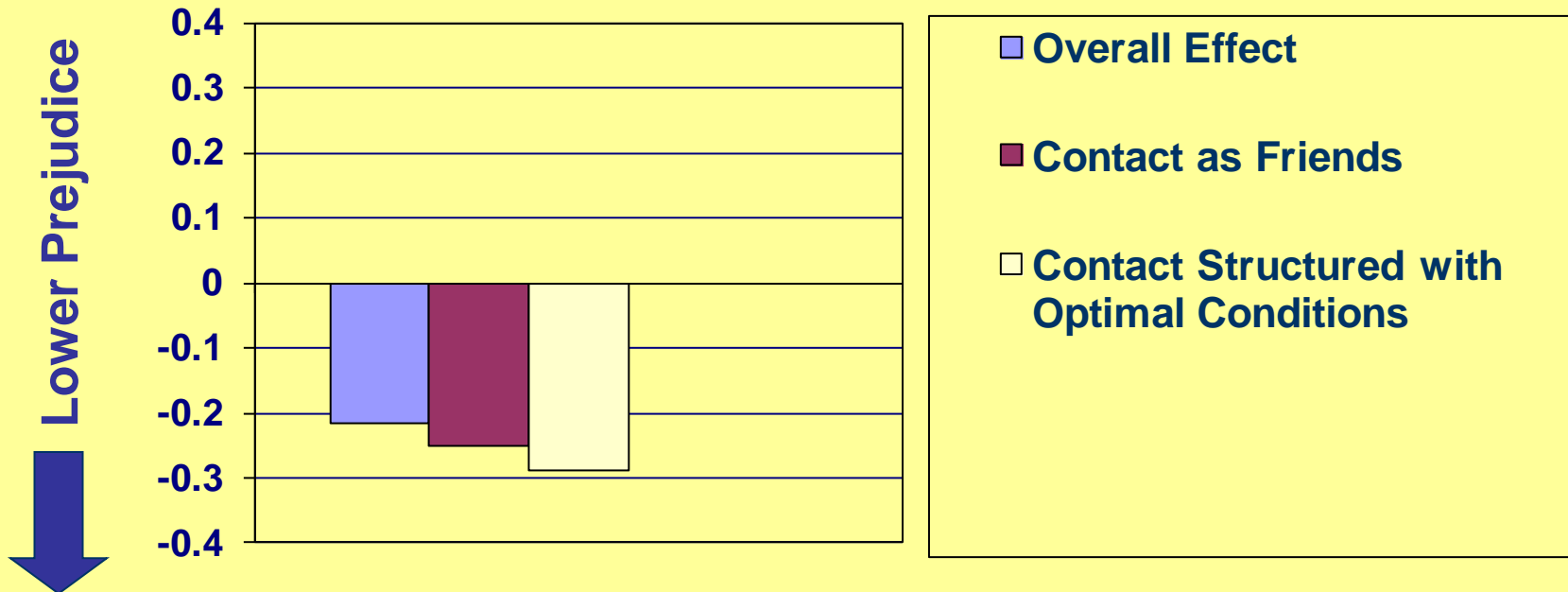


*(Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006; 2011)*

# Does Type of Contact Matter?

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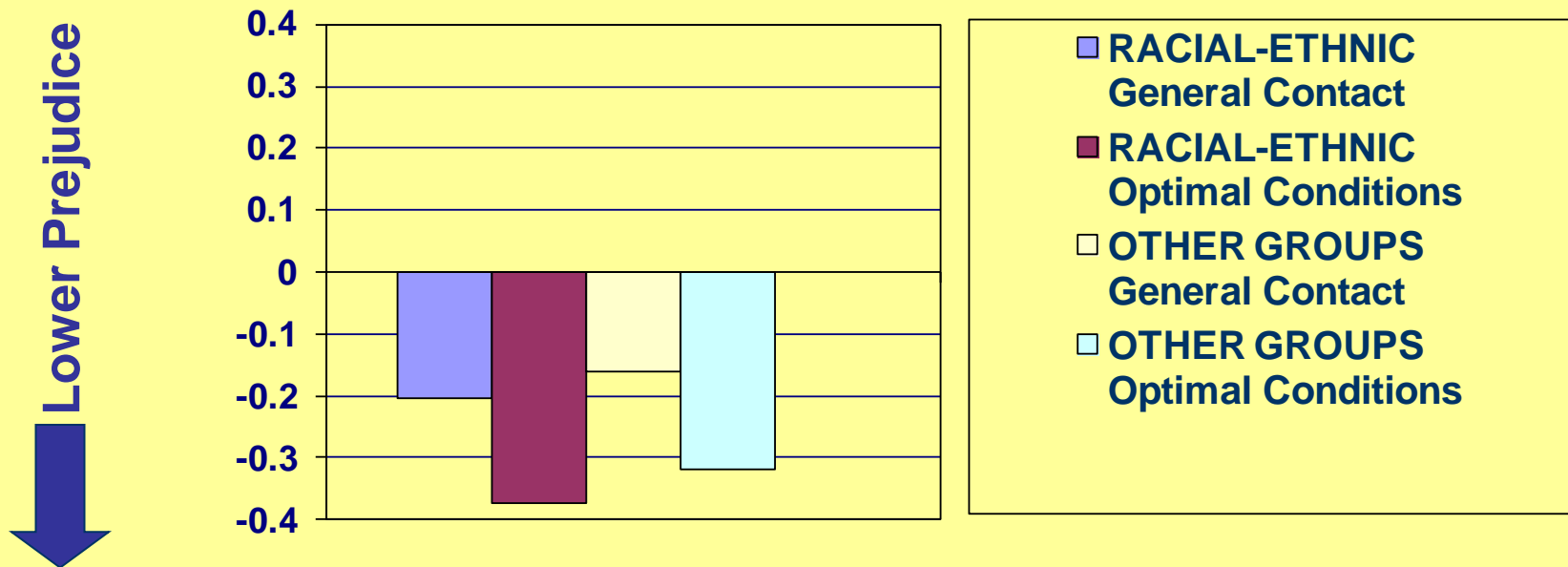
**Answer: YES, contact as friends shows stronger effects**  
**Optimal conditions also show stronger effects**



*(Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006; 2011)*

# Do Optimal Conditions Show Positive Contact Effects for Youth in K-12 Schools?

**Answer:** YES, optimal conditions show stronger contact effects among youth in schools, both for racial and ethnic contact, and contact between youth from other groups



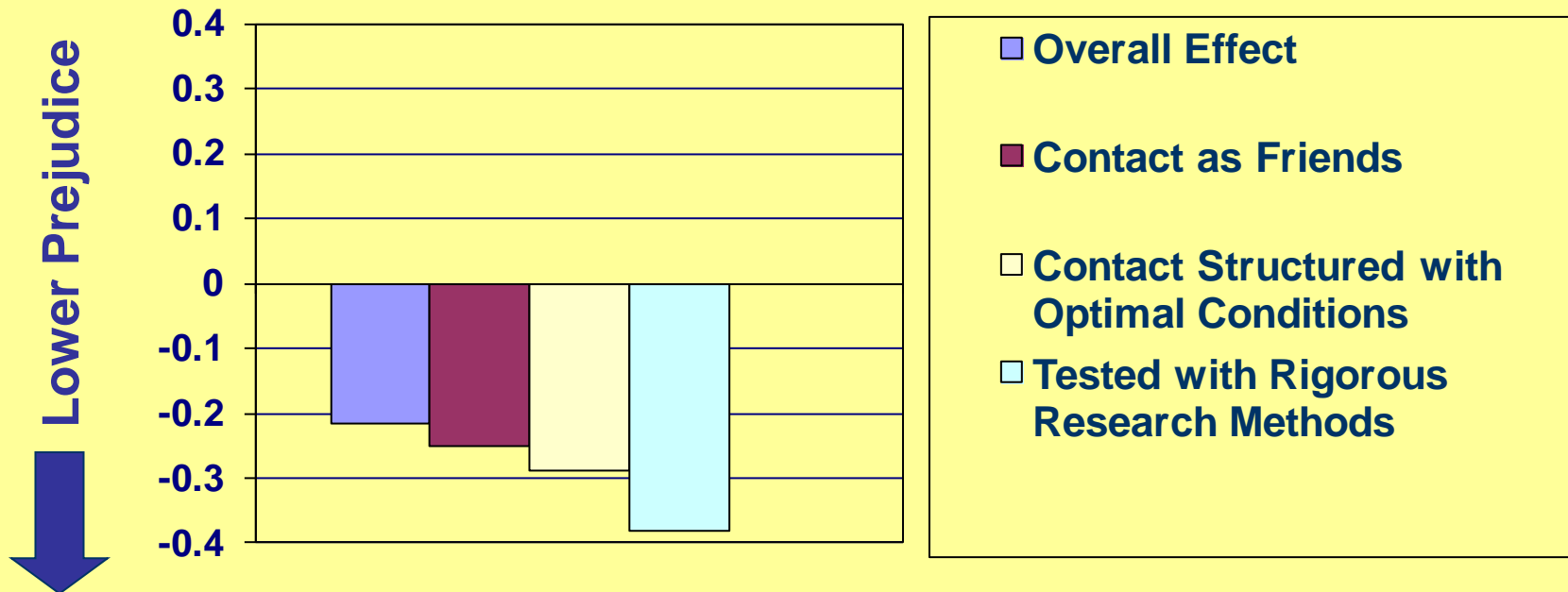
# Does Type of Contact Matter?

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**Answer: YES, contact as friends shows stronger effects**

**Optimal conditions also show stronger effects**

**Importantly, contact studies tested with rigorous methods show even stronger effects**

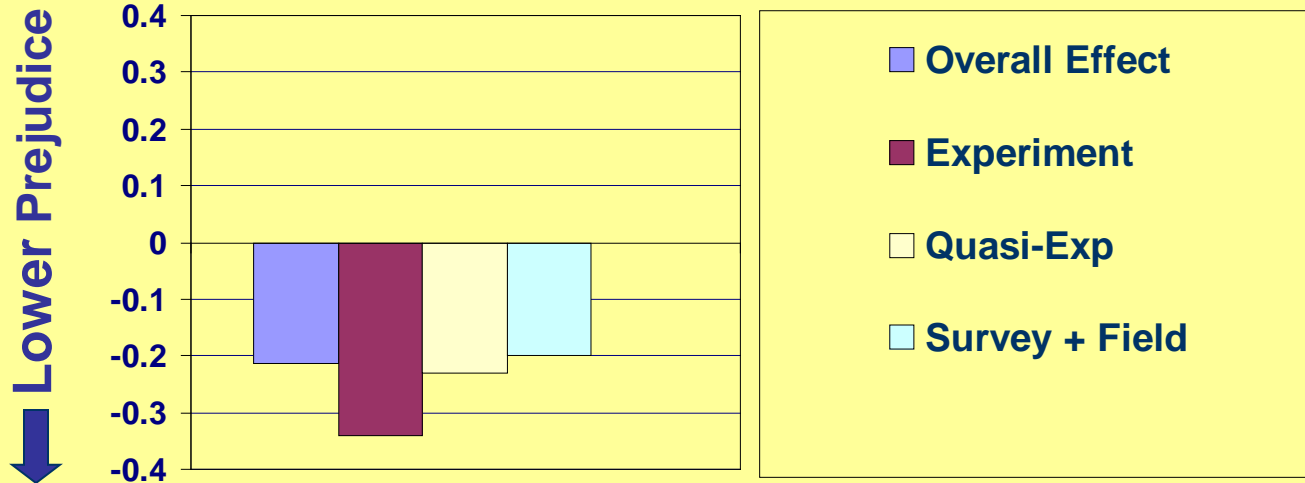


*(Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006; 2011)*

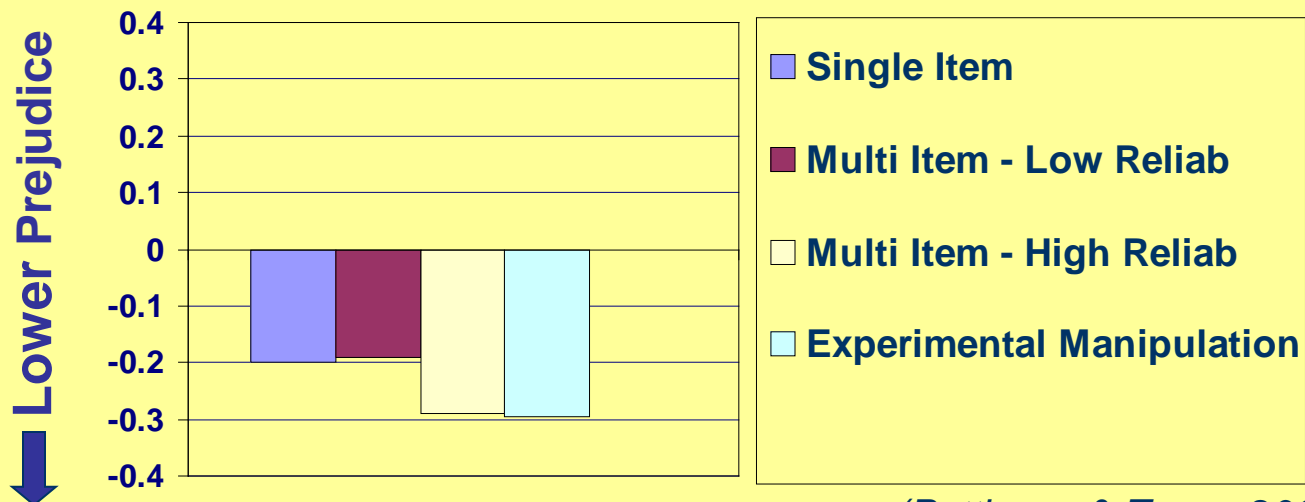


# Contact Effects in Relation to Tests of Research Rigor

**Study Design**



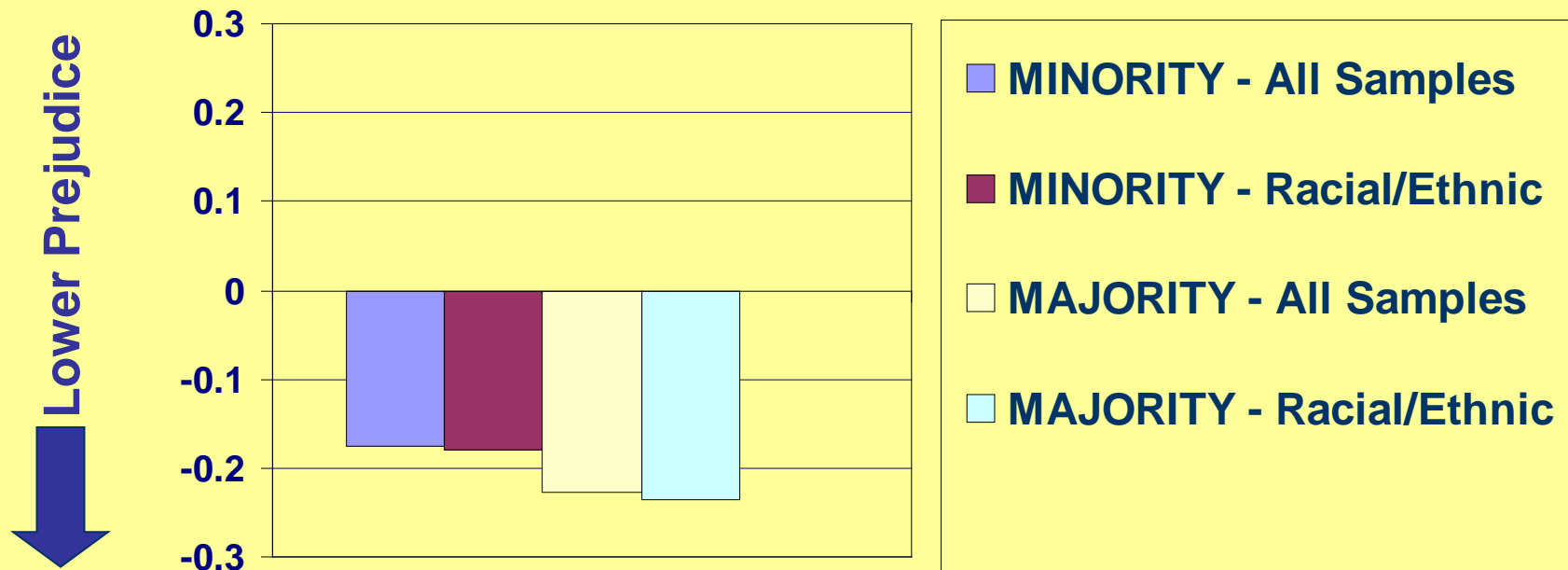
**Contact Measure Reliability**



*(Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006; 2011)*

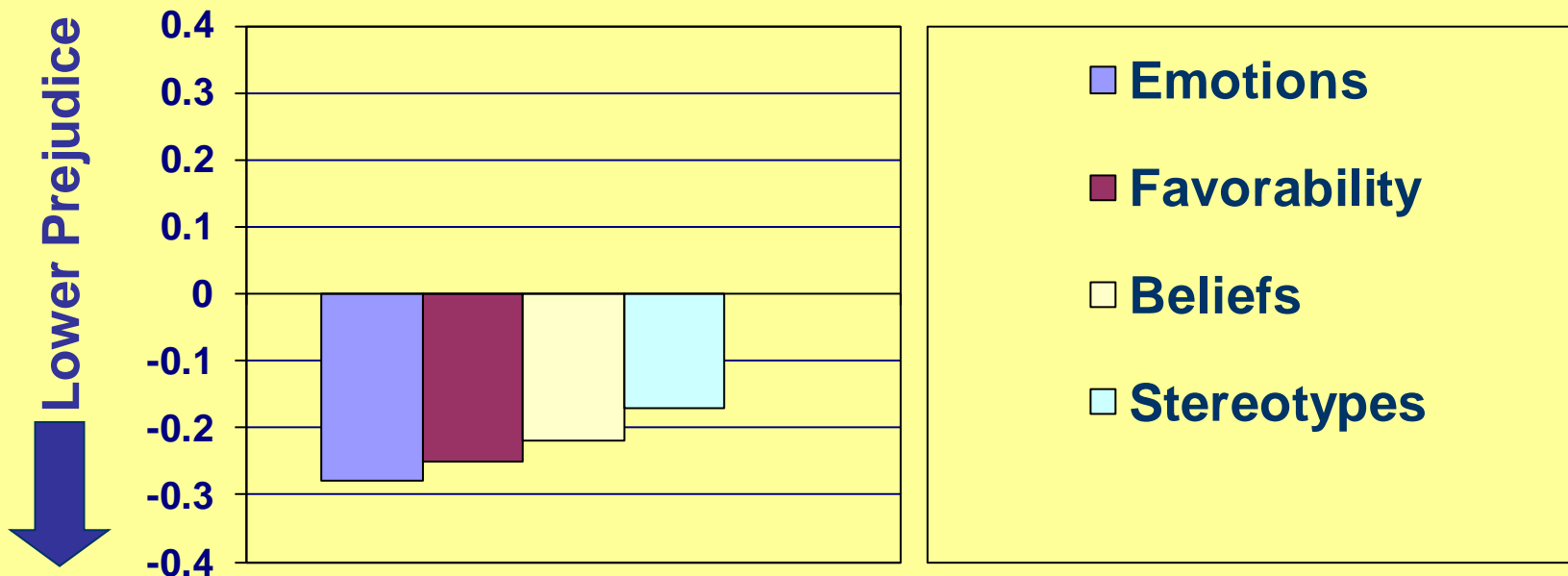
# Does Group Status Matter?

**Answer:** YES, contact is somewhat less effective in reducing prejudice among minority groups than among majority groups



# Does Type of Prejudice Outcome Matter?

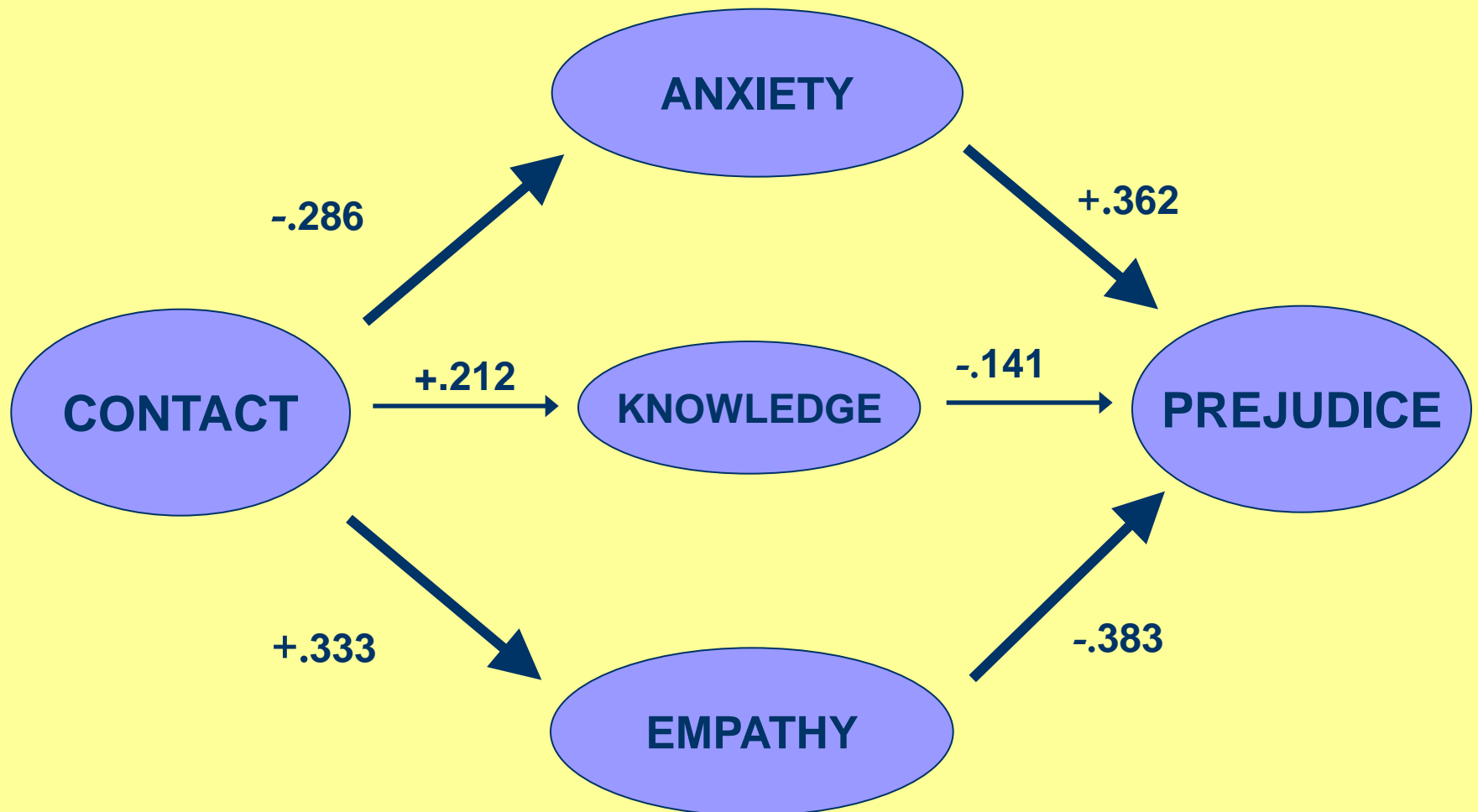
**Answer:** YES, contact shows stronger effects on affective dimensions of prejudice than on cognitive dimensions of prejudice



*(Tropp & Pettigrew, 2005b; Pettigrew & Tropp, 2011)*

# How Does Contact Reduce Prejudice?

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*(Pettigrew & Tropp, 2008; 2011)*

# Conclusions

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- **Greater intergroup contact predicts lower prejudice**
- **Stronger contact effects are especially likely when**
  - studies are conducted with rigorous research procedures
  - affective dimensions of prejudice are the focus of change
  - contact takes the form of cross-group friendships
  - contact occurs under optimal conditions
- **Racial integration in schools and classrooms can play crucial roles in promoting such positive contact effects**