



Lecture 3:

Understanding xenophobia and
ethnocentrism through the 'us' vs.
'them' distinction



'us' versus 'them'

- In-group (*our* group): a group one identifies with
- Out-group (*the other* group): a group one does not identify with
- A tendency to privilege ingroup members over outgroup members



Group identity and inter-group behaviour

- Sherif's idea of *realistic inter-group conflict*
- To understand the Ψ basis of inter-group discrimination
- Social identity theory (1979: Tajfel & Turner) = theory of inter-group behaviour



Studies of inter-group behaviour

- **Social identity theory** (3 elements):
 - 1. Identification (personal and social identity)
 - 2. Social comparison
 - 3. Social categorisation
- 'ingroup bias'
- 'outgroup homogeneity bias'



Stereotype

- Ordering chaos of the world & categorising
- Simplification
- Generalisation
- Exaggeration
- Negative (Scots are stingy, Montenegrins are lazy) and positive (Italians are romantic, Germans are diligent etc.)
- National stereotypes: autostereotypes, heterostereotypes, metastereotypes



Prejudice

- The process of *pre-judging* somebody or something
- A value judgement made without any verification and without empirical base in reality
- Based on generalised and stereotypical images and judgements, simplified
- Very resilient to change



Next week's reading list:

- From "**Xenophobia and Post-Socialism**" (Pajnik, 2002) read Tonči Kuzmanić 'Post-socialism, racism and the reinvention of politics' (pp. 17-25)
- From the "**Racism**" Oxford reader (Bulmer & Solomos, 1999) read Reginald Horsman 'Superior and Inferior Races'; Michael Biddiss 'Gobineau and the Origins of European racism'; Leon Poliakov 'Gobineau and His Contemporaries'
- From "**The Ethnicity Reader**" (Guibernau & Rex, 1997) read Michel Wieviorka 'Racism in Europe: Unity and diversity'
- Select at your own will but read 10-15 pages!