

## How do people form their judgements on migration related issues

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### Abstract

This presentation focuses on the profound influence that the framing of information exerts on shaping judgements concerning migrants and migration. It will introduce research that illustrates how depicting immigration as a threat to a society's cultural identity, resources, safety, and well-being leads to unfavorable evaluations including blatant hostility. Such heightened perceptions of threat can trigger a deeply ingrained human suspicion towards immigrants, a tendency likely partly rooted in evolutionary mechanisms. This suspicion often targets individuals who maintain connections to both their heritage culture and the society they have joined. Additionally, this presentation will highlight experimental studies that demonstrate the influential role of prevalent conspiracy theories, such as "The Great Replacement," in fostering these threat perceptions. Remarkably, some studies reveal that such conspiracy theories are disproportionately endorsed by individuals who perceive themselves as belonging to a minority group, despite being part of the demographic majority. Transitioning to strategies for positively framing information about migrants and migration, it will introduce research that underscores the advantages of information emphasizing overarching categories shared by host nationals and newcomers. For example, accentuating common migration histories in settler societies or shared religious backgrounds (such as an Abrahamic lineage) can foster more favorable attitudes towards migration and migrants.

### Biography

**Jonas R. Kunst** is a professor in cultural and community psychology at the University of Oslo. He was awarded his PhD in social psychology in 2016. Throughout the duration of his doctoral studies, he received a Fulbright scholarship to Harvard University, collaborating closely with Professor Jim Sidanius. Subsequent to completing his PhD, Kunst undertook a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University under the guidance of Professor John F. Dovidio. His research encompasses a broad array of subjects including acculturation, intercultural and intergroup dynamics, the spread of misinformation and conspiracy theories, as well as the study of extremism.