Description: The literature on intergroup contact shows us that contact is a meaningful source of social difference. But this literature has only considered contact within a two-group case. I extend the work to consider contact within a multi-group case introducing a new measure, the contact prevalence and discussing how contact works when individuals are in a position of competing allegiances, that is, when they are in contact with multiple groups that compete for resources.

Sarah K. Cowan is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at New York University. Her work spans reproduction in the United States, social networks and secret-keeping. Prior to joining NYU, Sarah was a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at Columbia University.