

The Magnet and Iron Filings Model of Intergroup Attraction

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ABSTRACT The aim of the study was to present the magnet and iron filings model of intergroup attraction. The model presented in this study is theoretical and it is likened to the magnetic attraction between a magnet and iron filings. This theoretical study looked at stages of intergroup attraction and associated consequences. The stages of intergroup attraction discussed are group stability, group attraction, group dysfunction and group bonding. The argument presented by the model could be used in educational, health, family, community, organisational, and political settings. The model seeks to strengthen capacity building initiatives in groups and organisations. Future studies on the magnet and iron filings model of intergroup attraction could focus on empirical research on the usefulness of the concept in applied settings.