

Creating friendships between African-American and Caucasian couples can reduce prejudice

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Recent research findings from Wayne State University show that the physical presence of romantic partners in intergroup friendships – friendships with different racial and ethnic groups, religious groups, or sexual orientations – positively influences interactions with people who are perceived to be different from themselves.

The study, "Creating positive out-group attitudes through intergroup couple [friendships](#) and implications for compassionate love," currently available online in the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, found that couples that interacted with couples of another race showed a greater [positive attitude](#) toward the other group than to same-race couple interactions.

Research participants spent time answering and asking questions that increased the level of self-disclosure over time. The conversations began with lower-level information and then escalated to more personal information.

"Our research found that there were more positive attitudes towards answering questions when there were intergroup couples interacting versus same-group couples or individuals," said Keith Welker, Ph.D., a Wayne State graduate and lead author of the study. "Our findings suggest that interacting in an intergroup context with the presence of your romantic partner is something that can improve your attitude

toward other groups significantly rather than just interacting alone. This is because [romantic partners](#) can alleviate threats, help improve conversations and create something you have in common with other couples."

More information: To learn more about the study, listen to the podcast, Relationship Matters:

spr.sagepub.com/site/podcast/podcast_dir.xhtml

Provided by Wayne State University

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