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This project explores the persistence of social exclusion by examining behaviors of the bigoted majority and the marginalized minority. Members of both groups have agency: as the majority engages in discrimination, the marginalized minority reacts to it and copes with it. I argue that intergroup contact can help in fighting exclusion by promoting cooperative behaviors by both the majority and the minority. While the theory leans on several cases of social exclusion, past and present, the empirical portion of the project is based on social exclusion of Roma (commonly known by the derogatory term “Gypsies”). I use the case of Roma exclusion to demonstrate discriminatory treatment by non-Roma, coping strategies by Roma, and the lack of cooperation that results when the two are put together. I also test the effectiveness of intergroup contact in spurring cooperative behaviors of the two groups. I show that under certain circumstances, NGO-led promotion of intergroup contact and dialogue helps increase cooperation across the board, and so leads to sustainable inclusion.

The student research assistant tasks include, but are not limited to:

- collecting, organizing, and consolidating case study information, both on Roma and on other marginalized groups (the Dalits, Jewish populations (past and present), Haitians in the Dominican Republic, etc.).
- transcribing an interview (in English)
- researching NGO action that aims to improve intergroup contact (online research)