



Problem Representation and the Israeli-Palestinian and Northern Ireland Conflicts

This project is a two-part study, and the first phase of this project produced an article that is presently under review at a journal. That article includes striking results concerning the relationship between problem representation and conflict in the Middle East and Northern Ireland. The second part of this study will continue to investigate the phenomenon of leaders representing intergroup relationships differently to disparate audiences. An example of what we have observed thus far in our research is that Yassir Arafat and Binyamin Netanyahu stand out amongst Palestinian and Israeli leaders in the degree to which they present different messages to different audiences. What we do not know is what the impact of that variability upon their disparate audiences are. Drawing on literature from psychology, political science, and communications, this extension of our research will study both the patterns and the impact of representations by specific leaders in these complex conflicts.

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