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**IS THERE A WAY TO EASE RACIAL TENSION BETWEEN ADOLESCENTS?
RESEARCH PUBLISHED BY SAGE IN SPECIAL ISSUE OF *SMALL GROUP RESEARCH***

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore (March 3, 2008) – Studies show that high school students tend to gravitate towards kids within their own race who have similar backgrounds. As a result, they are prone to develop negative attitudes towards other groups. The current special issue of *Small Group Research* examines a five-year international study that mixed kids of different groups in a controlled environment to learn conflict reduction skills.

The participatory action research project titled, “Enabling Adolescents in Culturally Diverse Environments to Peacefully Resolve Ethnic Group Conflicts,” was conducted by special issue guest editors, Charles Garvin of the University of Michigan and David Bargal of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Preliminary studies were held in two separate locations in the US, as well as in South Africa and Israel. Results of the subsequent research are thoroughly examined in the special issue of the journal in articles focusing on themes, such as:

- the processes used in the research
- the nature of intergroup conflict
- the principles of conflict resolution in groups
- conflict resolution training
- trust-building exercises
- future directions for intergroup conflict research

The research provided hope for future positive intergroup relations. “During this stage, young people are relatively open to educational influences and to a reformulation of their personal attitudes and perceptions of the world,” write the guest editors in the introduction. “Stereotypes about intergroup relations, including prejudices and the notion of social justice, are likely to be changing, and an ability to participate in dialogues as a means of managing conflict may be acquired.”

The special issue of *Small Group Research* is available from SAGE at no charge for a limited time at <http://sgr.sagepub.com/content/vol39/issue1/>.

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