Social representations and their significance to understanding intergroup conflicts

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During their long and complex historical routes, the theory of social representations and the theory of minority/majority influence have been usually understood as belonging to different domains of social psychology. In contrast, I argue that these two theories are mutually interconnected and are underlain by the same interactional epistemology. This epistemology

a) is based on open and multifaceted forms of natural thinking and communication, and on ideas of circulation and transformation of knowledge in practical real-life problems

b) presupposes interdependent relations between the Self and Others. These relations involve not only resolutions of intergroup conflicts, but above all, they concern creation of conflicts, e.g. among majorities and minorities, active and passive minorities, victims and perpetrators, and in ecological problems.

I shall explore intergroup conflicts created by different kinds of ‘minorities of one’ in totalitarian regimes and in liberal democracies, and their underlying motives, forms of thinking, judgement, ethics and choices.