

## **Size, Composition, and Social Effects in Groups**

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Social scientists have looked to social effects to explain large disparities in outcomes across groups and especially low outcomes among disadvantaged groups. Social effects mean that one person's behavior or outcomes depend on the behaviors or outcomes of the other people in his or her group. We will begin with a discussion of the types of social effects that might operate, including preference formation, information transmission, and cooperation. A critical factor in social effects is specifying who is affected by whom in groups. We then discuss interactions patterns. We will then turn to the challenges involved in estimating social effects and how they can be solved.