

Why does the CHM's survey distinguish between three different types (or dimensions) of attitudes?

Whereas many attitude surveys focus solely on the cognitive dimension of attitudes, in other words on stereotypes ("prejudices"), this survey draws distinctions between different dimensions to take into account the fact that attitudes are complex. In addition to prejudices, the survey examines negative feelings (dislike (the affective dimension)) and social distance (respondents' views about having different groups as neighbours or in their circle of friends).

The three dimensions are to some extent independent of each other; for example, someone with stereotypical ideas about Muslims can still have a good relationship with his Muslim neighbour. Drawing distinctions between the respective dimensions gives us a better picture of what types of attitudes the respondents have; for example, whether prejudiced views also include negative feelings or a desire for social distance. Prejudices are normally found to be more widespread than the other two dimensions, and this also proved to be the case in our survey.