The Intercultural Dialogue Index (ICDI): An Index for Assessing Intercultural Relations

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Abstract
Intercultural dialogue (ICD) refers to a process of contact, interaction and exchange of views on the basis of equality, respect, and mutual understanding between individuals or groups from diverse backgrounds. A large body of research has discussed ICD and its potential value for fostering social cohesion and peaceful coexistence across difference. However, there is a lack of robust benchmark data that precludes researchers and practitioners from empirically testing assumptions and hypotheses pertaining to ICD. This article discusses the development of the Intercultural Dialogue Index (ICDI), a proposed composite index for measuring the extent to which ICD is being pursued and implemented as a diversity management tool within different countries. The index builds on the conceptual assumptions underpinning ICD, uses publicly accessible data, and applies methods that allow for replication, upgrading and comparability with relevant indices. This article assesses ICD prevalence for 51 countries based on three interrelated dimensions covering legislative and structural environments as well as opportunities for intercultural encounters. Altogether, 31 indicators across the three dimensions are identified and grouped under 10 broad components to capture both macro- and micro-level factors affecting ICD and intergroup relationships nationally and globally. The article briefly summarises some preliminary ICDI findings and discusses key methodological constraints and conceptual challenges. Theoretical and practical implications of ICDI are also provided.

Keywords Intercultural dialogue · Interculturalism · Multiculturalism · Super-diversity · Index

1 Introduction
In the context of persisting challenges and crises ranging from socio-cultural discrimination and economic inequalities to environmental degradation, and in the face of new acute health crises linked to global pandemics, the global community urgently needs meaningful...
dialogue, engagement and collaboration to overcome these problems in inclusive and sustainable ways. These complex challenges require new approaches that transcend cultural differences in order to harness the benefits of diversity that individuals and communities can bring to the collective task of achieving global peace and sustainable development. Against the backdrop of this urgent international setting, intercultural dialogue (ICD) has emerged as a salient concept in academic debates and policy circles around the optimal approaches to diversity management, particularly in Europe and Canada. With its strong emphasis on social cohesion, intercultural relations and civic integration, interculturalism has been presented as a possible theoretical alternative to multiculturalism which has been critiqued and in some cases blamed for the problems affecting the diversity agenda in many émigré societies (Cantle 2012). So far, much scholarly debate on interculturalism/ICD has focused on understanding its conceptual basis and its possible policy application, with little focus on its empirical examination or assessment across social domains. In fact, a recent systematic review of studies on interculturalism and ICD (Elias and Mansouri 2020) has shown that there is a dearth of quantitative research on the subject, with the Intercultural Cities Index (ICI) being one of the few initiatives explicitly dedicated to the quantitative measurement of ICD from a local, city perspective. The Council of Europe developed this tool to compare the extent to which several international cities attained levels of diversity, intercultural interaction and inclusiveness (Council of Europe 2016; Zapata-Barrero 2015). Using 15 indicators across 90 questions, the ICI tracks the performance of a city through an intercultural lens (Council of Europe 2016) and reports the findings through an interactive website that currently profiles 83 cities in 30 countries.

While the ICI provides a valuable tool for comparing ICD at the city level, there is no established comparable index at the national level that captures the important macro-level policies that create the requisite societal conditions for the pursuit of intercultural goals. This gap in research precludes both the assessment of countries’ performance in achieving favourable intercultural relations, and the potential for making nuanced and meaningful international comparisons around the management of diversity. In this paper, we discuss and present the Intercultural Dialogue Index (ICDI) – an index designed for assessing and evaluating the existence or absence of pro-diversity conditions in different countries. The aim of the ICDI is to measure intercultural relations at a national level based on the conceptual and philosophical foundations underpinning ICD as an approach to building contact, dialogue and respect among ethnically, racially and culturally diverse groups. The proposed ICDI incorporates data from existing indices as well as several publicly available databases, rather than being merely based on questionnaires completed by relevant authorities, as is the case with the ICI. The index was developed following best practice in index development approaches and established methods that are widely used in social science. Like many equivalent global indices, the ICDI can be used in combination with a range of international datasets for understanding and even modelling the relationship between ICD and other socio-economic and political outcomes at any given point in time.

Based on robust benchmark data on the degree of cultural, social and political interconnectedness in a particular country, the ICDI aims to generate a holistic and transparent analysis of the state of intercultural relations in a country, which can be used to assess different dimensions related to ICD. The index incorporates 31 key indicators grouped into 10 components across three broad dimensions or domains. The carefully selected indicators include sociodemographic, cultural and political variables, available in the form of indices or databases. Each of the indicators is directly or indirectly related to ICD, either as an input (policy indicator) or an output (intergroup and structural indicator). This multi-dimensional, multi-level combination offers enabling tools for the improvement of
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The Intercultural Dialogue Index (ICDI): An Index for Assessing intercultural relations at the country level. Constrained by data completeness, robustness and availability, the ICDI version presented in this paper provides a preliminary analysis for 51 countries, which can be extended in future as new data becomes available. The index, in its current articulation, provides an international data-driven snapshot of cultural diversity and ICD across different contexts and jurisdictions. More critically, it also has the potential to serve policymakers as an indicator for identifying areas needing optimal intervention measures and policy consideration.\textsuperscript{1} The rest of this paper details the context and methodology of the index development, and the key findings. Section 2 provides a brief background; the underlying theoretical basis for an intercultural index is outlined in Sec. 3. In Sec. 4, the approach, methods, and statistical analyses utilised in the development of the index are discussed in detail. Section 5 provides a discussion of the key findings, theoretical and practical implications. A summary of the main theoretical and practical implications of this study are presented at the end of Sec. 5.

2 Background

Over the past few decades, countries around the world have become socio-politically hyper-dynamic, demographically super-diverse, and culturally more complex. Technological revolution and new forms of communication have led to increasing inter-connectedness between individuals and groups across nation-states, with local and international human mobility becoming more salient than ever before. This deep and pervasive global interconnectedness has resulted in multilevel, intercultural encounters between diverse people across many spheres and domains. Thus, cross-cultural understanding is no longer a luxurious pursuit for only those individuals interested in other cultures. For many people living in multicultural societies, intercultural understanding and competence are indispensable skills for harmonious relationship in the everyday reality of super-diversity (Vertovec 2007). Social interactions with people from different cultures has become commonplace, whether in schools, workplaces, public services or markets, all of which are becoming multicultural hubs. This in turn has engendered ubiquitous cross-cultural interactions which has become an everyday lived reality. Cities have become super-diverse, exhibiting more complex features than ever before, with simplistic binary features no longer sufficient to capture the multidimensional web of connections people engage with on a daily basis (Mansouri 2017; Vertovec 2007). ICD, therefore, has become an indispensable part of social, economic, cultural and political life.

Reflecting these new lived realities, many international organizations, such as UNESCO and the Council of Europe, have adopted and promoted ICD as a policy framework for addressing the challenges of cultural diversity governance, with research on the subject growing exponentially over the last decade or so (Cantle 2012; Modood and Meer 2012; Taylor 2012; Zapata-Barrero 2015; Mansouri 2017; Mansouri and Arber 2017). Though its definitions vary across disciplines and application domains, there is broad consensus that ICD, in general terms, seeks to bridge differences across cultural groups and individuals, while aiming to engender and facilitate intercultural affinities and respectful co-existence (Elias and Mansouri 2020). ICD ‘occurs among individuals who speak different languages

\textsuperscript{1} Detailed country reports that contextualise the index with policy and demographic diversity for each of the 51 countries is available in the website: [Removed for this peer review].
and for whom words and objects have diverse meanings’ (Sarmento 2014, 611). It signals a significant policy, intellectual and discourse paradigm shift towards inter-group engagement, cross-cultural interaction and individual pedagogic transformation, all essential ingredients for individuals and groups to successfully engage across difference on the basis of respect, mutuality and empathy (Mansouri 2017).

At the individual level, ICD focuses on engendering behavioural transformations and cultural attitudinal changes that challenge existing hierarchical relations between groups (Barrett 2013; Bouchard and Taylor 2008; Cantle 2015). This potential transformation is hinged on the assumption that ICD leads to cross-cultural learning, mutual self-reflection and reciprocal understanding (Abdallah-Pretceille 2006). Research across wide ranging disciplines indicates that cultural knowledge, skill, and competence are critical for effective intercultural engagement (Odora-Hopper 2007). This has been shown in different settings, including education (Walton et al. 2013), healthcare (Alizadeh and Chavan 2016), workplaces (Johnson et al. 2006), and overseas immersion programs (Zhang and Zhou 2019). The ICD framework builds on this growing scientific evidence that highlights the benefits of active, deliberative and empathetic cross-cultural engagement. Indeed, dialogue among members of different cultures is not a new phenomenon, however, the emergence of globally concerted policy initiatives seeking to promote such dialogue is relatively recent (Council of Europe 2008). As such, ICD as a concept, is still debated in academic and policy circles, with no universally applicable instrument available to assess or measure its utility and impact. A recent systematic review of studies on interculturalism, broadly, and ICD more specifically, reports a broader conception of ICD ‘predicated on interactive contact and mutually transformative dialogue between individuals and groups across difference’ (Elias and Mansouri 2020, 34).

Although the literature on ICD has expanded in recent years, no attempt has been made yet to assess it at a state level, nor to develop a predictive tool for its application as a measure of the intercultural state of affairs. This paper, therefore, proposes the ICDI, a national-level measure of ICD designed to assess the extent to which there exists societal and structural conditions that can affect diversity management and intercultural relations. The proposed ICDI is designed to serve as a tool for understanding how different countries are tracking in relation to diversity management and intercultural harmony. This country-level analysis has the potential to also highlight, in a predictive manner, possible intercultural conflicts and tensions on the basis of an empirical analysis of reported data in key societal domains.

3 Theoretical Framework

As countries become increasingly super-diverse (Vertovec 2007), with complex socio-economic, cultural and political characteristics, how can they optimally manage these multiple forms of diversity? This has been a topic of great academic and policy debate over the last century. Two visions of social policy with opposite theoretical notions have particularly stood out in a spectrum of diversity management policies: assimilation and multiculturalism. Assimilation involved a process whereby people from diverse cultural backgrounds adopt and incorporate the majority or mainstream culture (Alba and Nee 1997). After decades of policy and practice, it was heavily criticised by social scientists for imposing ethnocentric and patronising demands (Alba and Nee 1997).

In the 1980s, multiculturalism emerged as an alternative to replace assimilation in many societies. Multiculturalism is an approach to diversity management based on the
recognition and political accommodation of minority groups from different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds (Taylor 1994; Modood 2007). Essentially, it is a vision of a society where all ethno-cultural groups are accepted as equal. In many societies (e.g., UK, Canada, and Australia), the adoption of multiculturalism has been related to antidiscrimination legislations and policies (Banting and Kymlicka 2013; Meer and Modood 2009). However, there have been growing debates around the shortcomings of multicultural policy, particularly in Europe. Some of the critiques include that multicultural policies have led to ethnic cleavage, cultural separation, and a depletion of trust and social cohesion (Vertovec and Wessendorf 2010; Cantle 2012). However, these criticisms, which place the burden of social integration exclusively on immigrants, remain heavily contested (Banting and Kymlicka 2013; Meer and Modood 2009). Recent scholarship has argued for the mainstreaming of the diversity agenda so that interaction and contact may extend to diverse groups including majority society, in order to engender cultural understanding and social cohesion (See Elias and Mansouri 2020).

In this context, interculturalism has been proposed as the basis for recalibrating multiculturalism with a focus on exchange, dialogue and contact between groups across difference (Mansouri and Modood 2020; Zapata-Barrero 2019). Interculturalism rests on the notion that groups can bridge differences and overcome prejudice through intergroup interactions based on mutual respect to find shared values (Belo 2017). Within the broad interculturalism literature, ICD is a specific practical conduit aimed at enacting the inclusive, deliberative dimensions of interculturalism. There are several characteristics that distinguish interculturalism and more specifically ICD, from multiculturalism and assimilation – the two extremes of the migrant integration continuum. Unlike multiculturalism, interculturalism and ICD focus on individuals rather than groups, emphasise intergroup contact, have local and grassroots perspectives, and contain transformative capacity in terms of attitudes towards difference. Unlike assimilation, interculturalism and ICD recognise cultural diversity, consider identity as fluid rather than fixed, reject ethnocentrism, emphasise shared values, and aim to bridge cross-cultural conflict.

Broadly conceived, ICD is a process of interaction, exchange and dialogue among individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, with an emphasis on fostering social harmony and peaceful coexistence. Scholarly research on ICD, and the broader related concept of interculturalism, exhibits significant divergence in the understandings of the theoretical novelty of ICD, particularly in comparison to other well-established concepts such as multiculturalism, cosmopolitanism and transnationalism. A comprehensive review of this literature, particularly in relation to the definitions of ICD and interculturalism (Elias and Mansouri 2020), reports that the most popular definitions of ICD are those provided by the Council of Europe and UNESCO:

[ICD] is understood as a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and heritage, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect. (Council of Europe 2008, 17)

[ICD is the] equitable exchange and dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based on mutual understanding and respect and the equal dignity of all cultures is the essential prerequisite for constructing social cohesion, reconciliation among peoples and peace among nations. (UNESCO 2017)

The two definitions are conceptually related, both emphasising respect, mutuality, understanding, and equality as the bases for the process of cross-cultural exchange and dialogue. Most of the reviewed studies conceptualised ICD as involving respectful exchange.
between individuals or groups from diverse ethnic or cultural backgrounds (Elias and Mansouri 2020). This conceptualisation also highlights the key notions of respect, mutuality and equality that underpin the process of dialogue and exchange.

ICD heavily draws on the intergroup contact literature and sees contact and interaction across difference as the key missing ingredients of previous theories of diversity policy, most notably, assimilation and multiculturalism (Council of Europe 2008; Zapata-Barrero 2019). While assimilationist policies have been criticised for undermining the salience of difference by aiming for conformity to dominant norms, much of the critique of multicultural policies relates to the absence of contact altogether (Rodríguez-García 2010; Vertovec and Wessendorf 2010). In ICD, difference is assumed as a salient social fact (Vertovec 2007), and intergroup contact across difference is approached proactively to facilitate mutual understanding through dialogic interaction. In other words, intercultural contact, under the right societal conditions and involving minority and majority cultural groups, is predicted to lessen prejudice and encourage openness to difference (Mansouri 2017; Zapata-Barrero 2019).

While many studies have attempted to articulate the theoretical basis of ICD, the task of defining it operationally and measuring its impact empirically remains a considerable methodological challenge. To understand the relationships between ICD and various measures of its social, economic, and political indicators, it is important first to be able to operationally define and specifically measure ICD itself. Until now, the ICI has been the only tool available to measure intercultural interactions and inclusivity, and only at the city level – it does not allow for cross-country comparison (see Introduction). A study by UNESCO (2018, 45) highlights this critical knowledge gap related to ‘a scarcity of policy and practice-relevant data to measure the capacities of societies to facilitate dialogue’ which precludes the assessment of ICD. This deficit also contributes to the ‘conceptual fragmentation, limited operational engagement, and reluctance to use evidence in policies and action towards effective dialogue’ (UNESCO 2018, 45). Yet, the literature provides sufficient theoretical foundations for developing a tool that can enable the measurement of intercultural engagement and interactions among groups at the national level. For example, the intercultural communication literature offers vital theoretical insights as to how intercultural understanding emerges through dialogic interaction. As Chen (2010, 6) shows, there is a direct relationship between intercultural engagement and intercultural sensitivity, as shown in ‘the importance of intercultural sensitivity in the globalizing society through its negative relationships with ethnocentrism and intercultural communication apprehension.’ Research also highlights the role of intercultural awareness, intercultural effectiveness, and intercultural competence in fostering cross-cultural understanding (Abdallah-Pretceille 2006; Alizadeh and Chavan 2016; Walton et al. 2013). Therefore, understanding the underlying theoretical assumptions of ICD, and potential indicators that directly or indirectly contribute to its realisation, is the first step towards the development of an ICD index.

Drawing on both the UNESCO and Council of Europe definitions of ICD, we identify three key features that form the foundational basis of the ICDI:

(i) National-level legislations, policies and implementation strategies indicating an overall legislative/policy framework relevant to ICD;

(ii) Underlying structural, demographic, socio-economic, cultural and political environment, which indicates the overall structural makeup of a country; and,

(iii) Intercultural environment, which affects intergroup dynamics and determines the opportunities for interaction and dialogue that can emerge.
ICD has a legislative aspect, particularly in relation to its implementation, where it requires institutions and policies that enable positive intergroup contact under the requisite conditions of respect and equality (Zapata-Barrero 2016). Its emergence is rooted in immigration and diversity policy debates, and it has essentially been presented as a policy instrument (Bouchard and Taylor 2008; Council of Europe 2008). ICD also has structural aspects, since meaningful cross-cultural dialogue requires certain minimum conditions in terms of social, economic and political infrastructure (Besley and Peters 2011; Elias 2017; Zapata-Barrero 2016). For example, ICD can effectively take place only in a peaceful environment (Phipps 2014). Finally, an environment of better intergroup relations is more likely to produce an increased level of ICD than an environment where racism and other forms of intergroup hostility are rife (Cantle 2012; Council of Europe 2008).

We conceive of these three interrelated dimensions as potentially vital for the sustenance of ICD as a diversity policy praxis. The legislative–policy context (LPC) dimension indicates a legal and policy environment that offers a national pro-diversity framework with legislative protection from discrimination. This ensures political and legal provisions for the conduct of intercultural contact and dialogue among groups. The structural foundations (SFs) dimension encompasses the macro-structures that affect the capacity of individuals and groups in their pursuit of civic engagement. These reflect diverse socio-economic, political, technological and security conditions that directly or indirectly determine the possibility of ICD. The intercultural opportunities (ICO) dimension outlines some of the factors that can influence group dynamics in a pluralistic society. These relate to the constraints that can be placed on individuals and groups, as well as underlying individual-level determinants of ICD. Figure 1 provides a conceptual framework outlining the relationship
between ICD and these three dimensions, and the relationship between the dimensions. The single arrows indicate these potential relationships while the double arrows show the themes that underlie ICD as conceptualised in the literature (Council of Europe 2008; Elias and Mansouri 2020). Below, we outline the justification for the inclusion of the 31 indicators we use to measure each component within the three dimensions. All indicators are selected based on the principle of relevance or fitness-for-purpose as suggested by a widely used index construction guideline (OECD 2008).

3.1 The Legislative–policy Dimension

The Council of Europe (2008, 5) states that ‘intercultural dialogue cannot be prescribed by law.’ However, this does not mean that it is unrelated to laws and policies. In fact, certain laws and policies, such as multicultural policies and anti-discrimination laws, can directly affect the possibility of pursuing and implementing ICD initiatives (Barrett 2013; Wiater 2010). The public and policy debate regarding the distinction between multiculturalism and interculturalism aside (Meer and Modood 2012), theoretical and empirical research indicates that interculturalism is in many cases connected to and dependent on multiculturalism (Modood and Meer 2012); the two are indeed complementary in several ways (Mansouri and Modood 2020; Levrau and Loobuyck 2013). Multiculturalism and interculturalism both emphasise pro-diversity ideological stances and policy approaches, an acceptance of difference, and an attachment to social harmony and intercultural understanding.

Vertovec and Wessendorf (2010) list eight measures that have characterised multicultural policies: public recognition of ethnic minority organisations; provisions for cultural diversity in schools; access to social services; public materials in multiple languages; laws related to diversity; religious accommodation; provisions related to cultural food and rituals; and accommodation in media and broadcasting. An equally important variable that can indicate a country’s commitment to ICD is the presence of anti-discrimination laws and related initiatives (Zapata-Barrero 2017). In Vertovec and Wessendorf’s list, protection from discrimination is incorporated within laws related to diversity. Following on from the above emphasis on multiculturalism and anti-discrimination laws, a key condition for ICD is the absence of uneven or asymmetrical power relations among groups or individuals (Elias 2017; James 1999; Zapata-Barrero 2017).

In the proposed ICDI, two components form the LPC dimension: policies on multiculturalism and anti-discrimination laws. However, internationally comparable data on legislation, policy and implementation of multiculturalism and anti-discrimination laws are not readily available. For multiculturalism, the best available data are the Multicultural Policy Index (https://www.queensu.ca/mcp/; Banting and Kymlicka 2013), and the Migration Integration Policy Index (Huddleston et al. 2015), which compare the state of multicultural and anti-discrimination policies in OECD countries. The ICDI uses some of these data along with manually collected data from national constitutions for most other countries. Similarly, in the absence of internationally comparable anti-discrimination data, the ICDI compiles a composite measure for this indicator, based on constitutional affirmation, explicit national policies, and data from Huddleston et al. (2015). This dimension, made up of the multiculturalism and anti-discrimination components, is based on the absence or presence of related acts, legislations, and policies at the national level.
3.2 Structural Foundations Dimension

The second dimension in the proposed ICDI consists of five components that cover the institutional and structural conditions for ICD within a particular society. One of the key indicators for this dimension is the possibility and opportunity for intergroup contact, which is a key input component of ICD and one that can lead to improved intercultural understanding and reduced prejudice (Pettigrew and Tropp 2006). In the absence of global intergroup contact data, this index employs in-bound tourism, cultural participation, and the number of immigrant and indigenous languages as proxy variables. The working assumption here is that more tourist arrivals, more heritage sites and increased presence of migrant and indigenous languages could lead to more exposure and contact between groups. Studies show that exposure and familiarity with outgroup members can reduce uncertainty, while cultural participation has correlation with inclusiveness (Pettigrew and Tropp 2006; Anheier et al. 2017). However, contact may not always lead to positive outcomes, unless certain conditions are met (Graf et al. 2014). Thus, this dimension includes three versions of fractionalization – ethnic, lingual, and religious – to account for potential negative effects of diversity.

Equality is another important structural condition for genuine and effective ICD (James 1999; Zapata-Barrero 2017; Wiater 2010). The Council of Europe argues that ‘no dialogue can take place in the absence of respect for the equal dignity of all human beings, human rights, the rule of law and democratic principles’ (Council of Europe 2016, 19). The phrase equal dignity is also mentioned as the key ingredient of genuine interaction in UNESCO’s definition of ICD. This is captured in the ICDI by the inclusion of socio-economic (in)equality, which consists of three key indicators – economic (in)equality, intergenerational social mobility, and educational attainment. Equality is an important value to consider in the facilitation of intergroup contact, while access to media and communication is vital for information and knowledge dissemination. While media can amplify intergroup tensions through distortion and propaganda, it can also serve as a space for robust debate and dialogue (Paluck 2009). For this dimension of the ICDI, we use the number of available newspapers, mobile telephone and internet subscriptions to capture the role of media and access to modern communication.

Since its inception, ICD has been flagged as an instrument for fostering social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, and for contributing to conflict prevention (Council of Europe 2008). These aims are captured using three indicators, one of which is intergroup cohesion, an output indicator measuring cooperation and respect among groups in a society. The other two output indicators indicate the level of state fragility, measured using two alternative approaches developed by the Center for Systemic Peace and Fund for Peace. Overall, the SF dimension incorporates five components measuring the conditions necessary for intercultural relations to develop.

3.3 Intercultural Opportunities Dimension

The third dimension of the ICDI – intercultural opportunities – incorporates three output components that affect an individual’s capacity to engage in intergroup interactions. For example, high levels of racism and intolerance towards outgroups (e.g., racial minorities, migrants, indigenous groups) are likely to inhibit genuine dialogue, while the absence of dialogue altogether can deny opportunities for attitudinal and behavioural change (Dessel
and Roge 2008). We include three indicators to capture these dialectical dynamics forming the component *intercultural attitudes*. Social inclusion is another related component at the group level, included to capture the level of minority representation in a country. This component is composed of four interrelated indicators including restriction of religious freedom, intergroup relations, and inclusion of and discrimination against ethnic minorities (cf. Dovidio et al. 2003; Pettigrew and Tropp 2006). Each indicator measures intergroup dynamics with a slightly different focus and, in combination, provides a nuanced overall variance. Finally, another component, *freedom and rights*, is introduced to reflect some of the democratic ideals that ICD espouses. In the Council of Europe articulation of ICD, human rights are considered an ‘essential framework for the practice of intercultural dialogue,’ and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, are seen as vital for fostering understanding and awareness (Council of Europe 2008, 26). The index captures this in three measures indicating press freedom and freedom of movement.

4 Data and Methodology

4.1 Approach

The development of the proposed ICDI was driven by the idea that an environment that is conducive to cross-cultural relationships is essential for positive intercultural engagement that fosters peaceful coexistence in multicultural societies. A global index is one way to assess how different countries are tracking in relation to this overall aim, taking into account local specificities and different histories. Thus, the purpose of the index is to provide a holistic and transparent analysis of a country’s state of intercultural relations through a robust assessment of specific indicators across different dimensions related to ICD. The indicators underpinning the ICDI focus mainly on social, cultural and political factors, integrating both input and output indicators to provide tools for improvement at the country level.

The ICDI integrates the key indicators, factors, and processes that affect ICD, focusing on its underlying theoretical underpinnings including intergroup relations (intergroup contact theory), interculturalism (contact, exchange and transformative change) and cosmopolitanism (values associated with outward openness and an acceptance of difference). Potentially, an index can be constructed using *input measures*, which assess policy and legislation, and/or *output measures*, which directly assess the intended policy outcomes. For example, an input measure could assess the existence and quality of policies to include intercultural education in a national school curriculum. A corresponding outcome measure could be the number of schools that adopted this curriculum, and the level of intercultural understanding in the schools. The proposed ICDI here includes key institutional indicators and thus differs from other indices that exclusively rely on outcome measures (e.g., the Social Progress Index). Exploiting the wealth of data on indices of social development (Foa and Tanner 2012), we include various intergroup variables and input measures (e.g., policies and legislative rights) designed to manage diversity and achieve intercultural harmony. Given that managing diversity requires the long-term commitment of states, and given the importance of assessing a state’s readiness to accommodate minorities, we argue that an ICD index should incorporate both inputs and outputs. However, we acknowledge that there might be discrepancies between intended policy inputs and the actual outputs and associated outcomes. Policies with good intent might have unintended consequences.
that undermine the intended positive impact. The input and output measures in the ICDI balance such discrepancies, while regular updates of the input variables will be needed to incorporate legislative and policy changes.

4.2 Conceptual Background

The diverse mix of socioeconomic, cultural, psychological and political indicators used in this index are based on the theoretical framework outlined above (section 3). Adding indicators that assess the prevailing policy climate for ICD provides completeness and fills specific gaps in this area. Conceptually, the index assesses whether ICD is taking place in a country and to what extent it is reflected through indicators across the three main dimensions. As with many other social indicators, the ICDI does not measure ICD per se, in absolute terms (it does not tell how much ICD there is in a given country). Rather, it is a relative measure that should be understood contextually. Yet, the analysis and data reported with the ICDI can be used to analyse, make sense, and even predict a range of socio-political outcomes, including intergroup conflict, racial strife, discrimination, social cohesion, and so on (cf. Foa and Tanner 2012). For example, Table 1 provides a provisional list of outcomes that we hypothesise to be associated with the index, along with the expected direction of association.2

The index is designed ultimately to generate benchmark data on the degree of cultural, social and political interconnectedness in a country among its ethnic, racial and cultural constituents. The ICDI can also be useful as a general predictive tool to identify areas needing policy intervention, giving policymakers the opportunity to consider measures that can prevent or at least minimise the chances of intercultural conflict. Though the index is at present designed for a country level analysis, its methodology can, nevertheless, be extended for implementation at sub-national levels.

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2 In this study we report the association of ICDI and five variables where data is available across the included countries.
4.3 Methods

The ICDI was conceptualised on the basis of established methods for index–development, such as those suggested in the OECD’s *Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators* (OECD 2008). These data selection and analytical tools have been widely utilised in other well-known indices, including the Doing Business Indicators (World Bank 2019a, b, c), Global Peace Index (Institute for Economics and Peace 2017) and the Social Progress Index (Porter et al. 2014). The OECD guideline suggests at least 10 key steps as a checklist for index construction. Each of the recommendations have been used in constructing the ICDI. One of these relates to theoretical framework, providing justification for inclusion of indicators. Table 2 outlines the conceptual architecture of the ICDI, with three levels of analysis. First, the 31 indicators, listed in column 3, were selected and generated from available indices and reliable public data sources. They all represent relevant measures that relate to the core ICD dimensions (see section 3). Second, the ten components (column 2) were generated by weighting, transforming and combining the relevant indicators. Each component has between two and four indicators. A component represents a unique but interrelated input, tool, support structure, and social outcome, and combines with the rest to make up a dimension. The dimensions (column 1) represent the primary elements that combine to measure a country’s readiness for intercultural interaction. The components are the broad conceptual categories that we argue affect the possibility of ICD in a country. A country’s dimension score is calculated as the average of the component in that dimension.

The other nine methodological suggestions in the OECD guideline relate to selection, completion, optimal incorporation, and analysis of the underlying data. Below is a list of these nine steps along with the corresponding section in the current article, detailing their application.

1. Data should be selected based on ‘analytical soundness, measurability, country coverage and relevance’ (OECD 2008, p. 19; See Sections 4.3.1–4.3.3).

   The index construction should incorporate:

2. Applying imputation to complete the dataset (Section 4.4.2),
3. Applying multivariate analysis to examine the structure of the datasets (Section 4.5, step 1),
4. Applying normalisation of variables for comparability (Section 4.5, step 2),
5. Weighting and aggregation based on underlying theory (Section 4.5, step 1),
6. Conducting robustness test (section 4.6),
7. Reflecting on the overall performance of the index (Section 5),
8. Linking the index to other indicators through statistical models (Section 4.6),
9. Applying visualisation of the results (Fig. 2 and Appendix, Fig. 8).

   Each of these methodological guidelines ensure that the index is consistently measured for all countries, can be replicated, and is fairly transparent in terms of the analysis and the results.

4.3.1 Indicator Selection Criteria

The indicators for the ICDI were selected on the basis of three main criteria that are commonly used in the literature (OECD 2008):
1. Relevance to intercultural and diversity issues. (Does the indicator have direct relevance to ICD? If so, how is it related? Does it enhance/sustain or prevent ICD from taking place?)

2. Data quality and availability. (Are there sufficient, reliable and accessible data for the indicator? Is it available for a sufficient number of countries?)

3. Data comparability and measurability. (Are the data comparable across countries? Can they be measured consistently?)

4.3.2 Selection of Countries

Countries were selected based on availability of reliable data. In some cases, countries did not have values for certain indicators for at least two reasons: data were not reported to international organizations; or a source did not include certain countries. A country was excluded if more than one indicator value was missing for two or more components. Other indices have used less strict criteria for missing values (See for example, Porter et al. 2014). For the included countries, an indicator’s missing value was filled with an estimated value based on regressions run at the component level. For countries with estimated values exceeding/below a reasonable limit, the theoretical maximum/minimum based on available recorded data for the indicator was used instead of the estimated value. For example, dual citizenship is a dichotomous variable with yes/no options. If the estimated value was calculated to be a negative value, 0 was used instead. For retention of maximum variance, missing data were replaced before excluding countries with significant number of missing values. This enabled us to generate complete data for countries that were included.

4.3.3 Data Sources

Data for the ICDI was compiled beginning in February 2018. First, we identified data sources that could potentially be used in the construction of the ICDI based on our selection criteria. These data were assessed for relevance, data quality, and coverage in terms of time period and geographic unit before they were utilised in the calculation of the index. The main data sources were:

1. National constitutions, legislations, and policy documents;
2. National statistics;
3. Existing global indices;
4. International databases.

The ICDI followed a consistent process for data collection to maintain overall data quality and ensure comparability across countries. Data for the index were mostly collected from web-based public sources. Where internationally comparable data and/or indices were not available for an indicator, particularly for indicators involving national legislations, we applied score rankings based on available legislations and constitutions. For example, in the case of multicultural acts, we determined the existence or absence of such legislation (e.g., the Multicultural Act in Canada and the Australian Multicultural Policy). For the structural foundation and intercultural opportunities dimensions, data were sourced from peer-reviewed publications and available international indices (e.g., State Fragility Index, Fractionalization Index). Where standardised indices were not available, raw data were used (e.g., number of immigrants’ living languages, UNESCO Educational
Attainment database). For some relevant indicators (e.g., intercultural or inter-ethnic/inter-racial attitudes, racism), data and measures were usually available at individual-level from local or national surveys. However, most of these are not comparable globally, therefore, we used available measures from existing global surveys (e.g., the PEW Global Attitude survey, the World Values Survey). However, for most indicators, we used global indices or international databases.

The interrelated set of components, dimensions and indicators constituting the ICDI are reported in Table 2. A complete list of the data sources for all indicators is provided in Appendix, Table 7.3

4.4 Computation of the Index

After the selection of indicators and collection of the relevant data, we pursued the following four steps to statistically compute the ICDI:

1. First, each component was calculated by summing the weighted indicator scores.
2. These component scores were then transformed to comparable scores.
3. Dimension scores for each dimension were calculated as averages of the respective components.
4. Finally, the overall ICDI was calculated as the average score of the three dimensions.

Step 1 Component calculation

First, component scores were computed as the weighted sum of a country’s indicator scores on each of the three dimensions. Various indicator-weighting methods have been used in the literature (Foa and Tanner 2012). Some indices use equal weights across indicators where each indicator is given the same weight, regardless of statistical association (e.g., the Human Development Index, HDI). Another method is the use of regression to generate weights (e.g., Quality of Life Index). In this case, coefficient estimates from a regression of a latent variable on the indicators are used as weights. A third method is principal component analysis (PCA; e.g., Doing Business Indicators, the Social Progress Index). Factor loadings from PCA were used in these indices as the indicator weights. For the ICDI, we used the third approach. Prior to the aggregation of component scores, we weighted the indicators based on relative weights generated using PCA. Complete data generated by filling missing values across indicators allowed us to apply PCA to reduce potential redundancy between indicators while maintaining the maximum amount of variance (Porter et al. 2014). We also obtained a mean Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin score of 0.75, which is above the minimum required score of 0.5 for considering PCA (Kaiser 1974). The Bartlett test for sphericity was 182.9 ($P < 0.01$), indicating that PCA was appropriate. We performed PCA on each component, and the first component loadings (PC-1), which account for much of the variance were used as weights (Benigni et al. 1994; Porter et al. 2014). After the computation of the indicator weights, we scaled them to a range of (0, 1). The computed weights are reported in Appendix, Table 8.

Then, component score $C$ for country $j$ was calculated using the formula:

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3 A clean version of the analytical data is available from the authors upon request.
Table 2  Dimensions, components and indicators used for assessing intercultural dialogue

| Dimensions | Components | Indicators |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Legislative & policy context (LPC) | Multiculturalism | Multicultural/diversity: act or policy |
| | | Measures on integration of migrants |
| | | Dual citizenship |
| | Anti-discrimination | Anti-discrimination: act or policy |
| | | Ratification of international anti-discrimination convention |
| Structural foundations (SFs) | Platform for social contact | Tourism arrivals |
| | | Cultural participation |
| | | Number of living indigenous languages |
| | | Number of living immigrant languages |
| Fractionalization | Ethnic Fractionalization index |
| | Linguistic Fractionalization index |
| | Religious Fractionalization index |
| Socio-economic inequality | Gini coefficient |
| | Intergenerational social mobility |
| | Level of educational attainment |
| Access to communication | Newspapers published |
| | Mobile telephone subscription |
| | Internet users |
| Cohesion and stability | Intergroup cohesion |
| | State Fragility Index |
| | Fragile States Index |
| Intercultural opportunities (ICO) | Intercultural attitudes and competence | Racism (Attitudes towards other groups) |
| | | Global social tolerance index (tolerance) |
| | | Global tolerance index (intolerance) |
| Minority representation | Religious Restriction Index |
| | Inclusion for Minorities Index |
| | Intergroup relations (ethnic exclusion) |
| | Discrimination of ethnic minorities |
| Freedom and rights | Press Freedom Index |
| | Freedom of domestic movement |
| | Freedom of foreign movement and travel |

Note. This table provides a list of dimensions, components and indicators for ICDI. Overall, 31 indicators have been identified and assembled reflecting the 10 components and three dimensions of the index.
where \( X_{ij} \) is a matrix of indicators, showing the \( i^{th} \) indicator for country \( j \); \( w_j \) is a vector of indicator weights, and is given by:

\[
w_j = [w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_i]
\]

**Step 2 Component transformation**

To allow for transparency and relative comparison of components across countries and among components, we transformed the weighted component scores using theoretical best and worst cases estimated using the available data across all countries (See Appendix, Table 9 for the best and worst indicator scores). Porter et al. (2014) used a similar approach in the calculation of the Social Progress Index, and such transformation enables the standardization of indicator scores in the 0–1 or 0–100 range. The formula used to transform the components was:

\[
C_{ij}^t = \frac{x_{ij} - x_{iw}}{x_b - x_w}
\]

where \( C_{ij}^t \) is the transformed component \( i \) for country \( j \); \( x_b \) and \( x_w \) are the best and worst relative country scores available for component \( i \). The transformed component summary statistics for all countries are provided in Table 3. All components except *intercultural attitudes* have at least 140 observations, with the latter being the main constraint for the global coverage of the ICDI.

**Table 3** Summary statistics for components across countries

| Dimension                        | Component                  | Obs. | Mean | Standard Deviation | Min | Max  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------|------|--------------------|-----|------|
| Legislative & policy context (LPC) | Multiculturalism           | 150  | 0.50 | 0.15               | 0.23| 1.03 |
|                                  | Anti-discrimination        | 234  | 0.42 | 0.30               | 0   | 1    |
| Structural foundations (SFs)     | Platform for social contact| 195  | 0.06 | 0.10               | 0   | 0.76 |
|                                  | Fractionalization          | 210  | 0.55 | 0.23               | 0.05| 0.99 |
|                                  | Socio-economic inequality  | 161  | 0.32 | 0.36               | −0.28| 1.12 |
|                                  | Access to communication    | 202  | 0.26 | 0.17               | 0   | 0.81 |
|                                  | Social cohesion and stability| 170  | 0.48 | 0.21               | 0.07| 0.88 |
| Intercultural opportunities (ICO)| Intercultural attitudes    | 53   | 0.62 | 0.21               | 0.20| 0.98 |
|                                  | Minority representation    | 140  | 0.60 | 0.17               | 0.13| 0.95 |
|                                  | Freedom of press           | 194  | 0.65 | 0.20               | −0.02| 1    |

*Note.* Values are estimated for countries with complete data available at the component level.
Step 3 Dimension calculation
Dimension scores ($D_j$) were computed by averaging the component scores using the formula:

$$D_j = \frac{1}{k} \sum_c C_j$$

where $k$ indicates the number of components in the respective dimension and varies across the dimensions.

Step 4 Calculation of index scores
Finally, the overall index, ICDI, was calculated as the average of dimension scores, using the formula:

$$ICDI_j = \frac{1}{3} \sum D_j$$

Table 4 provides summary statistics (correlation coefficients, means and standard deviations) for the three dimension scores. The ICDI score is positively correlated with the three dimensions, with the LPC and ICO dimensions showing the highest correlations ($r > 0.8, p < 0.01$). This is plausible and consistent with the theoretical basis of the index, in that intercultural attitudes and multicultural policies have stronger relevance to the ICD framework. Intercultural dialogue is more likely to occur in countries with strong multicultural policy environment and positive attitudes towards ethno-cultural diversity (Stokke and Lybaek 2018).

The final ICDI score for each country (N = 51) is reported in Table 5 and Figure 2. Columns 1–3 report the dimension scores for those countries with enough data at the dimension level, although the available data is not enough to compute the index. The LPC and SF dimensions have $M=0.53$, $SD=0.17$ and $M=0.33$, $SD=0.16$ respectively, while the ICO dimension, which includes mainly middle- and high-income countries, has $M=0.63$, $SD=0.15$. Theoretically, the ICDI ranges from 0 to 1, however the scores generated in this study had a smaller range. The country with the highest ICDI score was Sweden (ICDI = 0.814); Iran had the lowest score (ICDI = 0.342). The mean and standard deviation for the overall scores are 0.55 and 0.11. As can be seen in Table 5 and Fig. 2, developed countries including Sweden, Canada, Australia, Finland and United Kingdom (in this order) have the highest ICDI score. Other developed countries such as Germany, United States, New Zealand, and France have high scores in some components but fell short in the overall score compared to the former countries. Countries with the lowest ICDI include Iran, Malaysia, and China, with scores ranging from 0.33 to 0.36. In these countries, the three dimensions comparably contribute to their low index scores.
| Country                  | Abbreviation | Dimension 1 (legislative & policy context) | Dimension 2 (structural foundations) | Dimension 3 (intercultural opportunities) | ICDI Score |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------|
| Afghanistan             | AFG          | 0.327                                    |                                      |                                          | 0.114      |
| Angola                  | AGO          | 0.532                                    |                                      |                                          | 0.079      |
| Albania                 | ALB          | 0.680                                    |                                      |                                          | 0.382      |
| Argentina               | ARG          | 0.641                                    | 0.448                                | 0.729                                    | 0.606      |
| Armenia                 | ARM          | 0.692                                    | 0.479                                |                                          |            |
| Antigua and Barbuda     | ATG          | 0.357                                    |                                      |                                          |            |
| Australia               | AUS          | 0.961                                    | 0.579                                | 0.820                                    | 0.787      |
| Austria                 | AUT          | 0.657                                    | 0.549                                |                                          |            |
| Azerbaijan              | AZE          | 0.465                                    | 0.451                                |                                          |            |
| Burundi                 | BDI          | 0.641                                    | 0.134                                |                                          |            |
| Belgium                 | BEL          | 0.743                                    | 0.448                                |                                          |            |
| Benin                   | BEN          | 0.394                                    | 0.177                                |                                          |            |
| Burkina Faso            | BFA          | 0.394                                    | 0.098                                |                                          |            |
| Bangladesh              | BGD          | 0.386                                    | 0.294                                |                                          |            |
| Bulgaria                | BGR          | 0.791                                    | 0.456                                | 0.563                                    | 0.603      |
| Bahrain                 | BHR          | 0.327                                    |                                      |                                          |            |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina  | BIH          |                                         |                                      |                                          | 0.294      |
| Belarus                 | BLR          | 0.612                                    | 0.441                                | 0.486                                    | 0.513      |
| Bolivia                 | BOL          | 0.779                                    | 0.338                                |                                          |            |
| Brazil                  | BRA          | 0.532                                    | 0.387                                | 0.679                                    | 0.533      |
| Bhutan                  | BTN          |                                         | 0.163                                |                                          |            |
| Botswana                | BWA          | 0.386                                    | 0.349                                |                                          |            |
| Central African Republic | CAF          | 0.327                                    |                                      |                                          | 0.074      |
| Canada                  | CAN          | 1.013                                    | 0.503                                | 0.866                                    | 0.794      |
| Switzerland             | CHE          | 0.808                                    | 0.565                                |                                          |            |
| Chile                   | CHL          | 0.445                                    | 0.476                                | 0.701                                    | 0.541      |
| China                   | CHN          | 0.386                                    | 0.379                                | 0.332                                    | 0.366      |
| Cote d’Ivoire           | CIV          | 0.446                                    | 0.119                                |                                          |            |
| Cameroon                | CMR          | 0.625                                    | 0.145                                |                                          |            |
| Congo, Dem. Rep. (Zaire)| COD          | 0.386                                    | 0.077                                |                                          |            |
| Congo                   | COG          | 0.454                                    | 0.116                                |                                          |            |
| Colombia                | COL          | 0.859                                    | 0.393                                | 0.638                                    | 0.630      |
| Comoros                 | COM          |                                         |                                      |                                          | 0.257      |
| Cape Verde              | CPV          | 0.357                                    | 0.350                                |                                          |            |
| Costa Rica              | CRI          | 0.692                                    | 0.443                                |                                          |            |
| Cuba                    | CUB          | 0.446                                    |                                      |                                          |            |
| Cyprus                  | CYP          | 0.775                                    | 0.442                                | 0.700                                    | 0.639      |
| Czech Republic          | CZE          | 0.644                                    | 0.522                                |                                          |            |
| Germany                 | DEU          | 0.740                                    | 0.594                                | 0.689                                    | 0.674      |
| Djibouti                | DJI          |                                         |                                      |                                          | 0.181      |
| Denmark                 | DNK          | 0.561                                    | 0.580                                |                                          |            |
| Dominican Republic      | DOM          | 0.454                                    | 0.352                                |                                          |            |
| Country          | Abbreviation | Dimension (1) legislative & policy context | Dimension (2) structural foundations | Dimension (3) intercultural opportunities | ICDI Score |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------|
| Algeria          | DZA          | 0.465                                      | 0.269                                | 0.481                                     | 0.405      |
| Ecuador          | ECU          | 0.481                                      | 0.339                                |                                           |            |
| Egypt            | EGY          | 0.447                                      | 0.327                                | 0.461                                     | 0.411      |
| Spain            | ESP          | 0.625                                      | 0.410                                | 0.798                                     | 0.611      |
| Estonia          | EST          | 0.625                                      | 0.493                                | 0.614                                     | 0.577      |
| Ethiopia         | ETH          | 0.327                                      | 0.081                                |                                           |            |
| Finland          | FIN          | 0.961                                      | 0.560                                | 0.833                                     | 0.785      |
| Fiji             | FJI          | 0.524                                      | 0.315                                |                                           |            |
| France           | FRA          | 0.808                                      | 0.537                                | 0.755                                     | 0.700      |
| Gabon            | GAB          | 0.607                                      | 0.234                                |                                           |            |
| United Kingdom   | GBR          | 0.808                                      | 0.594                                | 0.738                                     | 0.713      |
| Georgia          | GEO          | 0.612                                      | 0.316                                | 0.582                                     | 0.503      |
| Ghana            | GHA          | 0.394                                      | 0.229                                | 0.700                                     | 0.441      |
| Guinea           | GIN          | 0.327                                      | 0.082                                |                                           |            |
| Gambia, The      | GMB          | 0.394                                      | 0.124                                |                                           |            |
| Guinea-Bissau    | GNB          |                                           | 0.092                                |                                           |            |
| Greece           | GRC          | 0.724                                      | 0.481                                |                                           |            |
| Grenada          | GRD          | 0.524                                      | 0.234                                |                                           |            |
| Guatemala        | GTM          | 0.394                                      | 0.231                                |                                           |            |
| Guyana           | GUY          | 0.386                                      | 0.234                                |                                           |            |
| Honduras         | HND          | 0.394                                      | 0.322                                |                                           |            |
| Croatia          | HRV          | 0.708                                      | 0.477                                |                                           |            |
| Haiti            | HTI          |                                           | 0.245                                |                                           |            |
| Hungary          | HUN          | 0.859                                      | 0.522                                |                                           |            |
| Indonesia        | IDN          | 0.545                                      | 0.357                                | 0.510                                     | 0.471      |
| India            | IND          | 0.470                                      | 0.329                                | 0.459                                     | 0.419      |
| Ireland          | IRL          | 0.692                                      | 0.557                                |                                           |            |
| Iran             | IRN          | 0.327                                      | 0.320                                | 0.382                                     | 0.343      |
| Iraq             | IRQ          | 0.612                                      | 0.212                                |                                           |            |
| Iceland          | ISL          | 0.445                                      | 0.586                                |                                           |            |
| Israel           | ISR          | 0.561                                      | 0.459                                |                                           |            |
| Italy            | ITA          | 0.558                                      | 0.474                                | 0.748                                     | 0.593      |
| Jamaica          | JAM          |                                           | 0.397                                |                                           |            |
| Jordan           | JOR          | 0.561                                      | 0.358                                | 0.428                                     | 0.449      |
| Japan            | JPN          | 0.327                                      | 0.649                                | 0.580                                     | 0.518      |
| Kazakhstan       | KAZ          | 0.298                                      | 0.456                                |                                           |            |
| Kenya            | KEN          | 0.394                                      | 0.124                                |                                           |            |
| Kyrgyzstan       | KGZ          | 0.365                                      | 0.365                                | 0.566                                     | 0.432      |
| Cambodia         | KHM          |                                           | 0.243                                |                                           |            |
| Korea, South     | KOR          | 0.612                                      | 0.586                                | 0.658                                     | 0.619      |
| Lao People’s Dem. Rep. | LAO | 0.446                                      | 0.162                                |                                           |            |
| Lebanon          | LBN          | 0.532                                      | 0.303                                |                                           |            |
| Country                         | Abbreviation | Dimension (1) legislative & policy context | Dimension (2) structural foundations | Dimension (3) intercultural opportunities | ICDI Score |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------|
| Liberia                        | LBR          | 0.386                                       | 0.093                                |                                           |            |
| Libya                          | LBY          | 0.394                                       |                                      |                                           |            |
| Liechtenstein                  | LIE          | 0.283                                       |                                      |                                           |            |
| Sri Lanka                      | LKA          | 0.621                                       | 0.256                                |                                           |            |
| Lesotho                        | LSO          | 0.327                                       | 0.251                                |                                           |            |
| Lithuania                      | LTU          | 0.545                                       | 0.505                                |                                           |            |
| Luxembourg                     | LUX          | 0.775                                       | 0.476                                |                                           |            |
| Latvia                         | LVA          | 0.417                                       | 0.416                                |                                           |            |
| Morocco                        | MAR          | 0.641                                       | 0.268                                | 0.509                                     | 0.473      |
| Monaco                         | MCO          | 0.283                                       |                                      |                                           |            |
| Moldova                        | MDA          | 0.692                                       | 0.384                                |                                           |            |
| Madagascar                     | MDG          | 0.493                                       | 0.198                                |                                           |            |
| Mexico                         | MEX          | 0.779                                       | 0.415                                | 0.548                                     | 0.581      |
| Macedonia (former Yug. Rep.)   | MKD          | 0.621                                       | 0.333                                |                                           |            |
| Mali                           | MLI          | 0.454                                       | 0.102                                |                                           |            |
| Malta                          | MLT          | 0.690                                       | 0.434                                |                                           |            |
| Myanmar (Burma)                | MMR          | 0.279                                       | 0.199                                |                                           |            |
| Mongolia                       | MNG          | 0.458                                       | 0.419                                |                                           |            |
| Mozambique                     | MOZ          | 0.454                                       | 0.108                                |                                           |            |
| Mauritania                     | MRT          | 0.553                                       | 0.167                                |                                           |            |
| Mauritius                      | MUS          | 0.523                                       | 0.389                                |                                           |            |
| Malawi                         | MWI          | 0.327                                       | 0.114                                |                                           |            |
| Malaysia                       | MYS          | 0.160                                       | 0.404                                | 0.496                                     | 0.353      |
| Namibia                        | NAM          | 0.532                                       | 0.236                                |                                           |            |
| Niger                          | NER          | 0.386                                       | 0.094                                |                                           |            |
| Nigeria                        | NGA          | 0.532                                       | 0.251                                | 0.564                                     | 0.449      |
| Nicaragua                      | NIC          | 0.454                                       | 0.298                                |                                           |            |
| Netherlands                    | NLD          | 0.527                                       | 0.513                                | 0.865                                     | 0.635      |
| Norway                         | NOR          | 0.740                                       | 0.644                                |                                           |            |
| Nepal                          | NPL          | 0.446                                       | 0.176                                |                                           |            |
| New Zealand                    | NZL          | 0.779                                       | 0.458                                | 0.859                                     | 0.699      |
| Oman                           | OMN          | 0.532                                       |                                      |                                           |            |
| Pakistan                       | PAK          | 0.327                                       | 0.158                                |                                           |            |
| Panama                         | PAN          | 0.612                                       | 0.417                                |                                           |            |
| Peru                           | PER          | 0.532                                       | 0.385                                | 0.637                                     | 0.518      |
| Philippines                    | PHL          | 0.532                                       | 0.337                                | 0.615                                     | 0.495      |
| Papua New Guinea               | PNG          | 0.454                                       | 0.333                                |                                           |            |
| Poland                         | POL          | 0.545                                       | 0.563                                | 0.677                                     | 0.595      |
| Portugal                       | PRT          | 0.859                                       | 0.434                                |                                           |            |
| Paraguay                       | PRY          | 0.532                                       | 0.331                                |                                           |            |
| Qatar                          | QAT          | 0.386                                       |                                      |                                           |            |
Table 5 (continued)

| Country                        | Abbreviation | Dimension (1) legislative & policy context | (2) structural foundations | (3) intercultural opportunities | ICDI Score |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Romania                        | ROU          | 0.859                                     | 0.460                       | 0.543                            | 0.621      |
| Russian Federation             | RUS          | 0.612                                     | 0.522                       | 0.529                            | 0.554      |
| Rwanda                         | RWA          | 0.454                                     | 0.216                       | 0.630                            | 0.433      |
| Saudi Arabia                   | SAU          | 0.327                                     |                             |                                  |            |
| Sudan                          | SDN          | 0.514                                     | 0.088                       |                                  |            |
| Senegal                        | SEN          | 0.481                                     | 0.151                       |                                  |            |
| Singapore                      | SGP          | 0.465                                     | 0.547                       | 0.547                            | 0.520      |
| Sierra Leone                   | SLE          | 0.394                                     | 0.095                       |                                  |            |
| El Salvador                    | SLV          | 0.394                                     | 0.335                       |                                  |            |
| San Marino                     | SMR          | 0.283                                     |                             |                                  |            |
| Serbia/Montenegro (Yugoslavia) | SRB          | 0.621                                     |                             | 0.601                            |            |
| Slovak Republic                | SVK          | 0.859                                     | 0.516                       |                                  |            |
| Slovenia                       | SVN          | 0.676                                     | 0.538                       | 0.721                            | 0.645      |
| Sweden                         | SWE          | 0.961                                     | 0.635                       | 0.847                            | 0.814      |
| Swaziland                      | SWZ          |                                          | 0.282                       |                                  |            |
| Syria                          | SYR          | 0.454                                     | 0.184                       |                                  |            |
| Chad                           | TCD          | 0.514                                     | 0.066                       |                                  |            |
| Togo                           | TGO          | 0.327                                     | 0.111                       |                                  |            |
| Thailand                       | THA          | 0.465                                     | 0.310                       | 0.461                            | 0.412      |
| Tajikistan                     | TJK          | 0.524                                     | 0.348                       |                                  |            |
| East Timor                     | TLS          |                                          |                             | 0.141                            |            |
| Trinidad and Tobago            | TTO          | 0.532                                     | 0.429                       | 0.777                            | 0.579      |
| Tunisia                        | TUN          | 0.394                                     | 0.366                       |                                  |            |
| Turkey                         | TUR          | 0.532                                     | 0.340                       | 0.304                            | 0.392      |
| Taiwan                         | TWN          |                                          |                             | 0.796                            |            |
| Tanzania                       | TZA          | 0.327                                     | 0.105                       |                                  |            |
| Uganda                         | UGA          | 0.394                                     | 0.062                       |                                  |            |
| Ukraine                        | UKR          | 0.458                                     | 0.418                       | 0.612                            | 0.496      |
| Uruguay                        | URY          | 0.532                                     | 0.418                       | 0.847                            | 0.599      |
| United States                  | USA          | 0.694                                     | 0.620                       | 0.777                            | 0.697      |
| Venezuela                      | VEN          | 0.692                                     | 0.369                       |                                  |            |
| Vietnam                        | VNM          | 0.454                                     | 0.312                       | 0.411                            | 0.392      |
| Yemen                          | YEM          | 0.327                                     | 0.208                       |                                  |            |
| South Africa                   | ZAF          | 0.665                                     | 0.335                       | 0.757                            | 0.586      |
| Zambia                         | ZMB          | 0.386                                     | 0.149                       |                                  |            |
| Zimbabwe                       | ZWE          | 0.327                                     | 0.141                       |                                  |            |
| Global Average                 |              | 0.530                                     | 0.334                       | 0.629                            | 0.552      |
| Global Standard Deviation      |              | 0.170                                     | 0.158                       | 0.147                            | 0.122      |

Note. This table provides indices for the three dimensions of ICDI. The last column, the ICDI benchmark index, was computed only for those with complete data across the three dimensions. Higher values indicate more prevalence or conditions for more prevalence of intercultural dialogue.
For further robustness test, we compared the ICDI with a number of key social, political and economic indicators. Data for these indicators were sourced from various publicly available databases: per capita GDP and political stability (World Bank), corruption (Transparency International), democracy (Economist Intelligence Unit), and peace index (Institute for Economics and Peace). Table 6 reports correlation coefficients for six global measures. The coefficients have the expected signs, as hypothesised in Table 1.

**Table 6** The ICDI in relation to other indices and indicators

| Variable                  | [1] | [2] | [3] | [4] | [5] | [6] | [7] |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Democracy Index        | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 2. Corruption Perception Index | 0.76 | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |
| 3. Political Stability Index | 0.65 | 0.75 | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| 4. Global Peace Index     | −0.66 | −0.70 | −0.91 | 1   |     |     |     |
| 5. Log GDP per capita     | 0.53 | 0.70 | 0.56 | −0.47 | 1   |     |     |
| 6. Human Development Index | 0.63 | 0.74 | 0.60 | −0.51 | 0.93 | 1   |     |
| 7. ICDI                   | 0.80 | 0.71 | 0.62 | −0.50 | 0.65 | 0.71 | 1   |

*Note.* For all variables except the Global Peace Index, higher values indicate more favourable outcome. All values are statistically significant at the 1% level.

### 4.5 Robustness Tests

For further robustness test, we compared the ICDI with a number of key social, political and economic indicators. Data for these indicators were sourced from various publicly available databases: per capita GDP and political stability (World Bank), corruption (Transparency International), democracy (Economist Intelligence Unit), and peace index (Institute for Economics and Peace). Table 6 reports correlation coefficients for six global measures. The coefficients have the expected signs, as hypothesised in Table 1.
Table 6 shows that the prevalence of conflict, perception of corruption, and the absence of peace are inversely related to ICD, whereas the existence of democracy, political stability, and better socio-economic wellbeing are directly related to ICD. It is reasonable to expect more dialogue taking place in more peaceful, democratic and politically stable countries, conversely, ICD can also create conditions for these to flourish. As indicated in Table 6, the democracy, corruption perception, and HDI indices were strongly correlated ($r > 0.7, p < 0.01$) with the ICDI. However, the index has moderate correlation with per capita GDP, peace and political stability indices ($r = 0.65, p = -0.5$ and $r = 0.62$ respectively). A graphic visualisation of these correlations is provided in Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

In another robustness test, we re-computed the ICDI using alternative weights, based on equal indicator weights at the component level. Upon comparing the results, we found a slight deviation in ICDI across countries ($\text{deviation} = \text{ICDI}_{W2} - \text{ICDI}_{W1}$ where $W1 = \text{PCA weights}$ and $W2 = \text{average weights}$). The result, reported in Appendix (Table 10), shows an average deviation of $+0.02$ points (2.35%) from the score obtained using PCA weighting.
ICD articulates an intercultural approach to addressing issues associated with cultural diversity and intercultural relations in multicultural societies. It sees cross-cultural contact and interaction as essential to reducing prejudice, which is a key contributing factor to intercultural conflict. Based on this conception, members of different groups...
and communities could bridge their cross-cultural differences to create respectful understanding with dialogic contact in a conducive environment (Council of Europe 2008; Zapata-Barrero 2016). While the effectiveness of ICD as a diversity policy approach has been debated at academic and theoretical levels, it has not been empirically tested with a tool for assessing a country’s overall readiness for positive intercultural relations. In this paper, we propose a global ICD index that can serve as a benchmark for assessing the state of intercultural relations across countries.
The development of a global social index is constrained by a number of obstacles at many levels. Perhaps the most notable obstacle relates to the (lack of) availability of robust, comparable global data. As discussed in this paper, this was the case in the context of measuring various indicators and dimensions of ICD as it remains difficult to locate and access reliable, global data on intercultural relations, which raises a number of methodological challenges and consequent limitations (See section 5.2). Despite such empirical challenges, the ICDI reports important findings about the way different countries are tracking in relation to particular dimensions of ICD and more generally in relation the overall diversity agenda. The significance of such analysis is that it can highlight areas where improvements are still needed in ways that can prevent emerging tensions and future conflicts in the countries in question.

Overall, the index generated solid performance cards for most of the countries included. For example, the ICDI indicates that countries that are historically considered to have well-established multicultural policies and adopt inclusive and pro-diversity policies (e.g., Canada, Sweden, and Australia) achieved higher scores. On the contrary, countries that lacked explicit pro-diversity policies in particular around multiculturalism, scored lower ICDI scores. The overall results around all dimensions have generated similarly consistent results across most countries. But the reliance on existing quantitative data can sometimes generate certain anomalies when the available datasets can mask deeper problems. This was the case for example in relation to France, which achieved a relatively high score of 0.7 in ICDI. The anomaly relates specifically to the fact that though France does not have an explicit pro-diversity multicultural policy, it nevertheless achieved a high score on measures of migrant integration as reported in UN databases we used for this index (United Nations 2017), thus leading to a skewed score in the LPD dimension. But looking at this differently, this supposed anomaly could also be interpreted as an indication that there is no uniform policy pathway for supporting migrant integration and overall intercultural relations.

These data-related challenges aside, the computed ICDI scores currently indicate strong correlation with six key global measures, indicating the index’s robustness as a social indicator. Given its correlation with its constituent dimensions, and particularly the strong correlation with the LPC and ICO dimensions, the index satisfies the relevance criteria as well as maintaining theoretical consistency. The ICDI indicates that countries that have performed better in accommodating cultural diversity or have more conducive multicultural policy environment tend to score higher, whereas countries without such environment, or that lack well-developed structural foundations scored lower.

Finally, indices should be developed for the right reasons, both at the conceptual–methodological and political–ideological levels. As such, the ICDI was conceptually driven by and attached to the ideals of interculturalism, namely meaningful contact, respect for difference and cross-cultural conviviality. To this end, the ICDI is an attempt to understand how societies can pursue a cosmopolitan agenda within three key domains to create the positive conditions understood to be conducive to the desired outcomes of ICD. In terms of the political and ideological aspect of such an index, it is critical that the index is not used instrumentally for political purposes by comparing countries in decontextualized ways that do not allow for conditions of socio-economic development, colonial histories and legacies of enduring political regimes to be taken into account when making sense of overall scores or outcomes related to ICD-specific dimensions. Far from it, the aim of this index is to gauge where different countries are along the intercultural journey and how a deeper, more nuanced understanding of specific indicators can support the further progress of the ICD.
agenda, thus avoiding unnecessary social fissures, and acting as an effective and sustainable prejudice-reduction mechanism.

5.1 Theoretical and Practical Implications

ICD, as highlighted in this study, incorporates multiple dimensions conducive to creating intercultural understanding across difference requiring both an acceptance of cultural diversity (or super-diversity) and a commitment to cross-cultural contact and dialogue. Multicultural policies have for decades sought to achieve the first with varying degrees of success across countries. However, achieving mutual understanding and social cohesion while maintaining the recognition of diversity calls for an intercultural approach. The findings reported in relation to the proposed ICDI have some key theoretical and practical implications.

First, the ICDI contributes to intercultural theory by providing researchers with an analytical instrument for measuring intercultural relations. Previously comparative assessment of pro-diversity conditions has been limited by the lack of benchmark data with comparable characteristics. In future, the ICDI and improved versions of the index will enable clearer measurement of ICD at the national level.

Second, the ICDI is expected to have more practical implications in policy circles. The index will provide policymakers with a tool to assess the state of intercultural relations in their jurisdictions. This means, regularly generated ICDI data will serve as an indicator for examining the effects of more policy interventions and pro-diversity strategies. If a country introduces a diversity or multicultural policy, anti-discrimination policy, or improves its position in other indicators, it will achieve better standing in ICDI.

Third, the ICDI may stimulate more discussions and debates around the intercultural agenda, in both academic and policy circles. In the absence of international data on ICD, quantifying and visualising an intercultural approach as a distinct social policy framework has not always been easy. This index may allow researchers and policymakers to better articulate ICD as a concept and policy framework.

6 Limitations

The main limitation of this study was the non-availability of internationally comparable data across all countries. For three indicators included in the ICDI, complete data was found for all of the 234 countries. For most of the other indicators, the coverage of data varied between 117 and 214 countries. However, available indicators for racism and tolerance/intolerance were limited to 50–60 countries. The paucity of critical racism and tolerance data precluded the extension of the index beyond the 51 countries that are reported in this paper. Potentially, this index could be improved and expanded with the availability of more data on race relations and on cultural participation, such as proposed in Morrone (2006) and UNESCO (2009).

Regarding the availability of specific data and country-specific information, a major challenge was related to the LPC dimension. Comparable data on multiculturalism and anti-discrimination legislations are not readily available at the international level. The Migrant Integration Policy Index developed by Huddleston et al. (2015), which provides
data for OECD countries, is the best that can be found for anti-discrimination policies. For multicultural legislation, this index used four indicators that are adapted from the Multiculturalism Policy Index (Kymlicka and Banting 2013; Tolley 2016). Kymlicka and colleagues use eight indicators, including constitutional or legislative affirmation, and government provisions for school curriculum, ethnic representation, exemption from dress code, dual citizenship, funding of ethnic organizations, bilingual education, and affirmative action. However, these data are only available for OECD countries, meaning that for this index it was possible to compile comparable data for only two of these indicators: dual citizenship and legislative or policy affirmation for multiculturalism. The ICDI could, therefore, potentially be improved and expanded when more complete data across the world, such as that of the MPI, becomes available.

Indeed, the inclusion and representation of more countries across all indicators would add vigour and robustness to the overall analysis of the state of diversity and multiculturalism. This would especially help in relation to the need for more comparative perspectives, where similar diversity or migration policy objectives are pursued through different policy options and enabling strategies. The example of migrant integration policies in relation to language support across countries as diverse as Australia, New Zealand and France is a good case in point. Although this is provided free of charge in Australia, it is limited to skilled migrants in France and attracts substantial fees in the case of New Zealand, meaning that the overall assessment and rating need to be more nuanced, reflecting these specificities. Yet, and despite some of these empirical and methodological limitations, the proposed index remains a very useful tool for gaining an overall insight into how particular countries are tracking overall in the ICD and diversity agenda and, more specifically, in relation to some of its key dimensions. Such analysis can be critically significant for policymakers when considering targeted policies aimed at enhancing social cohesion and the prevention of possible social fissures.

7 Conclusion

This paper discussed and presented the conceptual, empirical and data-specific issues that shaped the development of the ICDI, a composite index for assessing overall structural conditions for positive intercultural relations within individual countries. Using established methods of index construction, and following an overall conceptual approach based on different theoretical approaches to interculturalism (Elias and Mansouri 2020), the ICDI was constructed based on three inter-connected domains containing 31 relevant indicators. The key assumption here is that positive structural conditions within any given society are needed if the overall situation is to be conducive to positive ICD, that is both supportive of the diversity agenda and capable of circumventing potential social fissures and intercultural tensions. During a period of heightened global tensions, related to rising levels of hate speech, entrenched socio-economic inequalities and persistent forms of discrimination, the proposed index has the potential to offer up-to-date, nuanced reports on how different countries are placed in relation to the diversity agenda, particularly from the perspective of ICD. The key purpose here is to explain in specific empirical terms, and on the basis of robust, comparable data, the critical importance of ICD in the pursuit of broad anti-racism and pro-social cohesion agendas. At a time when social connectivity is changing because of tectonic changes around digital technologies and as a result of current global crises, a
data-driven understanding of intra-community and inter-community relations is essential for increased solidarity and collaboration across national, cultural and religious lines.

Preliminary analyses indicate that key findings of ICDI perform comparatively well relative to other established indices. This reflects the robustness of overall data sources used and collated for the index, as they address its main dimensions and the various indicators. Global indices need to tackle the twin challenges of conveying insights into broad thematic issues – in the case of the ICDI, pertaining to dialogue and diversity, while also being attentive to local specificities that affect the manifestations of particular indicators – and how these might be weighted, scored and ultimately reported comparatively in the global landscape. This precise tension between robust data that can be used comparatively and across different countries and the diverse set of local settings that presents one of the main challenges for the ICDI project. In this context, we envisage that additional work will be undertaken to expand and improve the data sources for the ICDI, to establish a more complete and meaningful global picture of how countries are pursuing the key conditions for intercultural relations and diversity governance.

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Authors’ contribution FM: coordinated the research, contributed to the conception and design, and wrote the manuscript. AE: contributed to research design, compiled the data, conducted the analysis, and wrote the manuscript.

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Code availability The software codes used in this research can be provided by the authors upon request

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest

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## Appendix

Table 7  The Intercultural Dialogue Index (ICDI): Index structure and data sources

| Indicators                                                | Data source                                                                                      | Year  | Indicator value range | Description of variable                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Multicultural/diversity: act or policy                 | Multicultural Policy Index [MPI] (2019); National constitutions                               | Various years | 0–2                  | Availability of explicit multicultural act or favourable diversity policy; 0 = Least favourable, 2 = Most favourable                                         |
| 2 Measures on integration of migrants                    | United Nations (2017)                                                                            | 2015  | 0–3                  | Data ranks countries based on availability of: (a) Language skill training, (b) transfer of professional credentials, (c) protection against non-discrimination [Best=3; Worst=0] |
| 3 Dual citizenship                                       | Multicultural Policy Index [MPI] (2019); National constitutions                               | Various years | 0–1                  | Constitutional affirmation of dual citizenship rights; 0 = Not allowed, 1 = Allowed                                                                       |
| 4 Anti-discrimination: act or policy                     | Migrant Integration Policy Index [Huddleston et al (2015); Panter et al. (2017); https://www.legislationline.org] | Various years | 0–2                  | Explicit anti-discrimination act/policy. 2 = national act or policy available and concrete anti-discrimination measure taken; 1 = concrete anti-discrimination measure taken; 0 = No policy or concrete measure taken. |
| 5 Ratification of international anti-discrimination convention | United Nations (2019)                                                                         | Various years | 0 – 1               | Signatory status on the International convention on the elimination of all forms or racial discrimination. If the country made a reservation when signing the convention, we assigned a score of 0.5 instead of the full score of 1. |
| 6 Tourism arrivals                                      | World Bank, WDI: International tourism arrivals, population                                     | 2000–2015 | 0 and above           | International tourist arrivals per total population                                                                                                    |
| 7 Cultural participation                                 | UNESCO (2019). World Heritage List Statistics                                                   | 2019  | 0 and above           | Number of UNESCO world heritage sites in a country.                                                                                                  |
| 8 Number of indigenous living languages                  | UNESCO Report                                                                                    | 2009  | 0 and above           | UNESCO (2009) Investing in cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.                                                                           |
| Indicators | Data source | Year | Indicator value range | Description of variable |
|------------|-------------|------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 9 Number of immigrant living languages | UNESCO Report | 2009 | 0 and above | UNESCO (2009) Investing in cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. |
| 10 Ethnic Fractionalization index<sup>1</sup> | Alesina & La Ferara | 2003 | 0–1 | 0 = least fractionalized, 1= most fractionalized |
| 11 Linguistic Fractionalization index | Alesina & La Ferara | 2003 | 0–1 | 0 = least fractionalized, 1= most fractionalized |
| 12 Religious Fractionalization index | Alesina & La Ferara | 2003 | 0 – 1 | 0 = least fractionalized, 1= most fractionalized |
| 13 Inequality for some ethnic-religious groups<sup>2</sup> | World Development Indicators | 2004–2015 | 0–1 | The data was averaged across the years to maximize data availability. |
| 14 Intergenerational social mobility | World Bank: Global Database on Intergenerational Mobility | 2018 | 0–100 | Intergenerational social mobility in education for those born in 1980-1989 (based on average parental educational attainment). Higher value indicates low relative social mobility (Intergenerational persistence). |
| 15 Level of educational attainment<sup>3</sup> | Barro-Lee Data | 2010 | 0–100 | Barro-Lee Educational Attainment Data (aged 15 years and older). Source: [http://www.barrolee.com/data/yrscch.htm](http://www.barrolee.com/data/yrscch.htm) |
| 16 Newspapers published | World Development Indicators | 1997–2004 | 0 and above | Daily newspapers, per 1,000 people. Source: [https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=wdi-databased-archieves-(beta)#](https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=wdi-databased-archieves-(beta)#) |
| 17 Mobile telephone | International Telecommunications Union | 2016 | 0 and above | Subscription per 100 inhabitants. International Telecommunications Union: [http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx) |
| Indicators                                  | Data source                                      | Year | Indicator value range | Description of variable                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 Internet users                          | International Telecommunications Union           | 2016 | 0 – 100               | Percentage of individuals using Internet service. International Telecommunications Union: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx |
| 19 Intergroup cohesion                     | Indices of Social Development                    | 2010 | 0 – 1                 | Measuring the degree of intergroup respect/cooperation within society based on variables including inter-group disparities, perceived discrimination, and distrust of other groups. Source: http://www.indsocevd.org/data-access.html |
| 20 State Fragility Index                   | Center for systemic peace                        | 2016 | 0–25                  | Based on 14 indicators, including security, political, economic, and social legitimacy, regime type, and conflict. |
| 21 Fragile States Index                    | Fund for Peace                                   | 2019 | 0–100                 | Based on 12 indicators, including group grievance, elite fractionalized, security, political stability, economic performance, demographic pressure and external intervention. Source: http://fundforpeace.org/fsi/data/ |
| 22 Racism (Attitudes towards other groups)| World Values Survey                              | 2010–2014 | 0–100            | Question asked: ‘Would not like to have as neighbours: People of a different race.’ World Values Survey: http://www.worldvaluesurvey.org/WVSDocumentatio nWV6.jsp |
| 23 Global social tolerance index           | Zanakis, Newburry and Taras                     | 2016 | 0 – 1                 | 0 = minimum tolerance, 1 = maximum tolerance                                           |
| 24 Global tolerance index (intolerance)    | Das, DiRienzo and Tiemann                       | 2008 | 0–100                 | 0 = minimum intolerance, 100 = maximum intolerance                                       |
| Indicators                                      | Data source                                      | Year       | Indicator value range | Description of variable                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25 Religious Restriction Index                 | Association of Religion Data Archives            | 2014       | 0–12                   | Comprising four variables: (1) Religious Regulation Index, (2) Religious Minority Discrimination Index, (3) State Funding of Religions, and (4) Societal Discrimination of Minority Religions |
| 26 Inclusion for minorities index              | Indices of Social Development                    | 2010       | 0–1                    | Level of discrimination against vulnerable groups (migrants, refugees, indigenous or lower castes). Values: 1 = fewer groups excluded, 0 = more groups excluded. [http://www.IndSo cDev.org/](http://www.IndSo cDev.org/) |
| 27 Intergroup relations (ethnic exclusion)     | Ethnic Power Relations, since 2000 [latest year available] | 2018       | 0–1                    | Share of excluded ethnic groups if they are ‘politically powerless’, ‘discriminated’, or ‘self-excluded’. Ethnic Power Relations (EPR) Dataset Family 2018. Vogt et al (2015). [https://icr.ethz.ch/data/epr/#ed](https://icr.ethz.ch/data/epr/#ed) |
| 28 Discrimination of ethnic minorities         | Minorities at Risk Database                      | 2004–2006  | 0–14                   | A composite measure of four variables: political, economic, religious and linguistic based: 0 = no discrimination, 14 = exclusion/repressive policy, 2006. Source: [http://www.mar.umd.edu/](http://www.mar.umd.edu/) |
| 29 Press Freedom Index                         | Reporters Without Borders                        | 2019       | 0–100                  | 2019 World Freedom of Press Index, 0 = the most free, 100 = least free. Data of press freedom ranking 2019. [https://rsf.org/en/ranking_table](https://rsf.org/en/ranking_table) |
| 30 Freedom of domestic movement                | Cingranelli and Richards Human Rights Data Project | 2011       | 0–2                    | Ease of human mobility (in bound); higher value means more freedom. CIRI Human Rights Data Project. [http://www.humanrightsdatab.com/p/data-documentation.html](http://www.humanrightsdatab.com/p/data-documentation.html) |
Table 7 (continued)

| Indicators                                | Data source               | Year | Indicator value range | Description of variable                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Freedom of foreign movement and travel    | Cingranelli and Richards  | 2011 | 0–2                  | Ease of human mobility (out bound); higher value means more freedom. CIRI Human Rights Data Project. http://www.humanrightdata.com/p/data-documentation.html |

*Note. Data source, coverage, and indicator value range. (1) Ethnic fractionalization: For Yemen, Gini Index (2000) was computed applying Alesina & La Ferara’s method based on data from Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2) Inequality: For New Zealand (2014), Singapore (2011), and Trinidad & Tobago (1992), data are for the latest available year from the WIID3.4 database (2017). (3) Educational attainment data for Ethiopia, (2011), Burkina Faso (2014), and Lebanon (2007) are for those aged 25 years and over, and are based on World Bank WDI. For Azerbaijan and Belarus (2011), Georgia and Macedonia (2009), Guinea (2016), and Nigeria (2010), the same data are from United Nations Statistics Division (2019).*
| Dimension | Component | Indicator Name | Raw Weight | Scaled Weight |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|------------|---------------|
| LPC       | Multiculturalism | Multicultural/diversity: act or policy | 0.69 | 0.41 |
| LPC       | Multiculturalism | Migrant Integration measures | 0.55 | 0.32 |
| LPC       | Multiculturalism | Dual citizenship | 0.46 | 0.27 |
| LPC       | Anti-discrimination | Anti-discrimination: act or policy | 0.71 | 0.50 |
| LPC       | Anti-discrimination | Ratification of UN anti-discrimination convention | 0.71 | 0.50 |
| SFs       | Platform for social contact | Tourism arrivals per population | 0.28 | 0.14 |
| SFs       | Platform for social contact | Cultural participation | 0.64 | 0.39 |
| SFs       | Platform for social contact | Number of indigenous living languages | 0.44 | 0.22 |
| SFs       | Platform for social contact | Number of immigrant living languages | 0.57 | 0.30 |
| SFs       | Fractionalization | Ethnic Fractionalization index | 0.66 | 0.39 |
| SFs       | Fractionalization | Linguistic Fractionalization index | 0.68 | 0.41 |
| SFs       | Fractionalization | Religious Fractionalization index | 0.33 | 0.20 |
| SFs       | Socio-economic inequality | GINI coefficient | 0.43 | 0.25 |
| SFs       | Socio-economic inequality | Intergenerational social mobility | 0.60 | 0.35 |
| SFs       | Socio-economic inequality | Level of educational attainment | 0.68 | 0.40 |
| SFs       | Access to communication | Newspapers published | 0.59 | 0.34 |
| SFs       | Access to communication | Mobile telephone | 0.52 | 0.30 |
| SFs       | Access to communication | Internet users | 0.62 | 0.36 |
| SFs       | Cohesion and stability | Intergroup cohesion | 0.52 | 0.30 |
| SFs       | Cohesion and stability | State Fragility Index | 0.60 | 0.35 |
| SFs       | Cohesion and stability | Fragile States Index | 0.61 | 0.35 |
The row weights are PCA loadings for the first component. The second column reports normalized weights scaled between 0 and 1.

| Dimension                        | Component                                | Indicator Name                              | Raw Weight | Scaled Weight |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Intercultural Opportunities (ICO)| Intercultural attitudes                  | Racist attitudes towards other groups       | 0.58       | 0.33          |
|                                  |                                          | Global social tolerance index               | 0.56       | 0.32          |
|                                  |                                          | Global tolerance index (intolerance)       | 0.59       | 0.34          |
| Minority representation          | Religious Restriction Index              |                                             | 0.26       | 0.14          |
|                                  | Inclusion for minorities index           |                                             | 0.59       | 0.31          |
|                                  | Intergroup relations (ethnic exclusion)  |                                             | 0.61       | 0.31          |
|                                  | Discrimination of ethnic minorities      |                                             | 0.46       | 0.24          |
| Freedom and rights               | Press Freedom Index                      |                                             | 0.53       | 0.31          |
|                                  | Freedom of domestic movement             |                                             | 0.61       | 0.35          |

*Note.* The row weights are PCA loadings for the first component. The second column reports normalized weights scaled between 0 and 1.
| Dimension                          | Component                      | Indicator name                                          | Obs. | Best score | Worst score |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|-------------|
| Legislative & policy context (LPC)| Multiculturalism              | Multicultural/diversity: act or policy                  | 138  | 1          | 0           |
|                                   | Measures on integration of migrants |                                                      | 190  | 3          | 0           |
|                                   | Dual citizenship               |                                                        | 197  | 1          | 0           |
| Anti-discrimination               | Anti-discrimination: act or policy |                                                      | 234  | 2          | 0           |
|                                   | Ratification of international anti-discrimination convention |                       | 234  | 1          | 0           |
| Structural foundations (SFs)      | Platform for cultural contact  | Tourism arrivals per population                        | 200  | 32.757     | 0           |
|                                   | Cultural participation         |                                                        | 234  | 55         | 0           |
|                                   | Number of living indigenous languages |                                    | 201  | 820        | 1           |
|                                   | Number of living immigrant languages |                                 | 164  | 149        | 1           |
| Fractionalization                 | Ethnic Fractionalization index |                                                        | 190  | 0          | 0.930       |
|                                   | Linguistic Fractionalization index |                              | 202  | 0          | 0.923       |
|                                   | Religious Fractionalization index |                                    | 214  | 0.002      | 0.860       |
| Socio-economic inequality         | Gini coefficient               |                                                        | 158  | 24.95      | 63.55       |
|                                   | Intergenerational social mobility |                                    | 163  | 0.17       | 1.16        |
|                                   | Level of educational attainment |                                    | 177  | 92.51      | 2.75        |
| Access to communication           | Newspapers published          |                                                        | 129  | 563.34     | 0.09        |
|                                   | Mobile telephone subscription  |                                                        | 203  | 332.1      | 0           |
|                                   | Internet users                 |                                                        | 208  | 99         | 0           |
| Cohesion and stability            | Intergroup cohesion            |                                                        | 159  | 0.79       | 0.18        |
|                                   | State Fragility Index          |                                                        | 168  | 0          | 24          |
|                                   | Fragile States Index           |                                                        | 178  | 0          | 120         |
Table 9 (continued)

| Dimension | Component | Indicator name | Obs. | Best score | Worst score |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|------|------------|-------------|
| Intercultural opportunities (ICO) | Intercultural attitude | Racist attitudes towards other groups | 59 | 1 | 58.1 |
| | | Global social tolerance index (tolerance) | 56 | 1 | 0 |
| | | Social tolerance index (intolerance) | 55 | 5.42 | 54.53 |
| Minority representation | Religious Restriction Index | | 176 | 0 | 12 |
| | Inclusion for Minorities Index | | 129 | 0.65 | 0.28 |
| | Intergroup relations (ethnic exclusion) | | 173 | 0 | 0.86 |
| | Discrimination of minorities | | 117 | 0 | 13 |
| Freedoms and rights | Press Freedom Index | | 187 | 7.82 | 85.44 |
| | Freedom of domestic movement | | 194 | 2 | 0 |
| | Freedom of foreign movement and travel | | 194 | 2 | 0 |

Note. Values indicate theoretical minimum and maximum values, generated from available indicator data for all countries, including those which were excluded from the computation of the ICDI (n=234).
Table 10 Robustness check: difference in ICDI scores, PCA weighting vs. equal weighting

| Country | Abbreviation | Difference in scores | absolute | Percentage |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|----------|------------|
| Algeria | DZA          | 0.03                 | 2.76     |            |
| Argentina | ARG        | 0.01                 | 1.48     |            |
| Australia | AUS        | 0.03                 | 2.82     |            |
| Belarus | BLR          | 0.04                 | 3.62     |            |
| Brazil  | BRA          | 0.01                 | 1.01     |            |
| Bulgaria | BGR        | 0.04                 | 3.94     |            |
| Canada  | CAN          | 0.03                 | 2.59     |            |
| Chile   | CHL          | 0.02                 | 1.53     |            |
| China   | CHN          | 0.04                 | 3.96     |            |
| Colombia | COL          | 0.01                 | 0.72     |            |
| Cyprus  | CYP          | 0.02                 | 2.20     |            |
| Egypt   | EGY          | 0.04                 | 3.57     |            |
| Estonia | EST          | 0.02                 | 2.15     |            |
| Finland | FIN          | 0.02                 | 2.39     |            |
| France  | FRA          | 0.02                 | 2.47     |            |
| Georgia | GEO          | 0.03                 | 2.79     |            |
| Germany | DEU          | 0.04                 | 4.14     |            |
| Ghana   | GHA          | 0.00                 | 0.40     |            |
| India   | IND          | 0.03                 | 2.96     |            |
| Indonesia | IDN      | 0.02                 | 2.44     |            |
| Iran    | IRN          | 0.03                 | 3.37     |            |
| Italy   | ITA          | 0.01                 | 1.39     |            |
| Japan   | JPN          | 0.02                 | 2.14     |            |
| Jordan  | JOR          | 0.02                 | 2.35     |            |
| Korea, South | KOR    | 0.02                 | 1.59     |            |
| Kyrgyzstan | KGZ   | 0.03                 | 2.60     |            |
| Malaysia | MYS        | 0.03                 | 3.17     |            |
| Mexico  | MEX          | 0.02                 | 1.69     |            |
| Morocco | MAR          | 0.02                 | 1.55     |            |
| Netherlands | NLD  | 0.02                 | 2.10     |            |
| New Zealand | NZL | 0.01                 | 1.37     |            |
| Nigeria | NGA          | 0.02                 | 1.61     |            |
| Peru    | PER          | 0.01                 | 1.39     |            |
| Philippines | PHL   | 0.01                 | 1.20     |            |
| Poland  | POL          | 0.03                 | 3.24     |            |
| Romania | ROU          | 0.03                 | 3.02     |            |
| Russian Federation | RUS | 0.04                 | 3.82     |            |
| Rwanda  | RWA          | 0.01                 | 0.66     |            |
| Singapore | SGP        | 0.03                 | 2.86     |            |
| Slovenia | SVN        | 0.03                 | 2.98     |            |
| South Africa | ZAF  | 0.00                 | 0.40     |            |
| Spain   | ESP          | 0.02                 | 2.22     |            |
| Sweden  | SWE          | 0.04                 | 3.67     |            |
| Thailand | THA         | 0.02                 | 2.36     |            |
Table 10 (continued)

| Country               | Abbreviation | Difference in scores |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
|                       |              | absolute  | Percentage |
| Trinidad and Tobago   | TTO          | 0.02      | 1.76        |
| Turkey                | TUR          | 0.03      | 2.68        |
| Ukraine               | UKR          | 0.04      | 3.57        |
| United Kingdom        | GBR          | 0.03      | 3.12        |
| United States         | USA          | 0.03      | 2.95        |
| Uruguay               | URY          | 0.00      | 0.22        |
| Vietnam               | VNM          | 0.02      | 2.23        |
| Global Average        |              | 0.02      | 2.35        |
| Global Standard Deviation |        | 0.00   | -0.03       |

Note. Values are computed using the formula $\text{Difference} = \text{ICDI}_{W2} - \text{ICDI}_{W1}$ where $W1=$PCA weights and $W2=$Average weights. As indicated ICDI based on the average weights is slightly higher than ICDI based on PCA weights.

Fig. 8 The Intercultural Dialogue Index (ICDI): Dimensions

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