Culture and Social-Personality Processes: Conceptual and Methodological Issues

Instructor: Veronica Benet-Martinez, Ph.D. / ICREA Professor at Pompeu Fabra University / email: veronica.benet@upf.edu / Research output: https://scholar.google.es/citations?user=tI2CqJsAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao

Dates & Times: September 29, 30, October 1 2021 -- 10h-17h

Location: University of Lausanne. Room: W: Geo-2121, T: Geo-2230 & F: GEO-2227

Overall Description: This workshop will examine a selection of issues related to the study of culture/ethnicity and social-personality processes (e.g., social cognition, attribution, values, personality broadly defined, identity, well-being, etc.). The seminars will summarize the state of the art work on these issues conducted by Verónica Benet-Martínez and other researchers, with a special emphasis on methodological issues and recent theoretical developments (e.g., switch from a focus on between-group cultural differences to within-individual cultural dynamics, impact of multiculturalism and globalization on the individual, etc.).

Specific Goals: This workshop will provide interested PhD students and postdocs with an opportunity to (1) meet Prof. Benet-Martinez and learn about her cultural social-personality research, (2) learn about the state of the art in cultural/cross-cultural psychology, (3) give attendees an opportunity to incorporate questions pertaining to culture/ethnicity/diversity into their own research activities, and (4) discuss more practical and professional issues related to doing research across cultures and ethnicities? (e.g., how to enlist relevant cultural informants/collaborators, consideration of ethics, measurement equivalence issues, replicability concerns).

Format: Lectures, discussions, and student-lead presentations.

What is (Cross)Cultural Psychology?

Cultural psychology, a thriving field within psychology, examines how culture and ethnicity influence psychological processes such as social cognition, emotion, motivation, personality, self-concept, and interpersonal behavior (i.e., how culture makes who you are). Cultural psychology also examines how individuals, in turn, construct culture individually and collectively (i.e., how you make culture).

Long-standing migration trends, rapid globalization, and the speed of travel and communication have brought unprecedented levels of cultural diversity. As a consequence, many individuals are no longer socialized in and exposed to a single culture. This means that cultural psychology is also increasingly concerned with the study of globalization and multicultural identity and experiences.

Ultimately, cultural psychology helps us gain a better appreciation for the ways in which culture and human psyche mutually constitute each other, and enhances your ability to deal with and understand variations in human behavior across cultures and ethnic groups.
WORKSHOP SCHEDULE & ACTIVITIES

Wednesday September 29, 2021 (GEO-2121)

10-11:30: Introductions; Foundational/Definitional Issues: What is culture (vs. ethnicity, race), its functions, and origins and dynamics; Many forms of culture; Basic dimensions of cultural difference.

11:30-11:45: BREAK

11:45-13: Methodological considerations: Types of questions, sampling of cultures and participants; Linguistic issues; Ethics; Emic vs. etic debate and solutions.

13-14: LUNCH

14-15:30: Culture and cognition: Reasoning, categorization; Analytic vs. holistic cognition; Attributional styles.

15:30-15:45: BREAK

15:45-17: Culture and the self: Self-concept; Emotion; Wellbeing

Obligatory Readings:


Thursday September 30, 2021 (GEO-2230)

10-11:30: Culture and social behavior: Cultural logics of honor, dignity, and face; Tightness vs. looseness; Intersubjective culture

11:30-11:45: BREAK

11:45-13: Culture and personality: Cultural, cross-cultural, and ecological perspectives.

13-14: LUNCH

1 Subject to changes. Please check with Professor on first day of workshop.
14-15:30: **Acculturation**: Psychological changes due to cultural contact; Acculturation dimensions and modes; Acculturation and adjustment.

15:30-15:45: BREAK

15:45-17: **Multiculturalism**: Cultural dynamics within the individual; Cultural frame-switching; Identity Integration; Psychological responses to globalization.

**Obligatory Readings:**


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**Friday October 1, 2021 (GEO-2227)**

10-11:30: Student presentations of their research proposal ideas & feedback.

11:30-12:15: LUNCH (catered)

12:15-13:45: PLENARY TALK by Prof. Veronica Benet - GEO-1620

Title: *The Multi-Cultural Mind and Self: Social, Personality, and Cultural Processes*

14-16:30: Student presentations of research proposal ideas & feedback.
APPENDIX: Expanded list of relevant literature

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<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>SELECTED RELEVANT READINGS</th>
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Ferguson, G. M. (2013). The big difference a small island can make: How Jamaican adolescents are advancing acculturation science. *Child Development Perspectives, 7*, 248-254. |
The future: How to integrate (multi)cultural psychology into your academic and professional lives


