



Acculturation and Adaptation of Ethnocultural Youth: International Perspectives

ABSTRACT

The intake and settlement of immigrants has become a core issue in many societies, with political, economic, educational and psychological dimensions. How can we understand their orientations with respect to their cultures of origin and with respect to their societies of settlement? It is now clear that not all immigrants settle into their new lives in the same way. It is equally clear that they all do not have the same experiences, nor do they achieve the same degree of success in their personal lives, or in their communities. This presentation poses three questions: what are the variations in how immigrants acculturate; what are the variations in how well they adapt; and what are the relationships between ways of acculturating and levels of successful adaptation? If there are important relationships between how and how well, then it may be possible to outline a best practice for societies of settlement and their institutions (particularly educational and justice systems), and for immigrant cultural communities (including families and individuals) to adopt over the early years following their migration. These questions will be addressed using concepts and evidence from earlier research with adults, and from a study of immigrant youth from 24 societies who are settled into 13 countries. In essence, results show that those immigrants who embrace both their culture of origin and the society of settlement have better psychological and social adaptation than those who are oriented toward one, or the other (or neither) group. Some policy implications will be advanced, based on analyses of variations across individuals and across societies of settlement.

BIOGRAPHY

Prof. Berry is one of the main establishers of the field of acculturation psychology... He has been described as a person that “has led, if not defined, contemporary approaches to acculturation”. One of his well-known theories (cited over 3000 times) is the four-fold model of acculturation strategies, involving the strategies of Assimilation, Separation, Integration and Marginalization. His current interests are focused on the psychology of intercultural relations (including acculturation, immigration and multiculturalism). He continues to carry out research on two longstanding interests: ecological factors in human development; and cross-cultural theory and methodology.

FOR A MORE PERSONALISED EXPERIENCE

with Prof. Berry, five 30-minute 1:1 sessions will be made available to interested HDR students and academic staff, on a first come first serve basis. Please indicate on your RSVP if you would like to book a free 30 minute session with Prof. Berry after the symposium. A staff member will contact you to confirm.

**Location: Bankstown Campus,
Room BA-01.1.081 (LR17)**
**Date/Time: Monday 2nd May 2016,
11am – 1:00pm (Lunch provided)**
RSVP: Monday 25 April,
ssap-research@westernsydney.edu.au

This is an open and free event