

# WHAT IS CROSS CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY?

PSYCH 1A  
DR EDEN  
THAIN

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we gather on. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of the Kaurna people to country and we respect and value their past, present and ongoing connection to the land and cultural beliefs.

# STRUCTURE OF THE MODULE

- Lecture 1
  - What is Cross Cultural Psychology?
  - Importance of Culture
  - Culture, Race, Ethnicity
- **Lecture 2**
  - Multiculturalism
  - Multiculturalism, Race, and Identity
  - Cultural Competence
  - Cultural Adaptation
- **Lecture 3**
  - Measuring the similarities and differences between Cultures and their effects
  - Therapy and Mental Illness
- **Lecture 4**
  - Indigenous Psychology
  - Role of Psychologist working with Indigenous Australians
- **Lecture 5**
  - Indigenous Research
  - Indigenous Research Ethics

# TEXTBOOK

Passer, M. W. & Smith, R. E. (2019). *Psychology – The Science of Mind and Behaviour* (Australian Edition 3e). McGraw-Hill: North Ryde, NSW

## **Chapter 18 – Indigenous and Cross-Cultural Psychology by Darren Garvey and Emily Castell**

Some points will refer directly – the knowledge is examinable

# STUDY PLAN

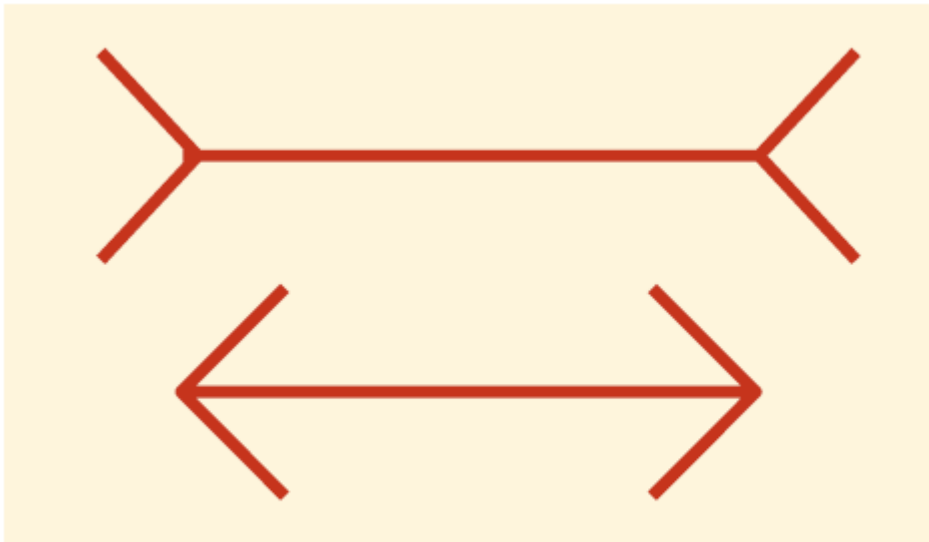
- Reading the Textbook and watching the Lectures
- Attend/Watch the Workshop
- Note, review, reflect, and revise content
- Complete the assessment tasks

IS PSYCHOLOGY  
THE SAME ALL  
AROUND THE  
WORLD?

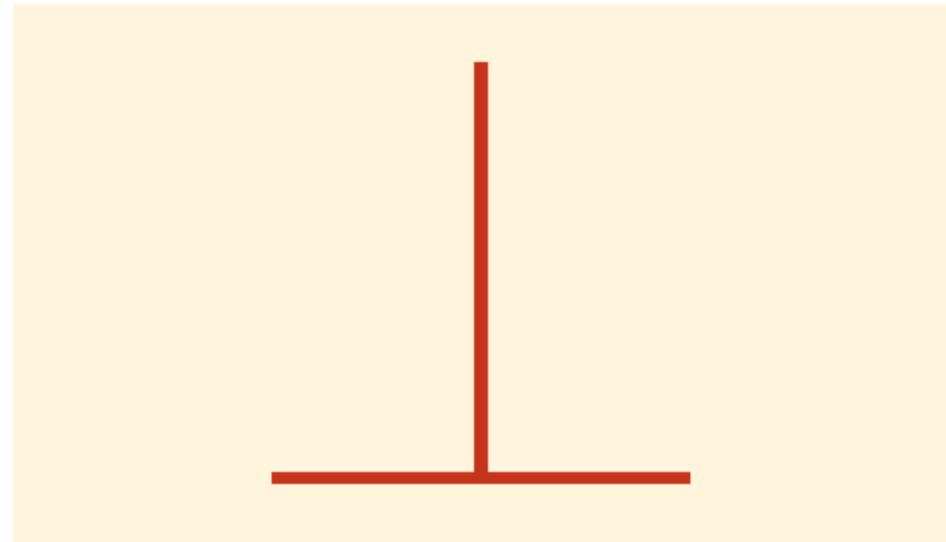


## EXAMPLE – PERCEPTION

Do people of different backgrounds perceive the world around them the same way?



Müller-Lyer illusion



Horizontal-vertical illusion

Figure 18.14  
(Passer & Smith, 2019, p. 759)

## EXAMPLE – SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

### Social Loafing

*“The reduction of individual effort that occurs when people work in groups compared to when they work alone.”*

(APA Online Dictionary)

Found in Western individualist cultures but what about more “collectivist cultures” (Eastern Cultures)?

- The effect is present but significantly lower

(Karau & Williams, 1993)

- Possibly linked to higher power distance is involved

- The degree to which less powerful members of a group accept the power distribution of the context

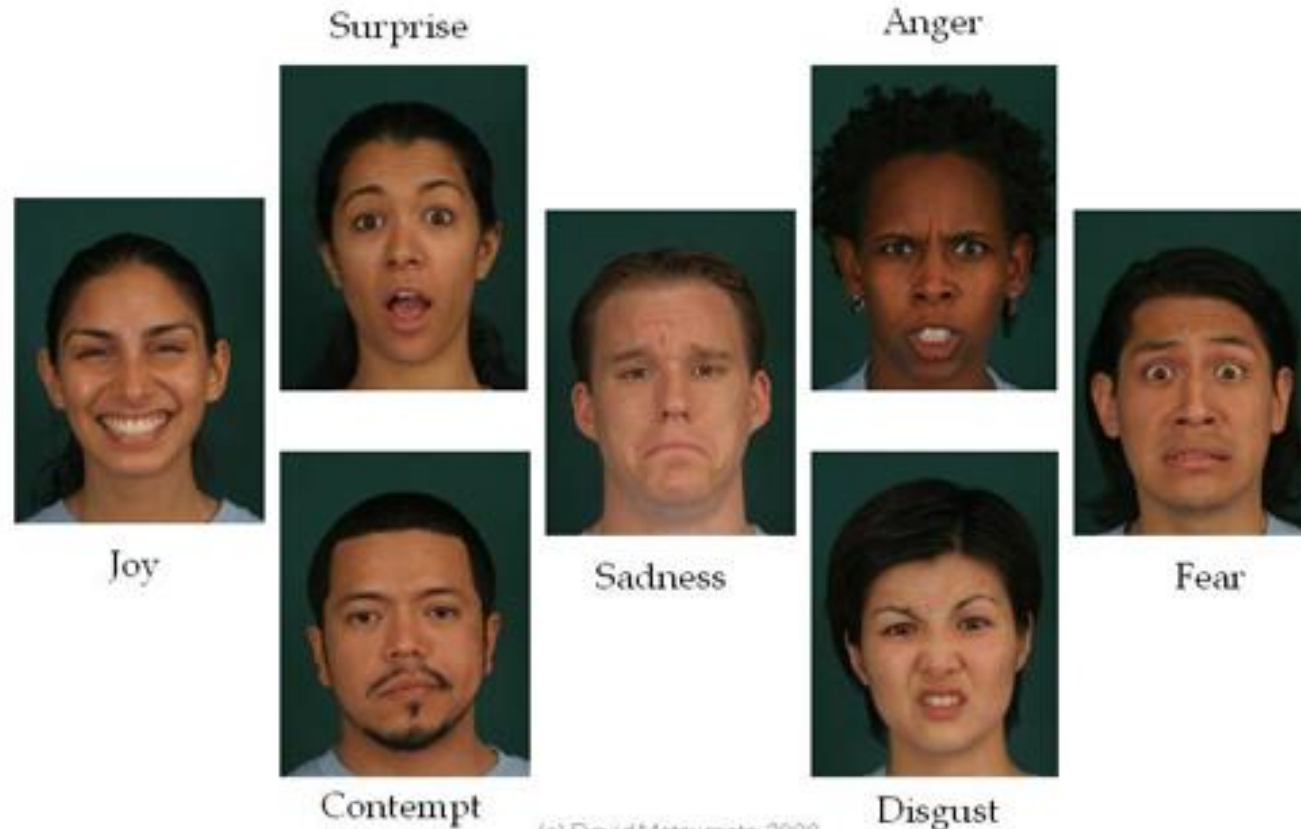
(Klehe & Anderson, 2007)



# EXAMPLES – EMOTION

Do different cultures display the same facial emotions?

**YES**



(c) David Matsumoto 2008

(Matsumoto & Juang, 2013, p. 215)

## EXAMPLES – EMOTION

- Originally thought that they had to be learned
- “Universality studies” by Ekman and Izard (1960s – 1970s) showing six universal expressions in literate and preliterate cultures
- Replicated in 27 studies
- Meta-analyses in 168 data sets
- Note - this doesn't mean that the same emotion is always shown at the same time

(Matsumoto & Juang, 2013, p. 215)

# UNIVERSALISM

*The position that certain aspects of the human mind, human behavior, and human morality are universal and essential and are therefore to be found in all cultures and historical periods. Universalism is thus a form of essentialism and is opposed to **relativism***

APA Online Dictionary

**Cultural and Cross Cultural Psychology want to answer what is universal and what is relative to culture?**

# WHAT IS CROSS-CULTURAL AND CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY?

## Cultural Psychology (Emic)

An interdisciplinary extension of general psychology concerned with those psychological processes that are **inherently organized by culture**. *It is a heterogeneous class of perspectives* that focus on explaining how human psychological functions are culturally constituted through various forms of relations between people and their social contexts. **As a discipline, cultural psychology relates to cultural anthropology, sociology, semiotics, language philosophy, and culture studies.**

APA Online Dictionary

## Cross Cultural Psychology (Etic)

A branch of psychology that studies similarities and variances in human behavior across different cultures and identifies the different psychological constructs and explanatory models used by these cultures. It has been influenced by anthropology and emphasizes social psychological analyses of international differences.

APA Online Dictionary

Cross-cultural psychologists compare the similarities and differences in behaviour across different societies or cultures

(Westen et al., 2017; Triandis, 2010)

# IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING CULTURAL AND CROSS CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

- A link to other disciplines – strong history in anthropology
  - Nature-Nurture separations being erroneous
  - Links to religion, class, and subcultural life
  - Everyday exploration of human life and change
  - Methodological variation in psychology
- (Cohen & Kitayama, 2018)
- Growing understanding and use of Indigenous knowledges from around the world
    - Need to decolonise psychology and society

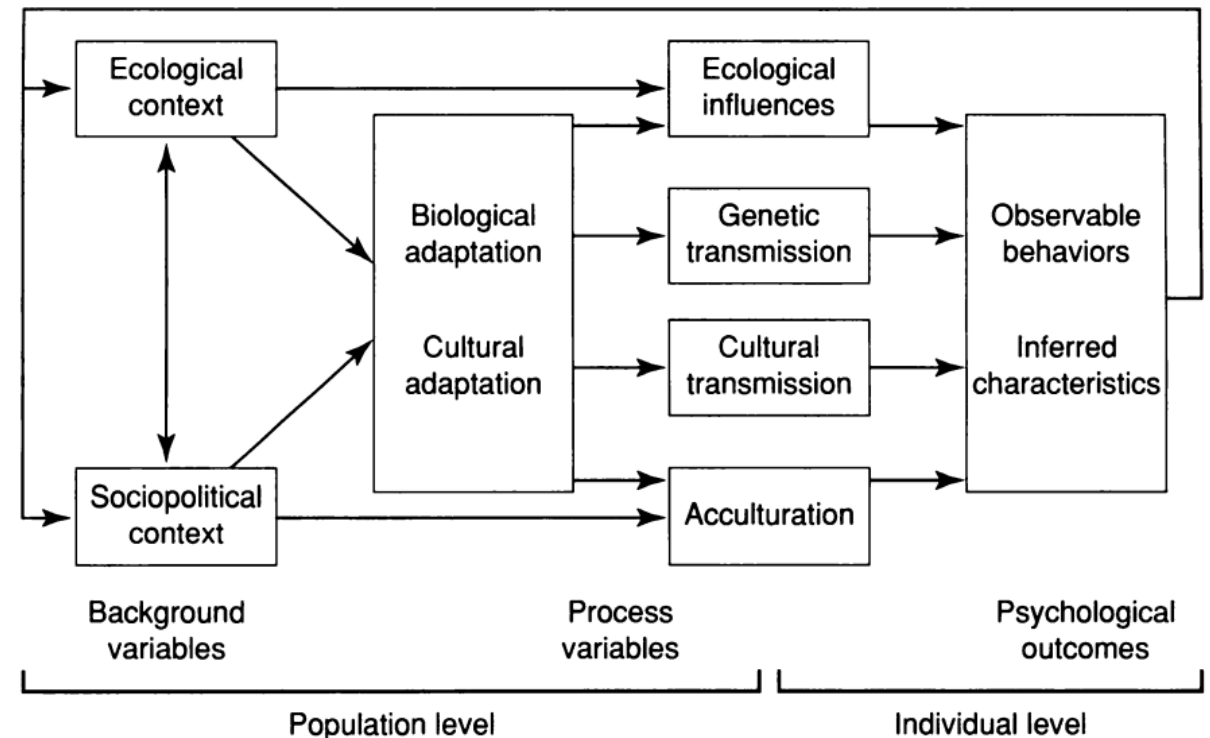


FIGURE 2-2 The ecocultural framework

Source: Berry et al. (1992).

(Berry, 1997, p. 66)

## WHAT IS CULTURE? - STOP NOW AND REFLECT

- What is your culture?
- Can you list your cultures characteristics?
- Is this easy or not?
- What did you include?
  - Rules, behaviours (practices and rituals), beliefs, fashion, social roles, what else?

# CULTURE

Property of identifiable groups of people who share common understandings, rituals, social regulation, religions and place

**“Shared way of life of a group of people”**

(Berry et al., 2011, p. 4)

- Includes rules
  - Sometimes explicitly but not often written down
  - Common for a bulk to be from implicit learning

*“a system of inherited conceptions expressed in symbolic forms by means of which men [sic] communicate, perpetuate, and develop their knowledge about and attitudes toward life”*

(Geertz, 1973)

## CULTURE CONTINUED.

*1. the distinctive customs, values, beliefs, knowledge, art, and language of a society or a community. These values and concepts are passed on from generation to generation, and they are the basis for everyday behaviors and practices.*

*2. the characteristic attitudes and behaviors of a particular group within society, such as a profession, social class, or age group*

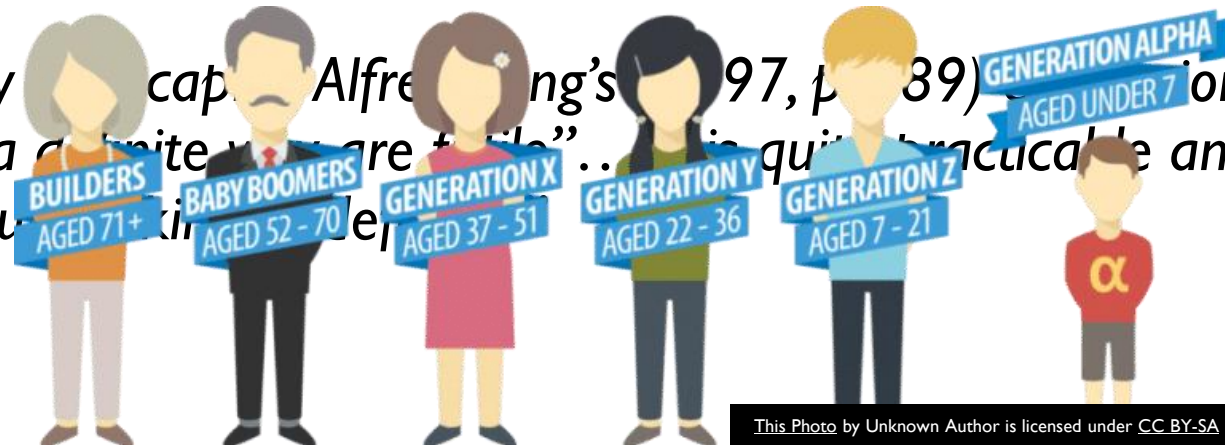
APA Online Dictionary



# WHAT IS CULTURAL AND WHAT ISN'T?

- Art?
- Fashion?
- Food?
- Ritual / practices?
- Traditions / symbols?
- Beliefs?
- Holidays?
- Relationships?
- Old?
- Constant?
- New?
- Evolving?

“... there is no way to capture Alfred Kroeber’s (1937, p. 389) notion “that attempts at defining culture in a definite way are futile”... it is quite impractical and defensible simply to use the term without qualification”



(Jahoda, 2012, p. 300)

# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RACE, NATIONALITY, AND ETHNICITY

## Race

Heritable physical characteristics

Inc. Skin colour, facial features

## Nationality

A person's country of origin

E.g., Australia, Brazil, China

## Ethnicity

Cultural heritage,  
Common Ancestral  
Origin, Language,  
Traditions,  
Often based on  
Religion or Geography

Exclusive concepts, not mutually exclusive for behaviour and society

# REFLECTION

- What things do you think you take for granted as part of your culture?
- What ways could you become more aware of these?
- Why may some of these be important, or even critical, for future work as a psychology professional?

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