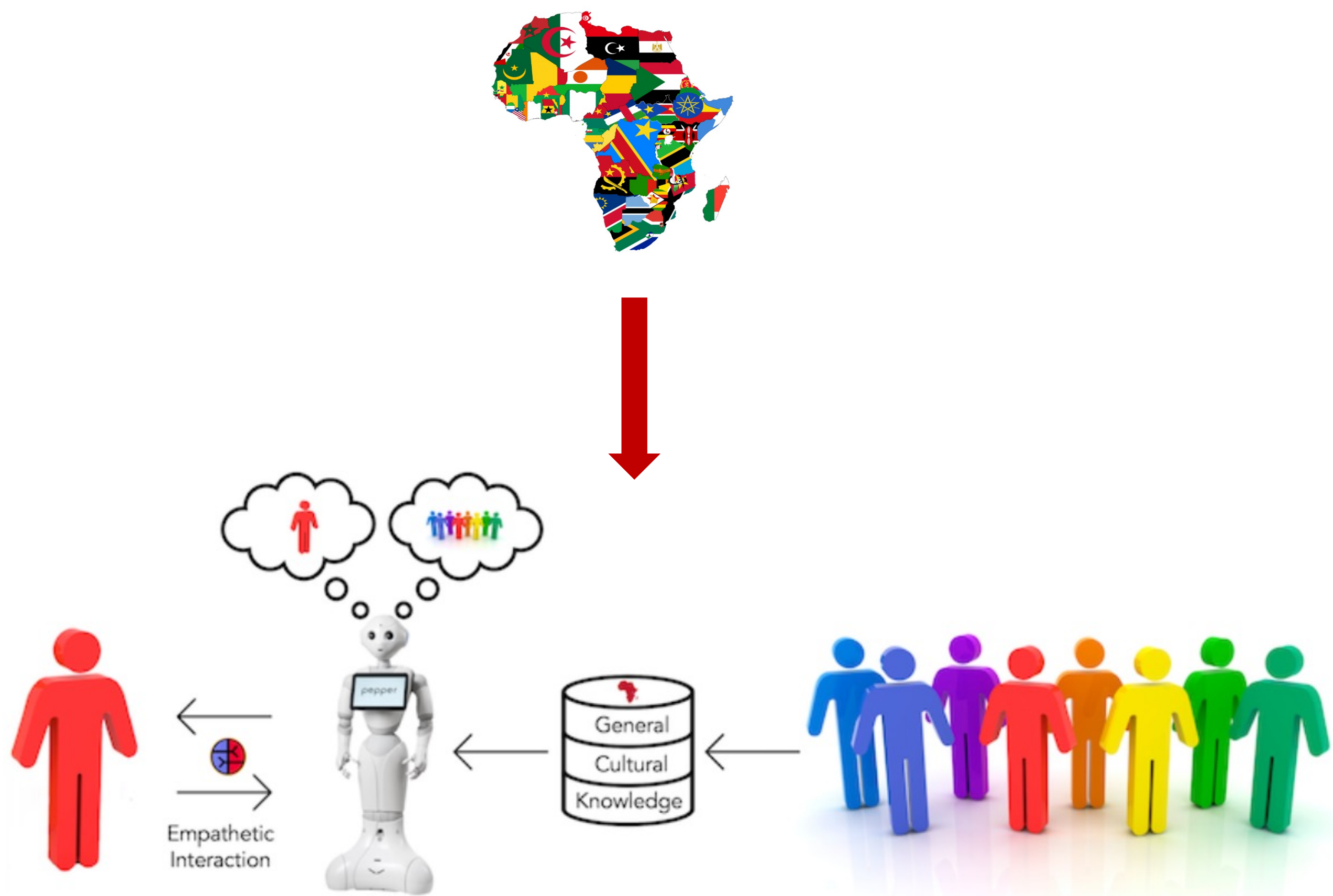# Rwandan Culture Survey for Culturally-Sensitive Social Robotics for Africa
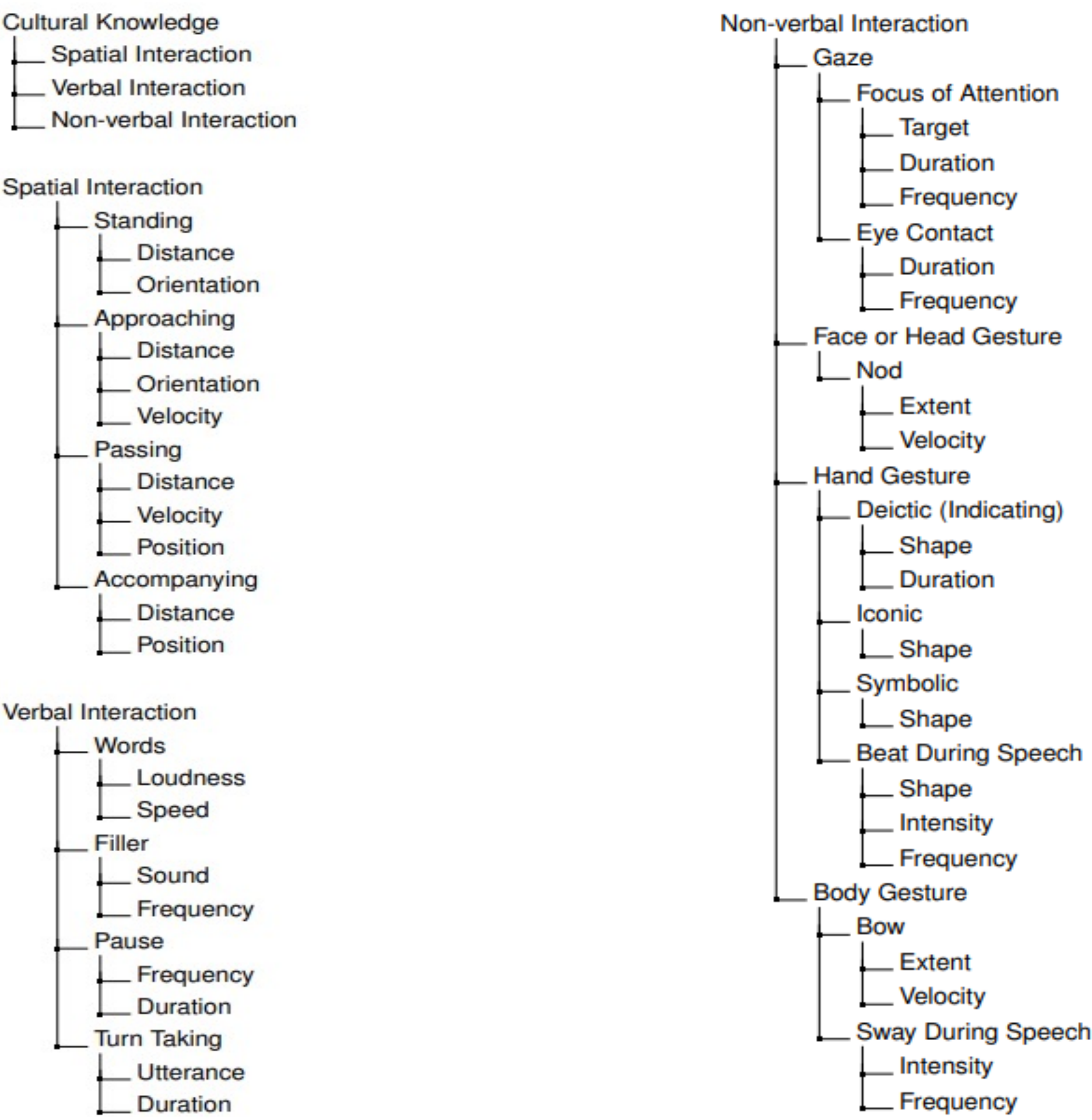
Eyerusalem Birhan, Muhirwa Richard, and David Vernon
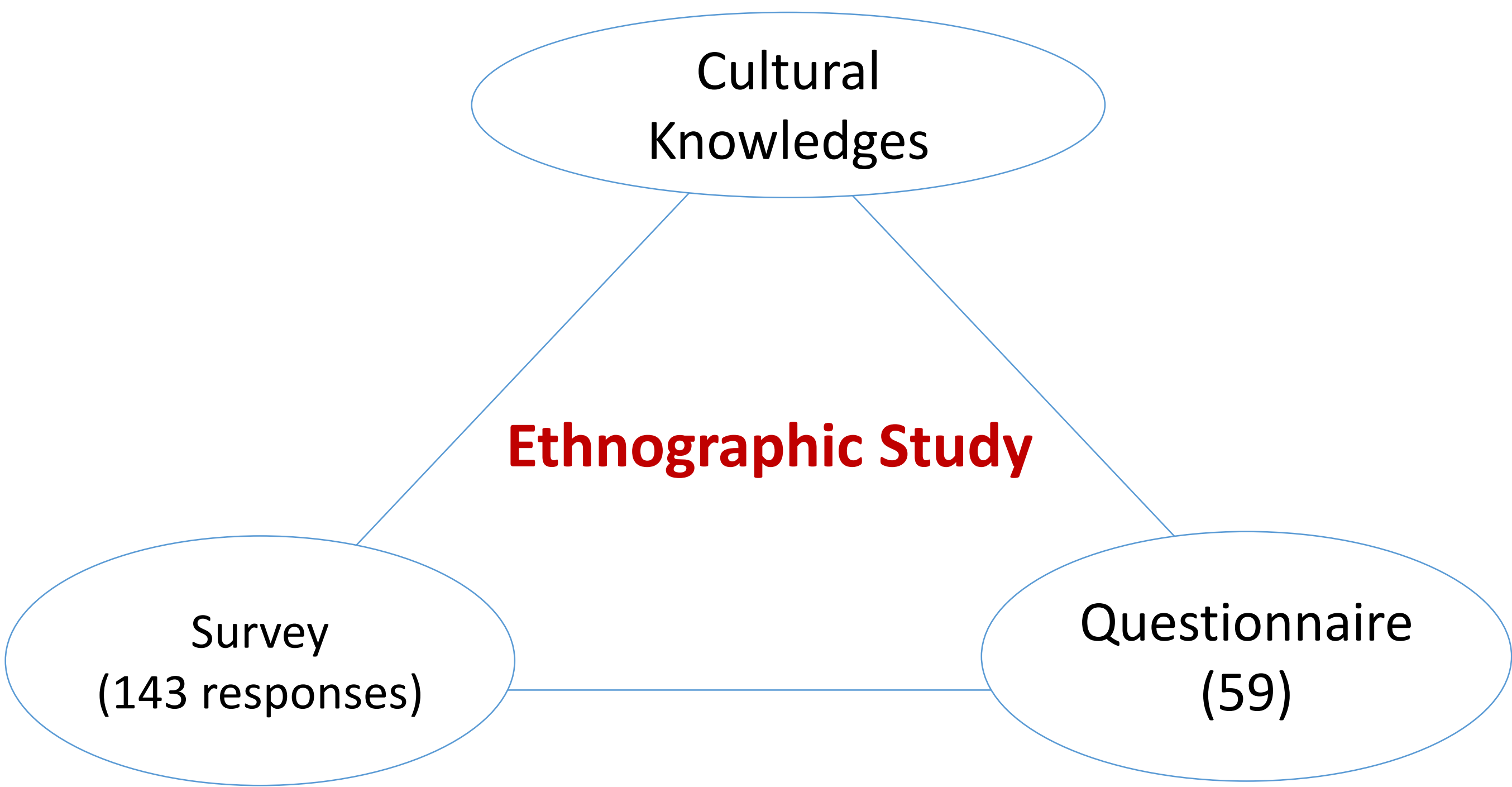Carnegie Mellon University Africa, Kigali, Rwanda

Research Goals

Identify the verbal and non-verbal social and cultural norms of human interaction that are prevalent in African countries, specifically Rwanda.
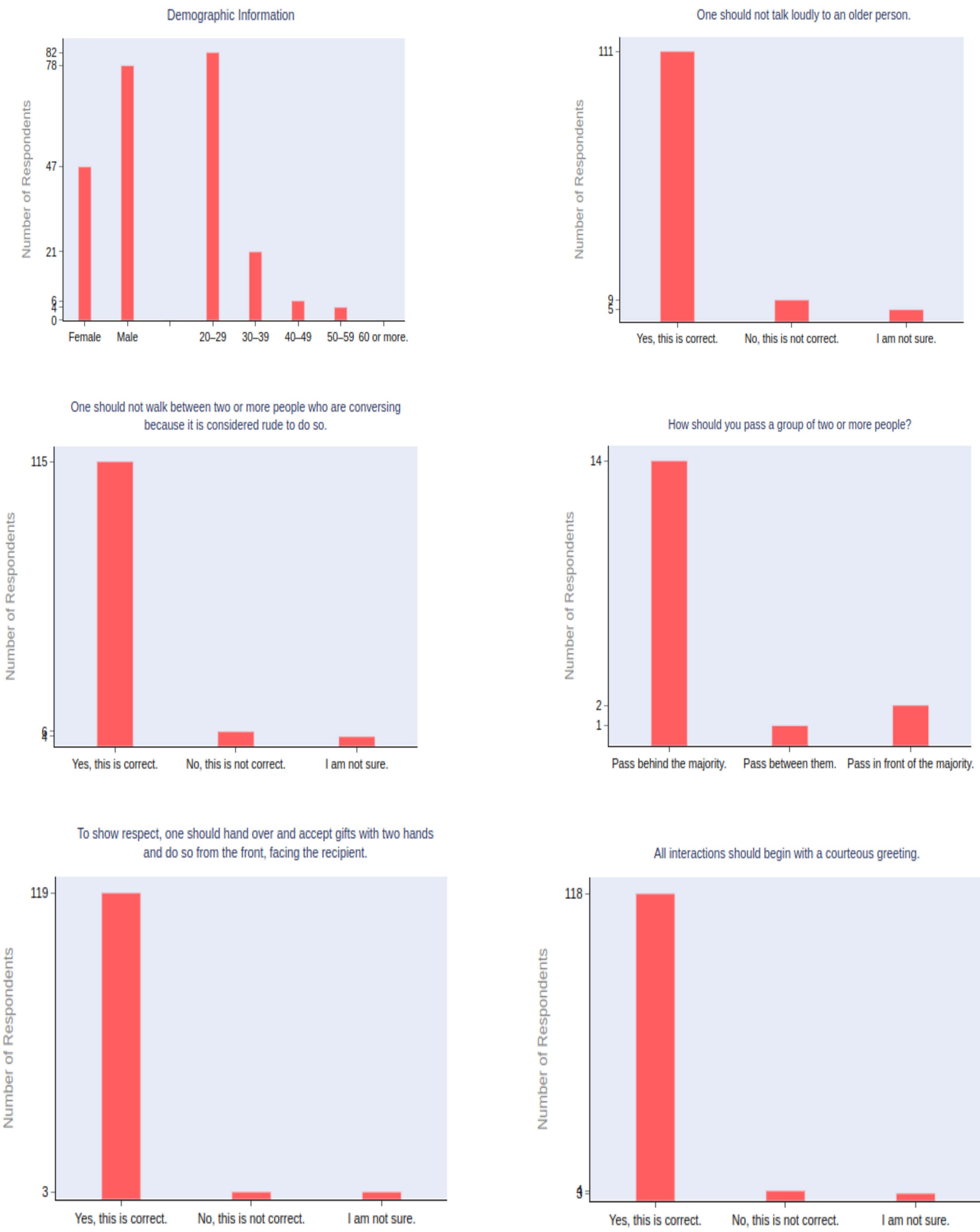

Cultural knowledge Ontology

Method

Sample Questions

No.	Question
2-1	To show respect, one should lower gaze when greeting someone older.
2-3	One should keep intermittent eye contact; lack of eye contact depicts disrespect as it shows divided attention during the interaction.
2-4	One should not make persistent eye contact with an older person.
2-6	One should use an open palm of the hand to point to people and objects.
2-7	One should not point an upward-facing palm of the hand at someone.
2-8	One should not use the left hand to point to anything.
2-9	To show respect, one should bow slightly when greeting someone older.
2-12	One should not use the left hand to hand something to someone.
2-14	To show respect, one should shake hands with the right hand and use the left arm to support the right forearm when doing so.
2-15	An appreciation of rhythmic sound and movement is valued.
2-16	To show respect, one should bow slightly and lower gaze when greeting someone older.
2-17	The younger interaction partner should bow when greeting an older person or when rendering a service.
3-1	What distance should you keep when passing someone?
3-2	How should you acknowledge someone when passing them?
3-3	How should you pass a group of two or more people?
3-6	When showing someone younger than you the way, where should you position yourself?
3-7	How should you address someone who is older than you and who you haven't met before?
3-21	Would you use a face, head, hand, or body gesture to express gratitude?
3-22	Would you use a face, head, hand, or body gesture to express agreement?
3-23	Would you use a face, head, hand, or body gesture to express respect?
3-28	Is there a face, head, hand, or body gesture you should not use?
3-29	Would you use a hand or body gesture while speaking to someone?
3-30	Would you use a hand or body gesture while listening to someone?

Results

References

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