CULTURAL VARIATIONS IN ADULTS’ PERCEPTIONS OF CHILDREN’S INTELLIGENCE

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BACKGROUND

- Key Terms
- Previous Findings
- Study Motivation
- Gaps in Knowledge
CHARACTERISTICS OF WEIRD COUNTRIES

× **W.E.I.R.D** – Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Democratic
× **United States of America**
× Innovation and **creativity**
× **Direct Active Teaching** – the transference of information through extensive face-to-face interaction, eye contact, and explicit instructions (Little et al., 2016)
CHARACTERISTICS OF NON-WEIRD COUNTRIES

× Vanuatu

× Observational Learning (Aknin, Broesch, Hamlin, & Van de Vondervoort, 2015; Little et al., 2016)

× Interdependence and conformity

× A variety of non-WEIRD countries prioritize familial obligation (Suárez-Orozco & Suárez-Orozco, 1996; Alampay, 2014; Baguma & Aheisibwe, 2011; Lansford et al., 2016)
DEFINITIONS OF INTELLIGENCE

WEIRD Countries

× Intelligence is associated with efficiency, innovation, and ease (Clegg, Wen, & Legare, 2016)

Non-WEIRD Countries

× Concepts of intelligence in these countries emphasize behaviors that correspond with conformity (Serpell, 2011; Booth 2002)
THE CULTURAL IMPACT OF IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA
UNFORTUNATELY, adults’ assessments of children’s competency is understudied in experimental research.
METHODS FOR THE CURRENT STUDY

Design  Hypothesis  Materials  Procedure
Design Overview

- Adult participants (18+ years old)
- 80+ participants
- Participants will be invited to the Children's Research Lab and recruited at the Thinkery
- If diversity is an issue, Mechanical Turk
- Four Country-Conformity Conditions
INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT VARIABLES

× I.V. – Levels of assimilation to American Culture
× I.V. – Levels of exposure to children
× D.V. - Adult’s endorsement of the conforming or creative child as intelligent
STUDY HYPOTHESIS:
adults that report higher levels of assimilation in American culture and have high exposure to children will select children that exhibit low levels of conformity as intelligent.
MATERIALS

CULTURAL ASSIMILATION SCALE (CAS)

× Harada et al. (2012)
× Measures assimilation to American culture on a 0-28 point scale
× Likert scale
× “How often do you speak a language other than English?”
× “What was the language you learned first?”
× “What is the number of years you attended school outside of the United States?”
MATERIALS

STUDENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP SCALE (STRS)

× Pianta & Nimetz (1991)
× Measures levels of exposure to children
× Adapted to encompass adults outside of the teaching profession
× Likert scale
× “This child trusts me”
× “I am able to console this child”
× “I share an affectionate, warm relationship with this child”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conformity Condition</th>
<th>Country Condition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Same (Actors from the U.S.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Everyone always does it like this.&quot;</td>
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Demonstration Video

Source: Clegg, Wen, & Legare, 2017

Low Conformity Child
High Conformity Child
Adult Demonstrator
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ni-Vanuatu Model</th>
<th>U.S. Model</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Ni-Vanuatu Model Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="U.S. Model Image" /></td>
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**VIDEO DEMONSTRATION**

1. Adult Demonstrator
2. High Conformity Child
3. Low Conformity Child

*Source: Clegg, Wen, & Legare, 2017*
VIDEO
DEMONSTRATION

1. Adult Demonstrator
2. High Conformity Child
3. Low Conformity Child

Source: Clegg, Wen, & Legare, 2017
PROCEDURE
CONFORMITY PREFERENCE

× “Which child is smart?”
× Forced choice and free response
× Preference for the High or Low conformity child will be determined through these follow-up questions
OUTCOMES

Data Analysis  Expected Outcomes  Alternative Outcomes
DATA ANALYSIS

- Mixed-effects binary logistic regression – will be used to test the effects of video-country variables, conformity cues, and the interaction between the participant’s country and video-country
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

* Variation in cultural assimilation and exposure to children will impact an adult’s judgement of a child’s intelligence.
ALTERNATIVE OUTCOMES

× Cultural assimilation and/or exposure to children will NOT have a significant effect on the preference of conformity as a measurement of competency
× Other potential factors: Education and socioeconomic status
THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?