



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 OVERVIEW

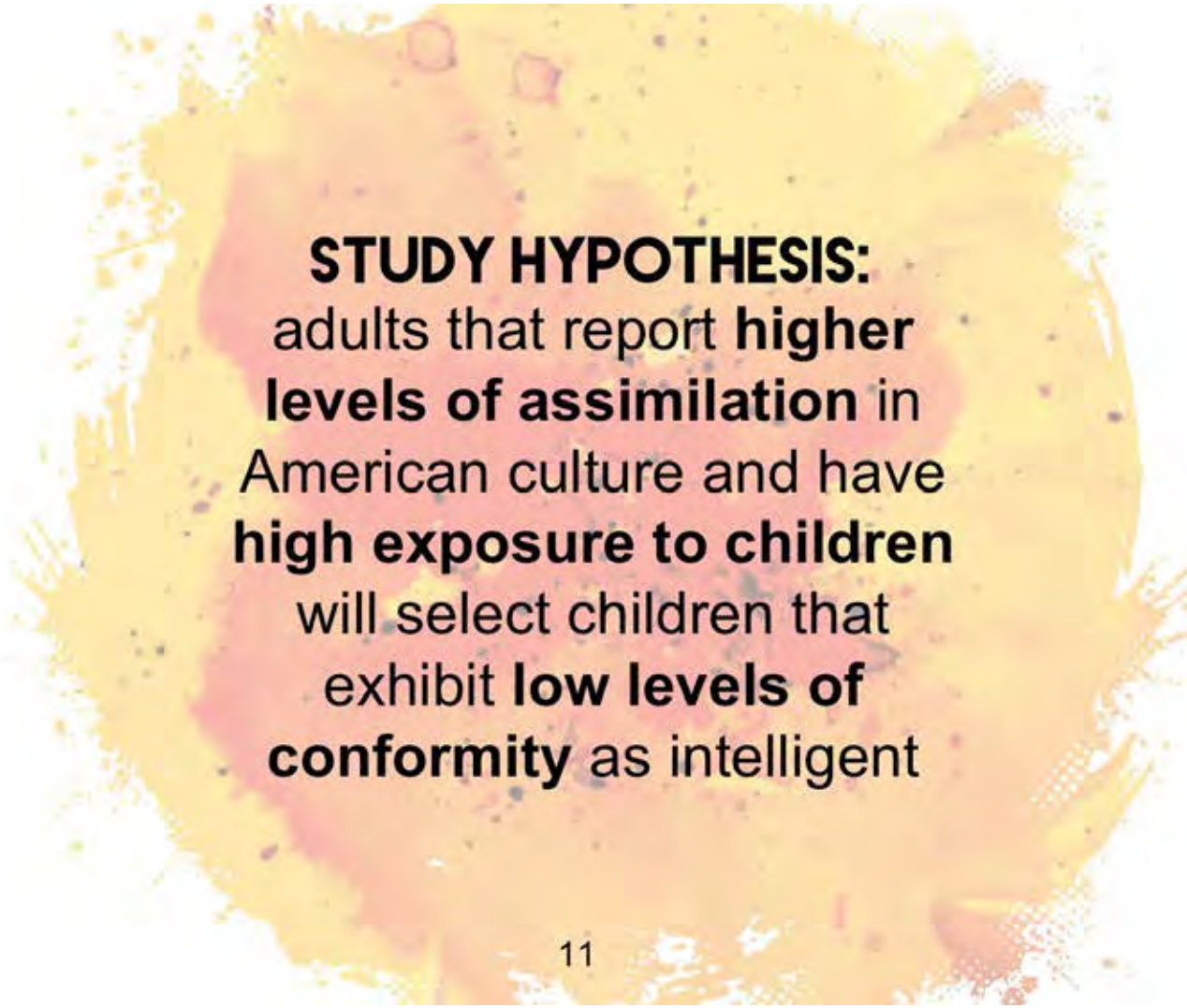
- × Adult participants (18+ years old)
- × 80+ participants
- × Participants will be invited to the **Children's Research Lab** and recruited at the **Thinkery**
- × If diversity is an issue, **Mechanical Turk**
- × Four Country-Conformity Conditions



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”*



CONFORMITY CONDITION

HIGH

LOW

COUNTRY CONDITION

SAME (ACTORS FROM THE U.S.)

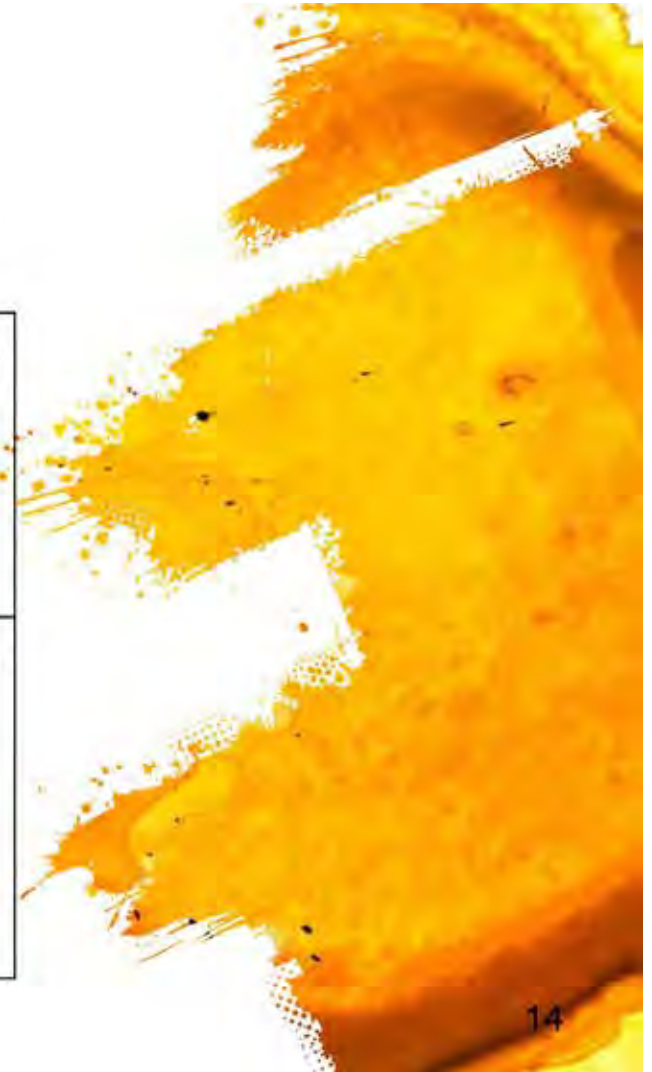
DIFFERENT (ACTORS FROM VANUATU)

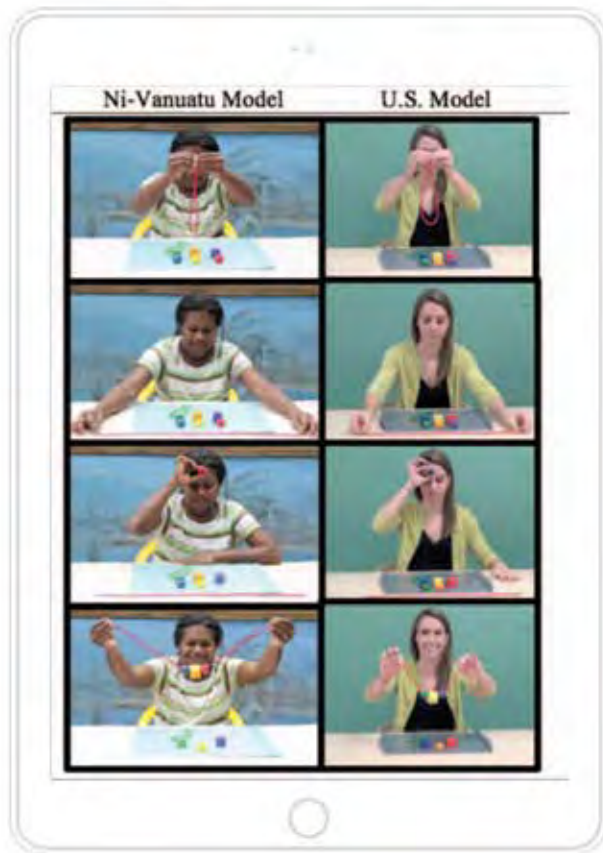
- "Everyone always does it like this."

- Participants will be shown a map of Vanuatu
- "Everyone always does it like this."

- "I'm going to make a necklace."

- Participants will be shown a map of Vanuatu
- "I'm going to make a necklace."

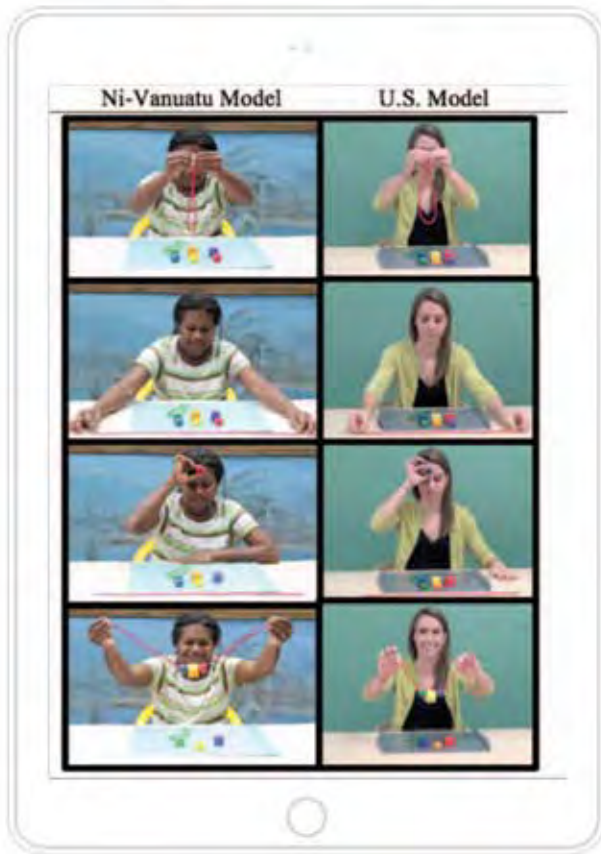




VIDEO DEMONSTRATION

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

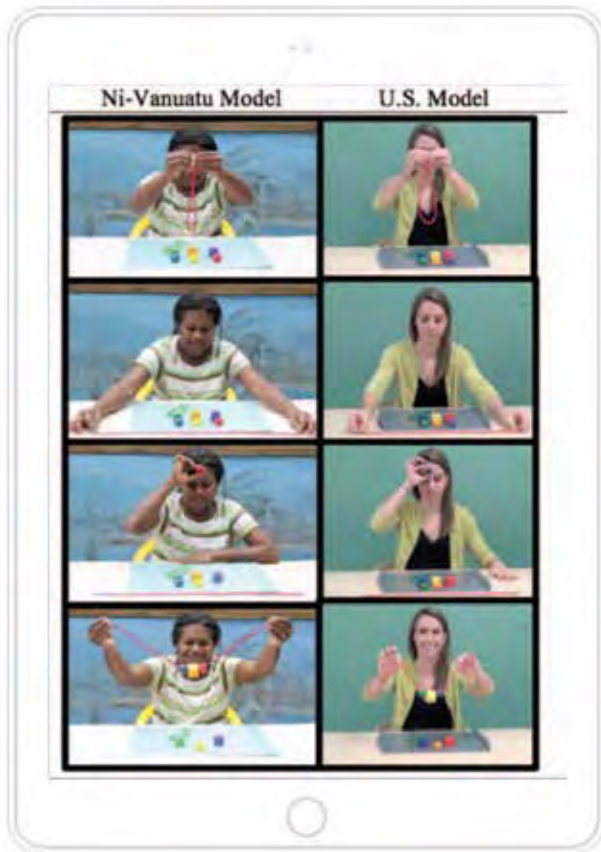
Source: Clegg, Wen, & Legare, 2017



VIDEO DEMONSTRATION

- 1 Adult Demonstrator
- 2 **High Conformity Child**
- 3 Low Conformity Child

Source: Clegg, Wen, & Legare, 2017



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



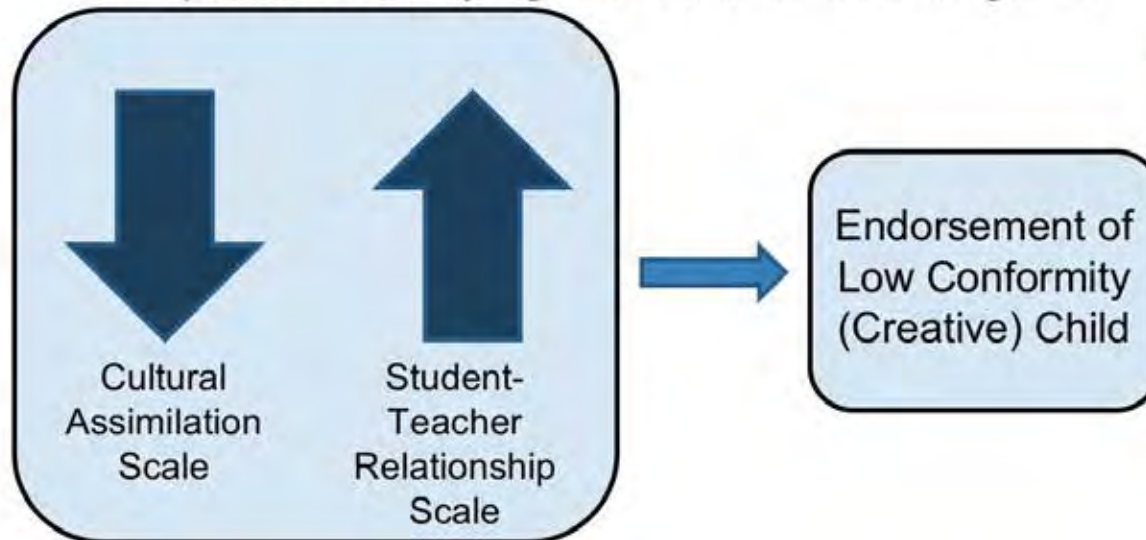
DATA ANALYSIS

- × **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?**

