

Preamble:
UNITY, DIVERSITY AND CULTURE

Patrick Denoux

Cross cultural Psychology in the knowledge gardens

As Scientific Vice-President, it was a great pleasure and privilege for me, to welcome my dear colleagues and friends, to the 22nd international IACCP congress held in Reims (France). The scientific program offering a wealth of contributions, keynote speeches, invited symposia, parallel sessions, posters, workshops... (about 750 communications, with 850 participants) obviously shows that diversity, equality and culture remain topics of prime importance for the Cross Cultural Psychology scientists. Of course, it holds a great significance for the scientist, as well as for the citizen, for the politician and for their relationships.



This congress has been a fruitful opportunity for all to discuss key points of research about these topics and simultaneously to improve both the unity and the diversity of our paradigms, the cultural roots of our concepts and... our inclination towards equality. At the same time, our congress offered the occasion to think about the impact of Cross Cultural Psychology researches on scientific processes and national policies. To a lesser extent, this event appeared at the crossroads of two unequal academic traditions in psychology, the Anglo-Saxon one with the Cross Cultural Psychology and the French speaking one, with the Culture Contact Psychology.

This e-book made up of eighty contributions, more than a thousand pages, was a synthesis challenge. The common thread “Unity, Diversity and Culture”

was split into five units. The first one, “Theories and Methodologies”, questions diversity in theories and methodological issues. The second one, “Culture Contact: Unity and Diversity”, investigates the topics of migrants and migration, majority / minority relationship, coping with diversity in culture contact and psychopathology facing it. The third one, called “Diversity and Social Relations”, is about leadership, work and group relations, variability of values, attitudes and representations. The fourth and second to last chapter, entitled “Development, Education and Family among Cultures”, concerns couples, parenting, emotions, child development, motherhood, educations and cross-cultural differences. The fifth and ultimate one, “Self and Cultures”, examines self-relation, coping, emotional suppression and well-being across cultures.

In order to conclude this short preamble, let me share a short story. When Suleiman the First, known as “The Magnificent”, sultan of the Ottoman Empire, gave, at nightfall, some celebration in his Topkapi palace overlooking the Bosphorus, he usually ordered to disperse in the gardens dozens and dozens of turtles, each one carrying on its carapace a lit candle. This slowly moving and unpredictable illumination created a strange and familiar changing atmosphere. May the reader, as a guest of Suleiman, browse through this e-book as a walker crossing the Topkapi gardens. May she/he keep behind the paths of each author as one following each turtle carrying insight. Then, the diverse moving trajectories will shed light on the bright and wondering knowledge gardens of Cross Cultural Psychology and their true brilliance will shine through.

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