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Michael B. Salzman

A Psychology of Culture

 Springer

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Preface

“Culture” has become a central focus of study across virtually all disciplines in the social sciences. The importance of culture as a mediating and/or moderating variable in education, psychology, human relations, business, and virtually all human experience has been acknowledged. This book is designed to present a specific view of culture, its psychological functions and implications for human development, and intercultural relations and adaptation. *A Psychology of Culture* could serve as a primary source for a graduate course (Psychology of Culture) that aspires to look deeply into the role and function of culture in human psychology, behavior, human relations, development, and learning. It will look into the adaptive function of culture and how cultures address physiological and psychological human needs. It will examine essential psychological functions and characteristics of culture based on current, empirically supported psychological theory and the relevance of culture to human development, learning, intergroup conflict, anxiety management, and the construction of meaning. It will specifically address the consequences of traumatic cultural disruption, processes of cultural recovery, dimensions of cultural variation, human universals, attributional differences, processes of colonization and decolonization, within group variation, the relationship between culture and ecology, and the relevance of these factors to educational policy and practice. *A Psychology of Culture* emerges from graduate level courses (e.g., “cross cultural counseling,” “clinical work with diverse populations,” “psychology of culture”) taught by the author as well as direct experience providing educational, clinical, and counseling services to diverse populations in varying locations.

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Contents

1	Definitions and Perspectives	1
1.1	Elephant and the Blind Men	1
1.2	Culture as the Software of the Mind (Hofstede)	3
1.3	Culture as Shared Meanings and Interpretations	4
1.4	Culture as “What Has Worked in the Past” (Triandis)	5
1.5	Culture Is a Set of Schedules of Reinforcement (Skinner, 1981)	7
1.6	Culture as the “Human-Made” Part of the Human Environment (Herskovits, 1955)	8
1.6.1	Culture as a Psychological Defense Against the “Terror” Inherent in the Human Condition	8
1.7	Culture as a “Roadmap for Living”	12
1.8	Samoa Culture and Fa’aSamoa: An Example of a “Roadmap for Living”	13
1.9	Yup’ik Culture and “the Way of the Human Being: An Example of a “Roadmap for Living”	13
1.10	Personal Note	14
	References	16
2	The Human Condition	19
2.1	The Universal, Culturally Specific and Idiosyncratic Aspects of Our Humanity	20
2.2	The Functionality of Stereotypes	22
2.3	An Existential Perspective	24
2.4	Note from the Class	25
2.5	Personal Note	28
	References	28
3	Culture and Human Needs	31
3.1	Culture and Human Needs: What Do Anxiety-Prone Human Creatures Really Need?	31
3.2	Physiological Needs and Cultures	31

3.3	Culture and Psychological Needs	32
3.4	Culture as a Roadmap for Living	37
3.5	Cultural Prescriptions for Being and <i>Doing the Right Thing</i>	38
3.6	Personal Note	41
	References	42
4	Culture and Self-Esteem	43
4.1	Culture as a Psychological Defense	44
4.2	Culture as a Roadmap for Living	45
4.3	Universal Human Problems and Varying Cultural Answers	46
4.4	Culture and Meaning	47
4.5	Culture as an Immortality Ideology	48
4.6	The Case of Fundamentalism	49
4.7	Globalization, Social Identity Theory and Self-Esteem Threat	51
	References	53
5	A Psycho-Existential View of Culture	55
5.1	Culture and the Need for a “World of Meaning to Act in”	55
5.2	Implications: Ecology, Culture, Self Esteem and Terror Management	57
5.3	Empirical Tests of TMT Hypotheses, Implications of Findings	59
	References	64
6	Cultural Trauma and Recovery	67
6.1	Cultural Trauma	69
6.2	The Power of the Situation: The Colonial Context	69
6.3	Cultural Trauma in Alaska	70
6.4	Cultural Trauma in Hawai‘i and the Pacific	71
6.5	Cultural Trauma in Aboriginal Australia	73
6.6	Cultural Recovery in Native Alaska	74
6.7	The Hawaiian Renaissance	75
	References	76
7	Historical Narratives: Stories We Live By	79
7.1	Narratives	79
7.2	So What’s Your Story?	81
7.3	The Contributions of Narrative Psychology	81
7.4	Features and Characteristics of Narratives	82
7.5	Culture and the Stories We Live By	84
7.6	The Role of Narratives in the Production and Maintenance of Conflict	85
7.7	“Intractable Conflicts” and the Narratives That Support Them	86
7.8	The Need for Cultural Empathy	88

- 7.9 What Is to Be Done? Reconciling Conflicting and Competing Narratives 89
- 7.10 Revising and Reconstructing the Narratives of Intractable Conflict 90
- References. 92
- 8 Intercultural and Inter-group Relations. 95**
 - 8.1 Integrated Threat Theory (Stephan & Stephan, 2000). 98
 - 8.2 Realistic Conflict Theory 98
 - 8.3 The Functionality of Stereotypes. 99
 - 8.4 Ifoga and Indigenous Peacemaking: A Cause for Optimism? 100
 - 8.5 The Power of the Situation and Conditions of Prejudice Reduction. 100
 - 8.5.1 Intergroup Contact Theory. 100
 - 8.6 An Example from Hawai‘i: The Construction of an “Interracial Labor Movement” and the Conditions of Prejudice Reduction. 101
 - 8.7 The Construction of a Superordinate Identity: The Development of Local Culture and Identity 103
 - References. 104
- 9 Inter-cultural Training 107**
 - 9.1 Intercultural Simulations in the Broader Context of Intercultural Training 108
 - 9.2 Intercultural Simulations 112
 - 9.3 Strengths and Weaknesses of Intercultural Simulations 114
 - 9.4 Examples of Existing Intercultural Simulations 116
 - 9.5 BAFA-BAFA: A Specific Example 117
 - 9.6 “Gems” That May Be Extracted from the Simulation. 119
 - References. 121
- 10 Conclusions 123**
- Index. 125**