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CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY AND ACCULTURATION

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Abstract: This Element offers a new theoretical model of acculturation within the general framework of cultural psychology. It is divided into four sections. First, cross-cultural and cultural orientations are contrasted. Each is illustrated with a detailed flowchart and step-by-step research procedures. Arguments are laid out for developing the psychology of acculturation within the cultural paradigm. The psychology of economic migration (EARN), separate from the psychology of acculturation (LEARN), is the theme of Section 2. Berry's model of acculturation preferences is discussed in Section 3. It serves as a contrasting reference point for the tripartite model of bicultural competencies, developed in Section 4. The three interconnected components are symbols, language, and values/practices. They characterize both enculturation and acculturation. As a second culture-learning process, acculturation is not restricted to immigration. It may take a vicarious (remote) shape in the home country. Reaching bicultural competencies and identities in the long run is the proposed outcome of acculturation.

Keywords: cultural psychology, acculturation, culture learning, bilingualism, bicultural identity

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