



Understanding Social Psychology Across Cultures: Engaging with Others in a Changing World

By Peter K Smith, Ronald Fischer, Vivian L. Vignoles, Michael H. (Harris) Bond

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Understanding Social Psychology Across Cultures Second Edition starts by asking why social psychology needs a cross-cultural perspective. It then examines cultural differences and their origins, before addressing traditional social psychological themes cross-culturally, for example group processes, self and identity, intergroup relations. Themes of contemporary relevance including migration, ethnic conflict and climate change are also covered.

Key features:

- Presentation of concepts and theories made accessible to the reader using practical examples and everyday life experiences from diverse parts of the world
- Biographical portraits of key researchers in the field
- Coverage of the appropriate methods for conducting state-of-the-art cross-cultural research

This textbook is appropriate for students of social and cross-cultural psychology. It will also interest practitioners wanting to understand the impact of culture on their fields of work, such as international relations, social policy, health promotion, ethnic relations and international business.

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Editorial Review

Review

'... For anyone eager to learn about how members of different cultures are fundamentally different - and yet sometimes remarkably similar - this book provides a great read.'

Roy F. Baumeister
Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA

'Understanding Social Psychology across Cultures 2e is an intellectual tour de force of the latest developments in cross-cultural social psychology. It is an essential resource for anyone interested in culture and human behavior.'

Michele J. Gelfand
University of Maryland, College Park, USA

'The new edition of this leading textbook in cross-cultural social psychology is the perfect introduction to the field. It has extraordinarily broad and up-to-date coverage of virtually all the important topics that have been studied.'

Shalom H. Schwartz
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

By far the most interesting section of the book for me was the third one entitled "The World in Flux." Here, speech, levels of contact and group behaviour are brought together in plausible narrative at every level from individual interactions to intra- and intergroup dynamics. Acculturation, coping with cultural identity threat as well as bicultural identity development and integration are explored, relevant to many of today's burning cultural conflicts. What is the impact of globalization and its subtext of concomitant modernity and economic pressures in the mobility of people and cultural discourse?

(Dr. George F. Simons 2014-01-17)

About the Author

Peter B. Smith was born near Colchester, UK, in 1937. and obtained his PhD from Cambridge University in 1962. After working at Leeds University, he joined the University of Sussex in 1966 and never found a good reason to leave. He is currently Emeritus Professor of Social Psychology. He has studied cross-cultural aspects of leadership, conformity and informal influence processes, as well as cultural differences in styles of communication. He is the author of eight books and more than 180 other publications. He is former president of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, and has served as Editor of the *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*.

Ronald Fischer was born near Leipzig in former East Germany in 1976, and completed his doctorate in cross-cultural psychology at the University of Sussex in 2002. He is currently Reader in Psychology at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He has spent much of his adult life exploring remote corners of the world, carrying a laptop and camera. He has broad interests concerning the interplay between culture and human functioning in diverse ecological settings, tackling these big questions applying multivariate statistics and multilevel models. He has published more than 100 papers and book chapters, and is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*.

Vivian L. Vignoles was born near Rochester, UK, in 1973, and obtained his PhD in social psychology at the University of Surrey in 2000. He is currently Reader in Social Psychology at the University of Sussex. His principal research interests are in self and identity processes and cross-cultural psychology, especially understanding the interplay of cultural, contextual, and motivational influences on identity construction, and he is principal investigator of the *Culture and Identity Research Network*. He has published more than 30 journal articles and book chapters and one edited book, and is an Associate Editor of the *European Journal of Social Psychology*.

Michael Harris Bond was born in Toronto, Canada in 1944, obtaining his PhD in social psychology from Stanford University in 1970. Working first at Kwansei Gakuin University in Japan, he next joined the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he was Professor of Social Psychology for many years. He has contributed to many aspects of cross-cultural psychology, focusing particularly on Chinese social behavior, comparative studies of belief systems, and improvements in cross-cultural research methods. He has published more than 270 papers and books in the field. In 2009, he was appointed Chair Professor at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

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