

17 Julho/July/Julio 2013

14:00 – Mesa-redonda Convidada/ Invited Roundtable / Mesa Redonda Convidada

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PSYCHOLOGY AND CULTURE: DISCUSSING COMPLEMENTARY APPROACHES

Maria Cristina Ferreira and Judith Gibbons

PSYCHOLOGY AND CULTURE: PERSONAL VALUES, POLITICAL VALUES AND VOTING UNDER THE CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Claudio V. Torres, Universidade de Brasília/Brasil and Peter Ulrich Vieth Black, Master, Brasil

CULTURE AND PSYCHOLOGY IN A MULTI-LEVEL PERSPECTIVE

Ronald Fischer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

CULTURE AND PSYCHOLOGY: THE MEXICAN ETHNO-PSYCHOMETRIC PERSPECTIVE

Alejandra Domínguez Espinosa, México

CULTURE AND PSYCHOLOGY: THE BRAZILIAN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

Maria Cristina Ferreira, Salgado de Oliveira University, Brazil; Ronaldo Pilati, Universidade de Brasília, Brasil; Ronald Fischer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand; Juliana B. Porto, Universidade de Brasília, Brasil; Taciano Milfont, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Abstract: The term culture covers a wide spectrum of meanings, which indicates its complexity, dynamism, and evolving nature, especially within the context of social and human sciences. Therefore, it can be viewed as a process associated with the collective utilization of natural and human resources within a given society. In the realm of psychology, the study of the relationships between psychological and cultural factors, that is, the attempts to integrate behavioral and cultural models has been calling the attention of scholars for a long time. In the search for answers to the question of what constitutes universal and idiosyncratic human attributes and social behaviors, two main approaches have been developed: the cross-cultural and the indigenous one. Psychologists in the field of cross-cultural psychology search for similarities and differences in psychological constructs across cultures. In doing so, they compare findings obtained in diverse cultural contexts in order to test the generality of existing psychological theories and models of human behavior. Cross-cultural psychology takes therefore an etic approach. Indigenous psychology takes, on the contrary, an emic approach. As such, it recognizes that each culture has distinct and possibly unique features and meanings embedded in their language, myths, and history. So, it studies how an individual's behavioral, mental, and emotional functioning reflect the influence of prior experiences and development within a particular cultural context. As such, it examines psychological processes in their particular sociocultural context. Both approaches, however, contribute to the development of a culturally sensitive psychology, because they have an interactive mutually enriching relationship: that is, they can be seen as complementary. The papers presented in this round table illustrate some of the perspectives that can be adopted in the theorization and research about culture and psychology, from a cross-cultural or indigenous approach. The first paper shows the possibility of studying personal values, political values, and voting from a cross-cultural perspective. The second presentation discusses the utility of multi-level methods in examining cultural processes within psychological frameworks. The third presentation deals with the contributions of an ethno-psychometric perspective for Mexican psychology. Finally, the fourth presentation outlines the contributions of the research on the indigenous construct of Brazilian jeitinho for the Brazilian psychology. After the presentations, time will be allotted for a discussion about the ways the papers presented contribute to the task of studying the relationships between psychological and cultural factors from a cross-cultural or an indigenous perspective.