PANEL ON DEBATING PUTNAM?

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This summer the social science community received a surprise from political scientist Robert Putnam, author of "Bowling Alone" and guru of social capital as the face-to-face interaction generating trust, ostensibly needed for democratic political systems. Putnam published inconvenient evidence that ethnic diversity in the U.S. undermines and reduces social capital. His abstract notes that:

> New evidence from the US suggests that in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods, residents of all races tend to 'hunker down.' Trust (even of one's own race) is lower, altruism and community cooperation rarer, friends fewer. (Putnam 2007)

Within my own discipline of anthropology, many listservs are abuzz with criticisms of Putnam's findings. Some consider the timing of the article unfortunate since it seems to play into the hands of those who would misuse the findings to justify a xenophobic federal restriction of immigration. Others suggest that it tends to legitimize the delay of efforts to integrate and develop ethnic neighborhoods in America's cities. Virtually all agree that the findings are a challenge to the value of diversity held by scholars in all of the social sciences.

To be fair, Putnam shares those values and does his best to explain that the negative impact of ethnic diversity on social capital is likely to occur in the short run only:

In the long run, however, successful immigrant societies have overcome such fragmentation by creating new, cross-cutting forms of social solidarity and more encompassing identities. Illustrations of becoming comfortable with diversity are drawn from the US military, religious institutions, and earlier waves of American immigration. (Putnam 2007)

As is indicated by his last sentence, his argument about the long-term consequences is deductive or argument by analogy. You can read the entire article at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9477.2007.00176.x

Many of us would like to see this debate enriched with case studies of ethnic diversity and social capital, not only in the U.S. in other nations and communities. Are there cross-cultural studies that illuminate the problem? Under what circumstances do ethnically diverse communities or regions develop the "bridging" social capital needed to counteract the "hunkering down" phenomenon?

I would like to invite members and friends of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research to join this dialogue and contribute to a panel on "**Debating Putnam: Does Diversity Undermine Social Capital?**" If you would like to contribute a paper, please email me at caulkins@grinnell.edu

Reference:

Robert D. Putnam (2007)
E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century The 2006 Johan Skytte Prize Lecture. Scandinavian Political Studies 30 (2), 137–174. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9477.2007.00176.x ❦

BEYOND MERE COMMUNICATION, TOWARD GREATER INTERACTION AND EVENTUAL INTEGRATION: NEW TASKS FOR SCCR

Juris G. Draguns
Past-President, SCCR
Pennsylvania State University

For 36 years SCCR has provided a unique interdisciplinary forum for the presentation of cross-cultural findings and the discussion of issues relevant to the conceptualization and investigation of cultures. Anthropologists and psychologists have been the principal participants in these exchanges, with valuable but less frequent contributions from members of other social science disciplines.

Let us now envisage an additional, more ambitious objective: for SCCR to become the site and vehicle for fostering interdisciplinary integration of social science research. By integration I do not mean amalgamation. The various strands, familiar to all who have attended and presented at SCCR, will continue to survive and to thrive. We have, however, not done enough to build bridges between the various existing approaches to cross-cultural research. The two main reference points of anthropology and psychology, contexts and dimensions, respectively, should be alternated, blended and then integrated, and perhaps supplemented and enriched by inputs from the traditions of investigation, originated, for example, in comparative linguistics, sociology, history or other disciplines. This call for pluralism is based on the recognition, which is more widely shared than articulated, that there is no one, ideal or perfect, cross-cultural method or model nor is one ever likely to emerge. Consequently, the useful but limited perspectives from which we proceed would be enhanced by being pooled, combined, and compared, in the hope that a more multifaceted understanding of human condition in culture will result. Qualitative observations should be a point of departure for quantitative research, and arrays of statistical results should be scrutinized in the unique contexts of their occurrence. Results based on HRAF should spark investigations by other worldwide methods, as exemplified by the cultural dimensions proposed by Hofstede and by the work with multinational networks of collaborators for studying such phenomena as mate selection or romantic attachment. Monocultural, bicultural, and multicultural research should be pursued both simultaneously and sequentially. These courses of action are all the more urgently needed as the several social science disciplines tackle problems and challenges that transcend their traditional boundaries. At recent SCCR meetings, symposia have been devoted to altruism, space exploration, terrorism, and warfare. Additional relevant topics include globalization and its various negative, positive, and neutral consequences, the effect of sudden sociopolitical and economic change and any limits of human capability in accommodating to it, and the purportedly human universal striving to attain freedom and/or to escape from it. Cross-cultural investigation in educational, organizational, business, and mental health settings stands to benefit from the infusion of greater conceptual and methodological pluralism.

What are the implications of these rather abstract and programmatic musings? Beginning with next year's annual meeting in New Orleans, let us actively take advantage of the diversity of our membership in promoting investigation and interpretation from several different angles. Let us stimulate and allow to be stimulated by our colleagues in the cross-cultural enterprise whose modus operandi is different, and let us collaborate in the pursuit of our basic and applied research goals. ❧

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

SCCR will elect a new president-elect, secretary-treasurer, and social sciences area representative this fall. Please send any nominations to Juris G. Draguns (Nominations Committee Chair) at jgdl@psu.edu ❧

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
37TH ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH

New Orleans
February 20-23, 2008

❧http://meeting.sccr.org

Held jointly with the meetings of the
Society for Anthropological Sciences
❧http://anthrosciences.org

Submit your proposals before
11:59 p.m., November 20, 2007, at
❧http://meeting.sccr.org/submissions.htm

Registration
❧http://meeting.sccr.org/registration.htm

Stay at "Le Pavillon"
❧http://meeting.sccr.org/hotel.htm

New! Online Conference Registration Fee Payment
http://meeting.sccr.org/pay.html

Questions? Ideas for Submissions?
Contact sccr2008@selu.edu

The 2008 SCCR conference will be held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Society for Anthropological Sciences (SASci). All sessions will be held in the Le Pavillon Hotel, at 833 Poydras Street in New Orleans, Louisiana. SCCR plans to schedule most of the substantive programs between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on February 21 and 22, and from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. on February 23. The meetings will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday and end at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

People with an interest in cross-cultural research, whatever your discipline, are encouraged to submit. Empirical, theoretical, historical, and methodological submissions related to culture are all welcome.

We also welcome students (both graduate and undergraduate) to submit. The Program Committee and SCCR encourage the interdisciplinary and international character of the annual meetings and welcome submissions from both SCCR members and non-members.

Proposed submissions for papers, symposia/panel discussions, Conversation Hours, and student posters will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the program if received by 11:59 p.m., November 20, 2007.

The program will consist primarily of presentations and symposia submitted to the SCCR Program Committee. In addition, SCCR will include on the program some sessions jointly sponsored with SASci.

Registration and submission forms, along with information about numerous other topics, will be posted on the Conference Website:
http://meeting.sccr.org/index.htm

You are strongly encouraged to browse that website to learn about the full details of the conference and other cultural opportunities in visiting New Orleans. Please note the lowered rates for retirees, students, and for advanced registration!

Deadlines (please mark your calendar)

❧All Submissions Deadline:
- November 20, 2007

❧Travel Grants Deadline:
- November 20, 2007

❧Submissions Decision Notification Date:
- December 10, 2007

❧Student Awards Deadline:
- December 31, 2007

❧Hotel Phone Reservations (conference rate):
- January 11, 2008

❧Advance Registration Deadline:
- January 31, 2008 ❦

A NEW INTERFACE FOR THE eHRAF COLLECTIONS

Carol R. Ember,
Executive Director of the Human Relations Area Files

In the 2007 fall term we will have beta-test versions of the eHRAF collections on the web. With the new interface, we introduce new names for the collections—***eHRAF World Cultures*** (the present name is eHRAF Collection of Ethnography) and ***eHRAF Archaeology*** (the present name is eHRAF Collection of Archaeology). If your institution is already a member of either or both collections you should be able to get in by IP address as soon as you put in the beta-test URLs (eHRAFWorldCultures.yale.edu and eHRAFArchaeology.yale.edu). If your institution is not currently a member of either or both collections we welcome any SCCR member who wishes to beta-test the new interface in the fall term. Please contact us at hraf@yale.edu or 800-520-HRAF and we will give you passwords to get in to either or both collections. The current interface will continue to be served by the University of Michigan through the end of January, 2008.

eHRAF World Cultures contains over 165 cultures with over 450,000 pages of information on all aspects of cultural and social life. Each culture file contains a variety of source documents (books, articles, and dissertations) that have been indexed and organized according to HRAF's comprehensive culture and subject classification systems: the *Outline of World Cultures (OWC)*, and the *Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM)*. These comprehensive culture and subject retrieval systems extend searching beyond keyword searching. **eHRAF Archaeology** contains 55 traditions with approximately 80,000 pages of archaeological information.

For those of you familiar with the present interface, some of the new features are:

❧ An entirely new search (called the "Lookup Search") which maps words you enter to our two thesauri. So, for example, if you put in "African art" the new search will suggest looking at all the cultures we currently have in Africa plus all the subject categories dealing with art. You can modify the search to add or delete subjects and cultures. We hope that this search will familiarize users with our subject-indexing system which is often much more powerful for searching than word searches alone.

❧ A more advanced search will allow complex Boolean searches of subjects, cultures and words in text. Where the present interface only allows three choices of subject and three words, the new interface will allow as many entries and clauses as you wish.

Other new features include:

❧ Complete citations that automatically accompany search results

❧ Emphasis on subject descriptions rather than subject category numbers (e.g., "Techniques of Socialization [861] not "861")

❧ Ability to choose to see a whole searched paragraph, a paragraph in the context of a page, or the next or previous page

❧ New subject thesaurus based on 18 major-subjects (may be viewed at http://www.yale.edu/hraf/Ocm_xml/newOcm.xml)

❧ Chunking of results to avoid timing-out problems

❧ Email and print functions ❧

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Zambia 2007

Celena Lue

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to embark on a trip to Africa, specifically, the beautiful and peaceful country of Zambia. Dr. Lewis Aptekar led our group of 23 SJSU graduate students for our service learning project: Zambia 2007. Our focus was on counseling from a cultural and international perspective.

My name is Celena Lue and I am 23 years old, entering my second year as a graduate student in the Counselor Education program at San Jose State University. I am Chinese-American, raised in Florida and born in Jamaica. I moved to California one year ago, never imagining what incredible journey lay ahead. I have always considered myself to be a fairly culturally diverse and culturally competent individual. However, my experience in Africa opened my eyes to an exciting culture where cultural flexibility and sensitivity were essential. I quickly discovered I still had much to learn.

Our challenging task was to provide counseling services to the schoolchildren living in the compounds of Lusaka, Zambia. The urban population of children we worked with included street children and community school children. Many of these children were orphaned, as their parents died from AIDS and/or other diseases. We worked with organizations such as Action for Children, Flying Angels Community School, Yasheni, Youthvision, and the University of Zambia (UNZA). Each SJSU graduate student was paired with an UNZA student, which enabled all of us to learn from each other and help each other in a unique cross-cultural setting.

Everyday brought a new adventure and a new challenge. Working with the young children, I encountered a language barrier. Although English is the main language in Zambia, there are many other languages and dialects, like Cinyanja, that the children were more fluent in. However, with the help of the UNZA students, crayons, creativity, and patience, I was able to improve my communication with the children. Regarding the high school students, I found various cultural similarities and differences. For instance, we engaged them in open discussions regarding the same issues we deal with in the U.S. HIV/AIDS, sex, religion, relationships, and rape were all popular topics the

students voiced concern about. It was a surprise, yet a relief, to find that many of the students were already knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS and how to protect themselves. I am not sure who learned more—me or the students!

Initially, adjusting to the way of life in Zambia seemed daunting. The people, physical environment, political and social issues, and local customs, were just some of the issues I needed to be aware of.

Basic modern conveniences for me, like electricity and clean running water, were luxuries many Zambians could not afford. Yet, I also realized that not all Zambians were the same. They varied on numerous factors such as socioeconomic status, personality, religion, and political views, just like Americans.

It is impossible to adequately capture everything I experi-

enced and learned in Zambia. Therefore, I encourage anyone who is curious about another culture or who simply wants to learn more about oneself, to research and gain hands-on experience with a different culture. My experience in Zambia was richly rewarding and I feel incredibly fortunate to have connected with a culture that I am only beginning to understand. However, I do know that with the support of my fellow SJSU classmates and the kindness of the Zambians, I felt more of a part of the beautiful Zambian culture and yet more at home than I could have ever imagined. Zikomo (Thank you), Zambia!

For more information on the Zambia Service Learning Project, you may contact Professor Lewis Aptekar, Ph.D. at: laptekar@email.sjsu.edu. ❦

ATTENTION STUDENTS

Like to help SCCR, by joining a new SCCR student advisory committee? **Contact sccr2008@selu.edu**. ❦

BOOKS BY SCCR MEMBERS

Lives Across Cultures: Cross-Cultural Human Development (4th Edition)
Harry W. Gardiner and Corinne Kosmitzki

The 4th edition of this market-leading text is now available from Pearson/Allyn & Bacon Publishing: http://www.ablongman.com/catalog/academic/product/0,1144,0205494757,00.html

Lives Across Cultures offers an interdisciplinary exploration of developmental topics across the lifespan. Presented in a chronological-within-topics approach, it focuses on cultural contexts throughout the world while emphasizing links between theory, research and practical applications.

Features:
- Links to real world: Basic principles and research findings are linked to practical, everyday events to help readers cultivate a global and multicultural perspective on behavior and gain an improved understanding of and appreciation for development as it takes place in diverse cultural settings.
- Multi-disciplinary: This text integrates and synthesizes viewpoints and perspectives from a variety of disciplines including psychology, anthropology, sociology, and the health sciences.
- Pedagogy includes:
  - Opening vignettes of individuals from different geographical areas of the world who illustrate behaviors described in the chapters.
  - Recurring themes that help students to develop a comprehensive and cohesive understanding of development.
  - Key ideas are placed in bold type the first time they appear and are immediately defined with culturally relevant examples.
  - Further readings: Each chapter closes with an annotated listing of recommendations for further reading. The suggested books, articles, and websites have been selected for their ability to expand on topics covered in each chapter as well as for their interesting and often amusing writing style.
- The Instructor's Manual contains chapter outlines and objectives, lecture topics, student activities, film and video suggestions, and multiple choice and essay test items.

New To This Edition:
- A highly original Foreword opens with a photograph of the hands of three week old Alena, representing the "Alpha" or beginning of life, and closes with a photograph of the hands of 102 year old Khun Mae Kasorn, representing the "Omega" or end of a long and productive life.
- A series of nine Developmental Analysis boxes appearing in Chapters 2-10. Written in the first person, they tell the life of Matilda "Maddi" Skelton, who engaging applies important concepts to her own development over the lifespan.
- A series of study questions for readers to reflect upon regarding concepts, facts, and other material have been added at the end of each chapter.
- This edition includes new culturally-relevant photos allowing readers to "see" cross-cultural behavior as it "happens," and thereby better understand it.
- This edition contains hundreds of new references, many representing important work published between 2004 and 2007.

What Reviewers Are Saying About *Lives Across Cultures*, 4th edition

"Harry Gardiner and Corinne Kosmitzki, and their own very capable hands, skillfully and in an engaging and personal style, have energetically and generously updated and extended the coverage provided in the third edition of Lives Across Cultures. Covering all of the major developmental topics from cradle to grave, they take the reader through the labyrinth of lives that work and play and, unfortunately, fight through occasional major crises and the vexing problems of growing up. The style and tone of the book is genuinely comfortable. Reading it is like having a friendly dialogue with gentle and caring friends."

From the Forward by Walter J. Lonner, Western Washington University

"To our knowledge this book has no competition, and is unique. It is unusual for a book to change a curriculum, but rather than being written to fill a demand for classes in cross-cultural human development, it appears that these courses are being created at various universities because Gardiner and Kozmitzki published this text. As Lonner writes in the foreword, the field is changing quickly and significantly, and LAC is in great hands as Gardiner and Kosmitzki reflect this change in each new edition. This is an improved edition, not just a newer edition."

David W. Shwalb and Barbara J. Shwalb, Southeastern Louisiana University

To contact the authors, write to the following:
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Corinne Kosmitzki ckosmitzki@berkeley.edu ❦

2007 SCCR MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO!

"The Alamo"

St. Anthony Hotel – "Conference Hotel"

Juris Draguns
Presidential Address

Banquet 2007

Keynote Address I:
Harry Triandis
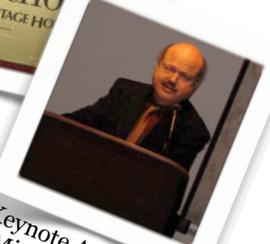
Keynote Address II:
Michael Herzfeld

CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWSLETTER

Dear SCCR Colleagues,

Think about contributing to the Spring 2008 SCCR newsletter (to be published after the conference)!
Please send me any of the following items to be included in the newsletter:

❧ Brief abstracts of current research articles or projects
❧ Job postings/position announcements
❧ Other general announcements (e.g., other conferences)
❧ Book blurbs by SCCR authors (with contact information for authors)

Please provide your material in unformatted text blocks only in Microsoft Word format. Send all items or any questions to ravisha.mathur@sjsu.edu.

Sincerely,
Ravisha Mathur
SCCR Newsletter Editor

♥