

Development across cultures

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Psychology in a Global World: Introducing the Cultural-Developmental Approach

In today's globalizing world, we have the opportunity to envision a new kind of psychology. In my view, one-size-fits-all psychological theories, which were popular in the 20th century, are often too rigid and too Western-centric to adequately capture the complexities of individual selves and human relations across diverse and changing cultures. On the other hand, one-theory-for-every-culture does not seem compelling either. It does not capture the fact that humans everywhere share common psychological characteristics. An alternative is to conceptualize theories that are "cultural-developmental" in nature. I will draw on my work in the area of moral development as an illustration, while suggesting that a cultural-developmental approach may be applied to many other areas.

The New Adulthood: International Trends and Possible Futures

I will present a broad international overview of patterns of adult development. Entry to adult family and work roles now comes later than ever, resulting in a normative period of emerging adulthood in the twenties. More adults than in the past remain single, or coupled but "child free," and fertility rates have declined, so that caring for children no longer dominates the entirety of adult life. Today's "knowledge economy" requires greater educational preparation but makes work more cognitively challenging and potentially rewarding. Adults not only live longer but are healthier for longer. Questions and challenges include topics of international migration, electronic media use, and growing inequalities within and between countries. The study of adult development presents a great array of fascinating and important questions for psychological research.



Mardi 2 juin 2020, de 14h à 15h30, Salle 2121, Géopolis