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Acculturation, Acculturative Change, and Assimilation: A Research Bibliography With URL Links

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Acculturation, Acculturative Change, and Assimilation: A Research Bibliography With URL Links

Abstract

Acculturation is an ancient topic of scholarship, with ever more interest and importance as migration increases on a global scale. The pace of scholarship has accelerated in the past few decades, with the result that earlier scholarship tends to be lost and recent scholarship is often unfound. The following bibliography is intended to help remedy these kinds of problems. It also adds extensive acculturation literature in French and Portuguese.

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Introduction

Acculturation is both an individual level phenomenon and a societal level phenomenon. At the individual level, according to the authoritative *Oxford English Dictionary*, “acculturation” is defined to be the “adoption and assimilation of an alien culture”, using assimilation in its biological meaning of ingestion and incorporation. Thus, “acculturation” as second-culture acquisition contrasts with “enculturation” as first-culture acquisition. Second-language learning is a good example of acculturation at the individual-level, e.g. some English-Canadians learn French, some French-Canadians learn English, causing neither language to change.

At the societal level, acculturation refers to processes “when groups of individuals having different cultures come into continuous first-hand contact, with subsequent changes in the original cultural patterns of either or both groups” (Redfield, et al., 1936, p.149). For example, intercultural contact during the British colonial empire changed the English language to incorporate words like “sofa”, “ketchup” and “pajama”. The cultural diffusion of foods between minority and majority groups is a good example of acculturation at the societal level, e.g. peanut butter, pizza, tacos and bagels are now common American foods.

If a single minority individual acculturates, assimilating the majority culture, then that person becomes bicultural. If the whole minority group acculturates and also stops minority enculturation, then the minority is assimilated by the majority, causing the minority culture to disappear and often causing the majority culture to change, e.g. the USA assimilated its German immigrants and now Christmas trees are part of US culture.

The present bibliography of acculturation research is an update and expansion of Rudmin’s bibliography, which was published online in October 2011. In that previous version there were around 1500 references, and now there are around 3900 references. Of course, this bibliography is far from an exhaustive catalogue of all acculturation research.

This expansion sought to include more non-English scholarship, specifically written in Portuguese, French and, to a lesser degree, Spanish. There is a uniquely rich acculturation literature in Portuguese, considering that historically Portugal was an imperial, colonial power, like the UK, France, Spain, and Holland, but also has diaspora migrants in many European and American nations. Furthermore, Portuguese-speaking Brazil is one of the world’s geographically large nations, with many different indigenous societies, with African peoples kidnapped for the slave trade, and with immigrant settlers from Europe, Asia, and other South American nations.

The new references were found by a variety of methods: Primarily by searching the keywords “acculturation”, “assimilation”, and “inculturation” in such research data bases as www.internetarchive.com, www.Jstor.com, and

www.sciencedirect.com, as well as www.Goolescholar.com, www.googlebooks.com, www.academia.com, and www.researchgate.com.com. The literature in Portuguese was sought in www.Scielo.com and <http://observatorioemigracao.pt/np4/home>. The literature in French was sought in www.cairn.info.com, www.erudit.org, www.Gallica.com, <http://classiques.uqac.ca/>, www.Persee.com, and www.RechercheOpenEdition.com.

A second, and less fruitful method, was to examine all of the entries in PsychINFO located by searching “acculturation” in the abstracts for the years 2015-2016, and printing out the authors’ email addresses when available. This resulted in 680 good email addresses of current acculturation researchers, who were then solicited for references to their own acculturation research.

Most title translations for the non-English reference were done by the first author. If readers discover errors, please inform Dr. de Castro. If users of this bibliography find errors, or url addresses that are no longer functioning, we would appreciate being informed. Science is a collective behavior. Literature is our collective memory.

If teachers would like to use this bibliography as a teaching tool, several assignment exercises are available at the end of the bibliography.

Exercises

Exercise 1: Over-looked references

Pick one article from 2015 with a title that is interesting to you. Find the full text of that target article. The task is to find 1 reference in the bibliography that could have been a suitable reference used by the target article but was missed. Report the reference for your target article, and give the reference that might have been included in the target article, but was not. In one paragraph, explain why you think your new reference should have been used and cited in the target article.

Exercise 2: Miscited references

Select a title from the bibliography that sounds like it might be interesting to you. Download that target article and read it. Then, from the reference section of that target article, find a reference for which the acculturation bibliography has a full-text link. Then, find in the original target article, the statements that made use of the reference article. The assignment is to answer this question: Does the target article accurately describe, or make claims about, the reference article? In one page, give the references for the target article and for the reference article, and in one or two paragraphs, explain if the cited claim were accurate or inaccurate. It often happens that published research papers misunderstand or misrepresent the articles they cite."

Exercise 3: Changes in theory during a career

Find an author with a career of acculturation studies spanning more than 10 years. Read an early article written by that author and read a recent article written by that author. Then in one or two paragraphs, describe 2 ways the author's ideas and claims about acculturation have changed.

Exercise 4: Biography of an acculturation scholar

Write a one page biography describing the career of an acculturation scholar. Information on a scholar's personal career can often be found in their personal webpage, in their department's descriptions of them, in Research Gate, LinkedIn or Academia websites, or in autobiographical statements attached to some published articles. What did that person study? Where did that person study? Where does that person work? What other topics does that person study in addition to acculturation? You may have to find the scholar's email address, and ask them some of these details about their career. Be polite, and if they do not respond, do not become intrusive.

Exercise 5: Email interview with an acculturation scholar

For any acculturation scholar who has published titles that seem interesting to you, interview that person by email, asking in particular, why did they decide to study acculturation. Make it clear that this is a class assignment, trying to understand the motivations for cross-culture research. Write this assignment in one page or less.

Exercise 6: Majority group acculturation

Find a reference about the dominant, majority population acculturating to the immigrant or aboriginal peoples in their society. Write one paragraph summarizing the study, and one paragraph of what you found interesting or unusual about the report.

Exercise 7: Critical reviews of acculturation

Find a critical review of acculturation research. Give the citation for that article, and describe 3 faults in acculturation research that the article presented.

Exercise 8: Meta-analysis of acculturation

Find a meta-analysis about acculturation for which there is a full-text link. In one paragraph, describe how they found the articles in the meta-analysis, how many articles there were, and other details about the studies included in the meta-analysis. In another paragraph, summarize the findings of the meta-analysis, in other, what seems to be true about acculturation in general.

Exercise 9: Bicultural fusion

Current acculturation theory among psychologists considers biculturalism to mean bicultural code-switching, for example, being able to speak Spanish but able to switch to English. But biculturalism also include the fusion of two cultures into a new culture, which may be called a "hybrid" or a creol" culture. Find one article in the bibliography about the merging or blending of two cultures, give its reference, and write a one paragraph summary. In another paragraph, describe some examples of cultural fusion that you see in the language, food, music, holidays, etc. of your own culture around you.

Exercise 10: Two way acculturation

Acculturation is often defined as a two-way process of cultural change and adaptation. Find 1 article, with a full-text link, that is about acculturation as a two-way process. Give the reference for that article, name the 2 cultures, and give some examples of how both cultures have changed.

Exercise 11: Acculturation and 2nd language learning

Acculturation is sometimes defined as learning a second culture, for example, learning a 2nd language. Find the references for 3 acculturaton articles that are about 2nd language learning.

Exercise 12: Acculturation as culture change

Acculturation is sometimes defined as one culture adopting the behaviors or traits or values of another culture. Find 2 articles about cultures changing. In one paragraph, describe one aspect of your own culture that you think must have been adopted in the past from another culture.

About the Authors

Joaquim de Castro did a licentiate in Social and Work Psychology at Universidade Fernando Pessoa, Oporto, Portugal. In 2004, he completed a Professional Master (before the Bologna Process) in Psychological Coaching and Psychotherapy at Instituto de Psicologia Aplicada e Formação. Between 2004 and 2011, he worked as a psychotherapist. In 2008, he completed a Master (before the Bologna Process) in **Community Health Psychology** at the Universidade Fernando Pessoa. In 2014, he completed doctoral studies **in Social Sciences**, expertise in Cross-Cultural Psychology, in the same university, under the supervision of Floyd Rudmin and Milton Madeira. He is engaged in mixed method, migrations, acculturation (as learning), cultural fusion, ethnic identity, Indigenous peoples, intercultural conflicts, epidemiology, and Anthropocene.

Currently, he participates in research projects at Universidade Fernando Pessoa, and he is living in Metz, France.

Floyd Rudmin did a BA in philosophy at Bowdoin College in Maine. He worked two years in the Philippine Malaria Eradication service and taught ESL for two years in Japan. After completing an MA in audiology at the University of Buffalo, with a thesis on neurological diagnostics, he emigrated to Canada to work as an audiologist in British Columbia and then in Montreal. In 1988, he completed doctoral studies at Queen's University, under the supervision of John Berry, with a thesis on the psychology of ownership and property. After 7 years of post-doc positions in faculties of law and business, he accepted a professorship in social and community psychology at the University of Tromso in Norway, where he also taught in the MA Program in Peace and Conflict Transformation. Professor Rudmin retired in 2014 and now lives in Canada.