

Year 2013 Social Psychology Colloquium

1st Social Psychology Colloquium

Place : October 17 (Thu) 18:00~19:00

Place : Faculty of Law and Letters Bldg 2, The Third Meeting Room

Speaker : Colleen Ward (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

Title : Conceptualizing, Measuring and Predicting Intercultural Competence

Abstract : Intercultural competence (IC) can be defined as the acquisition, maintenance and display of culture-specific skills required to: 1) function effectively within a new cultural context and/or 2) interact effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds. Accordingly, Ward and Kennedy's (1999) Sociocultural Adaptation Scale (SCAS), constructed to assess "the skills required to manage everyday situations and aspects of a new culture" provides one measurement of intercultural competence. Situating IC within a culture-learning framework and investigating it in the context of cross-cultural transition, Ward's program of research with the SCAS is reviewed and summarized. Individual characteristics, such as personality, motivation and language proficiency, along with learning opportunities, such as intercultural contact, training and overseas experiences, are examined as predictors of sociocultural adaptation. The influence of time and cultural context on adaptation outcomes is also considered. Finally, the results of a recent meta-analysis ($k = 66$, $N = 10,672$) of the correlates of the SCAS are described, and recommendations for enhancing intercultural competence are presented.

2nd Social Psychology Colloquium

Date : November 25 (Mon) 17:00~18:00

Place : Faculty of Law and Letters Bldg 2, The Third Meeting Room

Speaker : Dharm P. S. Bhawuk (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

Title : The Century of Indigenous Psychology

Abstract : There are three parts of this presentation. First, I will use autoethnography to present my personal journey from science and engineering, to psychology, to cross-cultural psychology to indigenous psychology, specifically Indian psychology. I will present examples to argue that I have striven to become a better scientist and human being in this journey, as I have become more open to possibilities outside any box of knowledge. I am happy to be bewildered rather than clever, following the great Persian poet, Rumi's advice. Next, I will present

innovations in practice, methodology, and theory, and how all of them point to the value of doing indigenous psychological research. I will invite your input and questions to help me think through this section. Finally, I would like to toast “Three Cheers” to indigenous psychology, and provide a reason for each cheer, for I think indigenous psychology is helping us create a better world for humanity, the planet, and the Universe. I will conclude by discussing some implications for global psychology.

3rd Social Psychology Colloquium

Date : March 17 (Mon) 17:00~18:00

Place : Faculty of Law and Letters Bldg 2, The Third Meeting Room

Speaker : James H. Liu (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

Title : Social Representations of History as a window into National and International Political Culture: Theory, Methods, and Measurement

Abstract : A new literature on social representations of history has enabled a theoretical platform at the meso-level, mediating between individuals and societies, that allows conceptualization of national (culture-specific) and global (universal) political culture(s). History offers a “warrant of legitimacy” that draws from tradition to form the basis of an historical charter that is “a widely shared and iconic representation where selective elements of group history, its causes, and consequences have been elaborated into a quasi-legal form that gives moral and sometimes legal implications for group action”. An open-ended method of nominations has been used to measure social representations of world history across 24 societies, and characterize them as present-oriented, Western-centric tempered by ethnocentrism, and focused on warfare. Subsequently, quantitative analysis methods from cross-cultural psychology for determining structural equivalence have been employed in 30-35 societies to seek for (but fail to find) universal dimensions in perceptions of the most important events and people in world history. Three key Historical Event Scales have been developed, Calamities, Progress, and Resistance to Oppression that influence willingness to fight for the country. In terms of Person Profiles, Western university populations consist mainly of Secular and Faithful Idealists, who following a liberal democratic worldview rate scientific and humanitarian leaders highly, and dictators and strongmen very low. Mainland Chinese and Muslim university students have much higher proportions of Political Realists, who see power and the ruthlessness that goes with it a necessary part of the evolution of world history. Emergent

global political culture is a reflection of these basic orientations towards World History.