Arab Youth Symposium 2013: Conference Program

Julie Hakim-Larson
University of Windsor

Rosanne Menna
University of Windsor

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International Symposium on Arab Youth: Developmental Pathways for Identity
May 29-30, 2013

Presentations

Wednesday May 29, 2013

DAY 1: Arab Youth Identity—What Do We Know?

8:30 – 9:10 a.m. Registration and Poster Set-Up [Toldo HEC Lobby]
9:10 – 9:20 a.m. Opening Remarks – Dr. Julie Hakim-Larson [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]
9:20 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome – Dr. Alan Wildeman, President [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]
9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Keynote Speaker Dr. John W. Berry (Professor Emeritus), Queen’s University, CANADA [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

Acculturation, Identity and Wellbeing Among Ethnocultural Youth

Acculturation is the process of cultural and psychological change that results from the prolonged contact between groups and individuals of different cultures. Much acculturation takes place in culturally-diverse societies that have emerged following colonization and immigration. There are three important acculturation issues that need consideration: how do individuals of different cultures engage each other; how well do they adapt to their intercultural situation; and are there relationships between how individuals acculturate and how well they adapt. Core concepts in dealing with these questions are acculturation strategies and cultural identities (how) and psychological and social wellbeing (how well). The search for relationships between answers to these two questions may allow the promotion of ways of acculturating that lead to greater wellbeing. Evidence from research with immigrant adults and youth who are settled in many societies reveals that there is indeed a ‘best practice’ for achieving wellbeing: those who engage both their heritage cultures and identities, as well as participate in the daily life of the larger society, have higher levels of wellbeing that those who engage with only one or the other, or with neither culture.

10:45 – 11:15 a.m. Refreshment Break and Poster Session [Toldo HEC Lobby]
11:15 – 12:30 p.m. International Panel Discussion 1 – Definitions of Acculturation & Ethnic Identity [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

Moderator: Shelagh Towson, Ph.D., University of Windsor, CANADA

Voluntary Community Service among Egyptian College Youth: Motivators and Impacts on Identity Development
Mona Amer, Ph.D., American University of Cairo, EGYPT

Biopsychosocial Perspectives on Culture, Development, and Health of Arab Americans
Sylvia Nassar-McMillan, Ph.D., North Carolina State University, USA
Using Convoys of Social Relations to Understand Culture and Forgiveness from an Arab American Youth Perspective  
Kristine Ajrouch, Ph.D., Eastern Michigan University, USA

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.    Lunch [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

1:45 – 3:00 p.m. International Panel Discussion 2 – Definitions and Clarification of Social Identity Issues [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

Moderator: Ben Kuo, Ph.D., University of Windsor, CANADA

Development, Knowledge and Perception of Sexuality among Arab Youth  
Brigitte Khoury, Ph.D., American University of Beirut, LEBANON

The Living in History Effect and the Intergenerational Transmission of Personal and Historical Memories  
Samar Zebian, Ph.D., Lebanese American University, LEBANON

Youth coping with oppression in Arab Spring and its Psychological and Socio-Political Dynamics: The example of Palestinian Youth  
Ibrahim Kira, Ph.D., Center for Cumulative Trauma Studies, Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Refreshment Break [Toldo HEC Lobby]

3:30 – 5:15 p.m. International Panel Discussion 3 – Definitions and Clarification of Personal Identity Issues [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

Moderator: Kathryn Lafreniere, Ph.D., University of Windsor, CANADA

Child-rearing Practices, Cultural Beliefs, and Shaping Identities  
Leyla Akoury-Dirani, Ph.D., American University of Beirut, LEBANON

Resiliency, Hope, and the Big Five among Lebanese Youth  
Huda Ayyash-Abdo, Ph.D., Lebanese American University, LEBANON

Parent-Practices and Identity Outcomes in Arab Youth  
Nancy Wrobel, Ph.D., University of Michigan, USA

5:15 p.m. Closing Remarks for Day 1
Thursday May 30, 2013

DAY 2: Arab Youth Identity—What Can We Do as Researchers and Providers?

8:30 – 9:00am    Registration [Toldo HEC Lobby]

9:00 – 10:45 a.m.    Keynote Speaker Dr. John W. Berry (Professor Emeritus), Queen’s University, CANADA [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

Theory and Method in Cross-Cultural and Intercultural Psychology

The field of cross-cultural psychology examines the relationships between the cultural contexts in which individuals develop and now live, and the psychological characteristics they display. The field of intercultural psychology examines how individuals with different cultural backgrounds and psychological characteristics engage each other and adapt to each other when living in culturally-diverse societies. In both fields, the theoretical position of universalism is helpful. This approach considers that all human beings share the same fundamental psychological processes (such as perceiving, thinking). Cultural experiences shape these processes during the course of development into variable competencies (such as abilities, attitudes, and values). Cultural situations then promote (or constrain) the expression of these competencies as performances in appropriate settings. Without these basic similarities, there can be no possibility of comparing behaviors across cultures (a methodological issue); nor could there be any mutual understanding or mutual acceptance across cultural boundaries when persons of different background interact. These theoretical and methodological issues will be elaborated using findings from a large international study of immigrant youth. The application of such findings to promote immigrant wellbeing can only be ensured when they are based in sound theoretical and methodological foundations.

10:45 – 11:15 a.m.    Refreshment Break [Toldo HEC Lobby]

11:15 – 12:30 p.m.    International Panel Discussion 4 – Cultural influences on Identity
[Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

Moderator: Rosanne Menna, Ph.D., University of Windsor, CANADA

A Cross-cultural Comparison of Anxiety in Youth: Values, Traditions, and Beliefs
Cecilia Essau, Ph.D., Roehampton University, UNITED KINGDOM

Children of Iraqi Refugees: Risk Profile for Substance Abuse
Cynthia Arfken, Ph.D., Evone Barkho, Maisa Ziadni, Mark A. Lumley, Luay Haddad, Bengt B. Arnetz, M.D., Ph.D., & Hikmet Jamil, M.D., Ph.D., Wayne State University, USA

Mental Illness and Chronic Disease in a Random Sample of Newly-Arrived Refugees and Immigrants to the U.S.
Hikmet Jamil, M.D., Ph.D., Bengt B. Arnetz, M.D., Ph.D., Ghosh Samiran, Ph.D., Judith E. Arnetz, Ph.D., M.P.H., Wayne State University, USA

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.    Lunch [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]
Thursday May 30, 2013 (continued)


Moderator: Julie Hakim-Larson, Ph.D., University of Windsor, CANADA

Panelists:
Hikmet Jamil, M.D., Ph.D., Wayne State University, USA
Ibrahim Kira, Ph.D., Center for Cumulative Trauma Studies, Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA
Mona Farroukh, Youth Program Supervisor, ACCESS Community Health and Research Center, USA
Nazia Huda, Youth Coordinator, Multicultural Council of Windsor Essex County, CANADA
Sameera Ahmed, Ph.D., The Family & Youth Institute, Wayne State University, USA

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Refreshment Break [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Roundtable Breakout Sessions to Discuss International Team Research Planning Ideas [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

4:15 – 5:00 p.m. Brief Report of Result of Breakout Sessions and Group Discussion [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

5:00 p.m. Closing Remarks for the Symposium [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]