

Trajectories of identity and acculturation among immigrant and sojourner youth and young adults.

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Overview

- Introduction
 - Eriksonian Identity trajectories
 - Acculturative patterns
- Methods
 - Participants
 - Immigrant Identity Interview
- Results
- Discussion

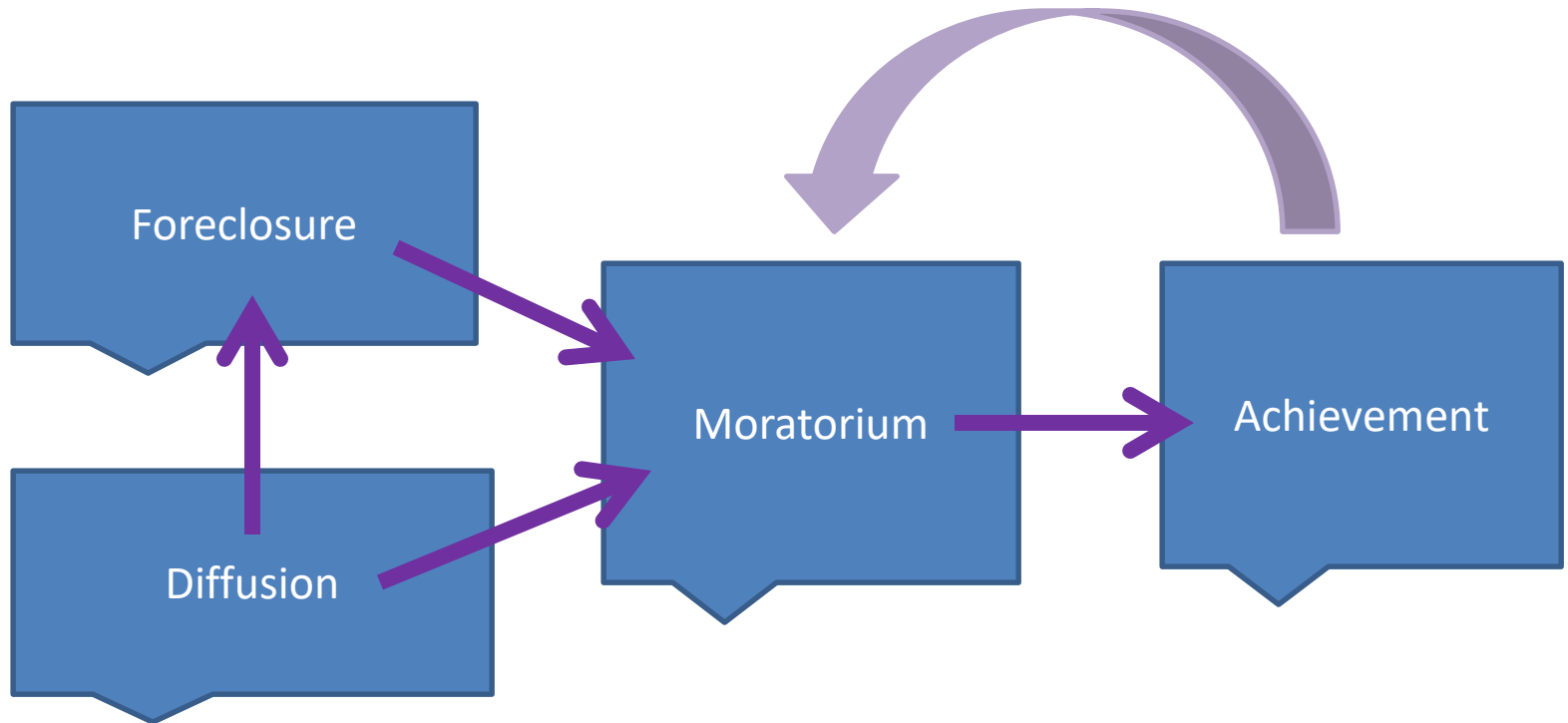
Introduction

- Erik Erikson (1950; 1968) **identity formation**
 - Finding **fidelity** (commitment) to an ideology or way of life, a mythology with a history and future.
Culture plays important role.
 - Involves struggles of *identity* and *diffusion*.
- **Ego-identity statuses** - Marcia (1966; 1993)
- **Trajectories of identity** - Zittoun et al. (2013)
- **Acculturative styles & cultural identity**
Berry (1980), Sam & Berry, 1997)

Marcia's Framework

	Yes - Commitment	No - Commitment
Yes - Exploration	Achievement has explored & found fidelity to identity	Moratorium - searching but not sure
No - Exploration	Foreclosure -committed to what is given or presented	Diffusion - may be confused or lack of interest in identity

Normative Trajectories



Zittoun et al. (2013)

- **Trajectories of identity**
 - No normative trajectories
 - Diversity of ‘melodies’ of identity
- **Migration** presents us with *ruptures (crises)* and *transitions* that provide the *rhythms*.
- **Traditions** connect us and provide the *chords* & *harmonies* shaping our *melodies of identity* .

Berry's Framework

	Yes – other cultures	No – other cultures
Yes – own heritage	Integration - some form of having both (many) cultures	Separation – keep to “own” cultural tradition
No – own heritage	Assimilation - Adopt mainstream culture of majority or powerful (as in colonization)	Marginalization -Not able to be part of or is not comfortable in either culture

Method

- **Participants:** People were gathered from an undergraduate participation pool & word of mouth
 - 46 people from 26 countries:
China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea , Singapore, Germany, England, France, Norway, Russia, Romania, Moldova, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Nigeria, Kenya, India, Sri Lanka, USA, Bermuda, Trinidad & Tobago, Brazil.
 - Ages between 17 and 31; mean = 20.9 years
 - 27 Female and 19 Male

Interview

- The **Immigrant Identity Interview** (Tonks & Paranjpe, 1999) was given to assess *ego-identity statuses* and *acculturative styles*.
 - **Identity status** through *exploration* and *commitment* of identity in *career* (education) and *cultural* realms of their lives.
 - **Acculturation style** through *participation* and *identification* with their *cultures*.

Results

- Sorting into **statues** and **styles** was broken down into groups based upon *time lived in Canada*.
 - Lengths of residence:
 - less than 1 year,
 - 1 to 5 years,
 - 6 to 10 years,
 - 10 or more years
- Common trajectory themes are examined.
 - *Social/contextual issues* of: **Family**, **Previous Acculturation**, **Religion**, **British Empire**.

Results for 0-1 years

- Most doing one semester study abroad –
keeping culture & starting to explore
- Family important so follow what they say

eg. Lin, Jenna & Li Yang

- Those integrated all had previous or multiple acculturation experience and exploration

eg. Anke, Erika & Maneet

Identity	Career	Culture		Acculturation	
Diffusion	0	0		Marginalization	0
Foreclosure	3 + 1 > m	4		Separation	3 + 2 > i
Moratorium	4	4		Assimilation	1
Achievement	m < 1	1		Integration	3

Results for 1 – 5 years

-Some in early years still keeping **tradition only**

eg. Hussan (1), Zhang (2), Jimmy (4 years).

-Most doing more **exploration and integration**

*eg. Min (3), Rawad (3), Rozina (4), *Darik (5 years)*

-**Family** plays a role for many to hold traditions

*eg. Zhang (2), Min (3) & Myriam (3), *Akbar (4 years)*

-Coming from **British Colonial** system

*eg. David (4), *Philip (5 years)*

Identity	Career	Culture		Acculturation	
Diffusion	0	0		Marginalization	0
Foreclosure	7 + 1 > m	3 + 2 > m		Separation	5 + 2 > i
Moratorium	8	11		Assimilation	2
Achievement	0	0		Integration	7

Results for 6 – 10 years

- **Moratorium** dominant in *career* and in *culture*.
- Fewer hanging on to **only traditions**
- Many more people in **Transitions**

eg. Viktoria, Chen Lieu (6 years)

- Many people came with **family supports**

*eg. Mahala (6), Chin Yi (6) & *Samuel (6 years)*

- Growth in **integration** and **achievement**

eg. Birgit, Anna-Maria, Alina (6-10 years)

Identity	Career	Culture		Acculturation	
Diffusion	0	0		Marginalization	0
Foreclosure	2 + 2 > m	3 + 1 > m		Separation	0 + 2 > i
Moratorium	8	6		Assimilation	3
Achievement	m > 1	3		Integration	8

Results for 10 or more years

- Career still mostly **moratorium** some getting to *fidelity* with *career path* and most are for **cultural identity**
- Flourishing of **Achievement** and **Integration of cultural identity as Canadian-'ethnic's**

eg. Sarita (16) & Sathia (18 years)

- **All with family** here for many years

eg. Bianca (15), Nancy (12) & Mimi (17), *Diamond (17 years)

Identity	Career	Culture		Acculturation	
Diffusion	0	0		Marginalization	0
Foreclosure	1	1		Separation	0
Moratorium	4	1		Assimilation	1
Achievement	m > 2	5		Integration	6

Common Themes

- **Family** – Support in acculturation
 - often providing **multiple acculturation** experiences.
- **Family** – Important in some cultures for
 - career opportunities – and **foreclosure**.
(Asia & middle East)
- **Religion** – more important to identity than country or ‘culture’ - *(Arab Muslim & Jewish)*.
- **British Empire** – *Colonization* has provided some *ease of transition* across commonwealth.
- **Race** and **social class** also came up as *ruptures*

Discussion - Commonalities

- As with Erikson (1950), *common elements* are found across the *trajectories of identity* played out in across varied cultural contexts.
- Movement from **foreclosure and separation** in year 1 to **moratorium and Integration** years 2 to 6
- *Cultural identity* **integration** and **achievement** and *fidelity* solidifies after 10 years

Discussion - Diversities

- Tremendous *diversity of trajectories* is also present across and within cultures of origin.
- **British colonizers** (whites) | *colonized* (BIPOCs)
eg. Cam, Joc, & David - | - Philip, Samuel, Maneet & Nancy, Mimi
- **China & Asia**
e.g Jimmy, Zhang, - Chin Yi, Chen Lieu, Stephen - Min & Kim – Jon
- **Germany**
eg. Birgit – Erika & Anke – Anna-Maria – Alina
- **Multiple Cultures** lived in
- *eg. Erika, Anna-Maria, Darik, Maneet, Nancy - Akbar.*

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