

University of Luxembourg

**Symposium I: Supporting and Enhancing Cultural and Ethnic Diversity within European Psychology as a Contribution to European Societies (IS8-6-LN) – 07.07.2022 11:00 – 12:30**



**17th European Congress of Psychology**  
Psychology as the Hub Science: Opportunities & Responsibility

5-8 July 2022, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Bachelor Study Programms of Psychology:  
Moving towards more culture-inclusive curricula**

**Elke Murdock**



- My position
- Diversity and 17<sup>th</sup> ECP Congress Program
- Bachelor of Science – Curriculum
- Culture and the Curriculum

# My position - positionality



# Diversity and 17th ECP Program:



17th European Congress of Psychology  
Psychology as the Hub Science: Opportunities & Responsibility  
5-8 July 2022, Ljubljana, Slovenia

- **Mentions of *Diversity* and *Culture* beyond the Cultural and Ethnic Board Symposia:**
- Two symposia with Diversity in the title:
  - Work Context and **Diversity** – Ole Tunold (one specific contribution) :

7 July 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

The Psychologist Profession in Europe – Legal Regulations, Scope of Practice, Mobility Potential, and Work Context Diversity

Symposium

- Aging and **Diversity** – Isabelle Albert (one specific contribution) :

8 July 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

The Psychology of Aging Part I: Diversity and Quality of Life in Older Age

Symposium

# 17th ECP Program – Mentions of Diversity

- *Individual* contributions within Symposia (excl. DivEthnic Board Symposia)
- Ethical Clinical Supervision in Hub Science - Individual Contribution:  
“Integrating research evidence, **diversity** and interdisciplinary collaboration into clinical supervision in South Africa”  
*Anthony Pillay*
- Using Technology in Social Psychology Research: From Interpersonal to Organisational Outcomes:  
“Using a Virtual Reality to improve **diversity** attitudes among male STEM academics”  
*Ioana Latu*

# 17<sup>th</sup> ECP Congress Program: Mentions of “Culture”: Symposium – Youth Culture and Work

8 July 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

- The Alphorn in Resonance With the Unconscious. Impulses From Art, Music and Hypnosis for a Culture of Prevention and Therapy.

Workshop

Psychology & Neuroscience: Cognitive Control and Executive Function

Individual Presentation

Collectivism Has Many Faces: Latin American Fosters Independent Selves .Kuba Krys

The effect of COVID-19-related stress perception on executive functions: difference between collectivistic and individualistic cultures.

*Charlotta Katharina Hösl Ipiñazar*

Gender Specific System Justification and Perception of Gender Pay-gap Across Scandinavian and

Turkish Cultures

*Nilay İşbilir*

Coping with the Stressful Future? Applying Stress and Coping Theory on Old-age Preparation across Time and Culture

*Dwight Tse*

COVID-19 Worries Induce Aging Preparation: Culture and Domain-Specific Perspectives

*Yaeji Kim-Knauss*

Do National Cultures Help Create Abusive Organizational Cultures? Opinions of HR Professionals on Culture in Turkey: A Qualitative Content Analysis

*İdil Işık*

# 17<sup>th</sup> ECP Congress Program:

- No “hits” for intercultural or intracultural
- **(Cross)-cultural:**
  - Work and Organizational Psychology: Leadership II  
“Beyond **cultural** values, the underpinning of empathy for paternalistic leadership”  
*Li-Fang Chou*
  - Use of Psychological Science in Schools from a Euro-North American Perspective – Symposium  
“Teachers’ attitudes towards psychological knowledge use in teaching: A **cross-cultural perspective**”  
*Ana-Maria Cazan*

# Reflections – Diversity & Culture in 17<sup>th</sup> ECP Program

- Brief content survey highlights:
  - Range of **topics** within psychology
  - Range of **uses** of the terms “diversity” and “culture”
- No mention of *cultural competence*
- Titles only give some indication about content – some content may be missed (i.e. movement towards global psychology)

## ▪ **Quantity?**



- **Challenges** facing the profession of psychology in 21<sup>st</sup> century
  - Implications of rapidly changing world with increased globalization and internationalization
  - Expansion of technologies and concomitant developments
  - **Changes in demography**
  - Changes in economy
  - Changes in the relationship between the professions and the state.
- “**Cross-cultural competence** (3C) is the psychological cornerstone of diversity, globalization, multinational activities, and international relations”

*Chen & Gabrenya, 2021, IJIR, p. 35*

- My position
- Diversity and 17<sup>th</sup> ECP Congress
- Bachelor of Science – Curriculum
- Culture and the Curriculum

# Example: Bachelor of Science in Psychology (BAP)

- **180 ECTS** = 6 semester
  - 6 – 8 courses per semester
  - 1 internship
  - 1 mobility semester – mandatory



- Externally accredited
- Complies with study regulations developed by **DGPs**
  - Content & min. No of ECTS
- Complies with **Psychotherapy** education reform in Germany
  - Additional course content constraint -> mandatory courses



# Bachelor of Science in Psychology (BAP)

- Admission criteria:
  - Grades (40%) (Overall average, maths, biology, psychology – last 4 years)
  - Letter of Motivation (60%) (Why psychology? Knowledge about psychology, Research into psychology)
  - Language requirement: **Trilingual** (C1 German, B2 French, B2 English) – Classes taught in three different languages
  
- At the application stage – majority of students are interested in clinical psychology – aim to work in a therapeutic setting.
- A lot interest also in forensic psychology
- Often – little understanding of psychology as a *science*

# Bachelor of Science in Psychology (BAP)

## Content:

- **A – Foundations in Psychology (42 ECTS)**
  - General, Developmental, Social, Personality, BioPsychology)
- **B – Competencies: Methodology (53 ECTS)**
  - Scientific methods, statistics, experimental design & practical, BA thesis)
- **C – Competencies: Intervention (24 ECTS)**
  - Diagnostics, Psychotherapy, Ethics
- **D – Applied Fields of Psychology (23 ECTS)**
  - Work/ Organ. Psych., Pedag. Psych., Clinical Psych.,
- **E – Internship (8 ECTS)**
  - Internship plus Supervision
- **F – Electives (30 ECTS)**

# Bachelor of Science in Psychology (BAP)

- Curriculum:
  - Extremely compact – learning about psychology and methodology
  - Mobility Semester - equivalent courses?
  - Electives– few degrees of freedom if clinical path is chosen.
  - Career planning – Master level
- How to satisfy demand for culture-inclusive curriculum?

# Culture-inclusive Curricula: How and What ?

- Dedicated Course?
- Inclusion of culture/ diversity related studies as topics are taught?
- Both?
- Primary goal
  - Increase knowledge?
  - Raise awareness?
  - Increase motivation/ interest?
  - Improve behavioural skill set (i.e. cultural competence)?

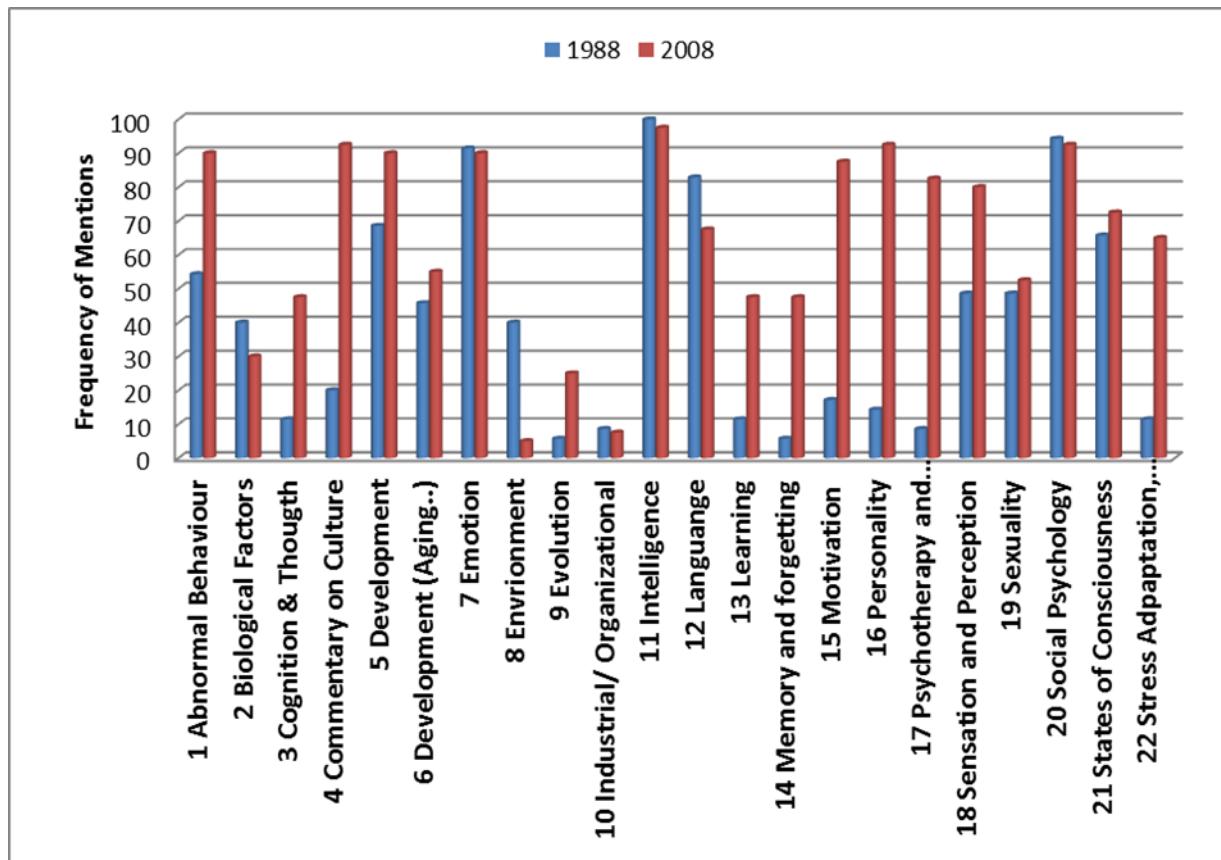
# Culture-inclusive Curricula: How and What

- Evidence: Analysis of Introductory Psychology Textbooks:
  - Psychology 101 – very popular course
  - Introductory Psychology Textbooks (IPTs)
    - 1988 – Analysis of 35 IPTs – results presented at the IACCP congress
    - 2008 – Analysis of 40 IPTs
  
- Other resources (See also UdP):
  - Keith, K. D. (Ed.). (2018). *Culture across the curriculum: A psychology teacher's handbook*. Cambridge University Press.
  - Thomas, A. (2018). *Cultural and ethnic diversity. How European psychologists can meet the challenges*. Hogrefe.

# How to ensure a culture-inclusive curriculum?

## Textbook study – **WHAT**

- Topical categories – 1988 (35 texts) – 2008 (40 texts)



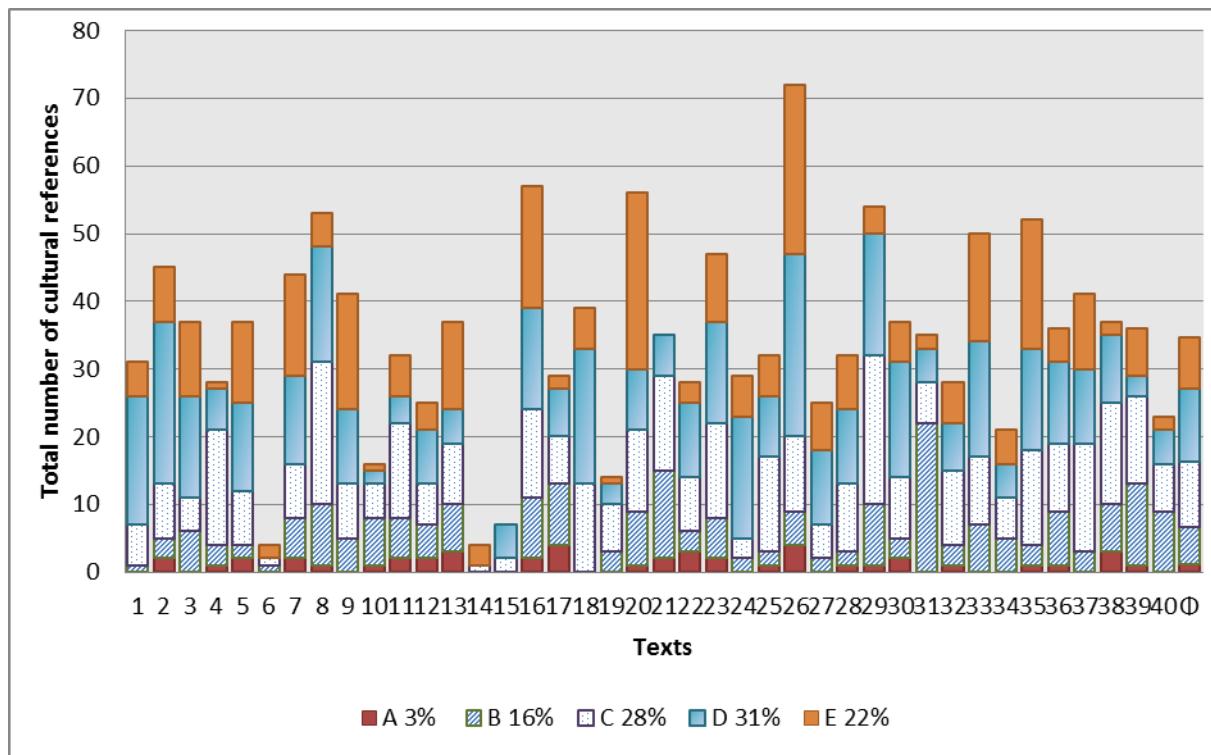
Lonner, W. J., & Murdock, E. (2012). Introductory Psychology Texts and the Inclusion of Culture.

*Online Readings in Psychology and Culture*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.9707/2307-0919.1115>

# How to ensure a culture-inclusive curriculum?

## Textbook study – HOW

- Inclusion of cultural material and depth of coverage across all 40 texts in 2008:



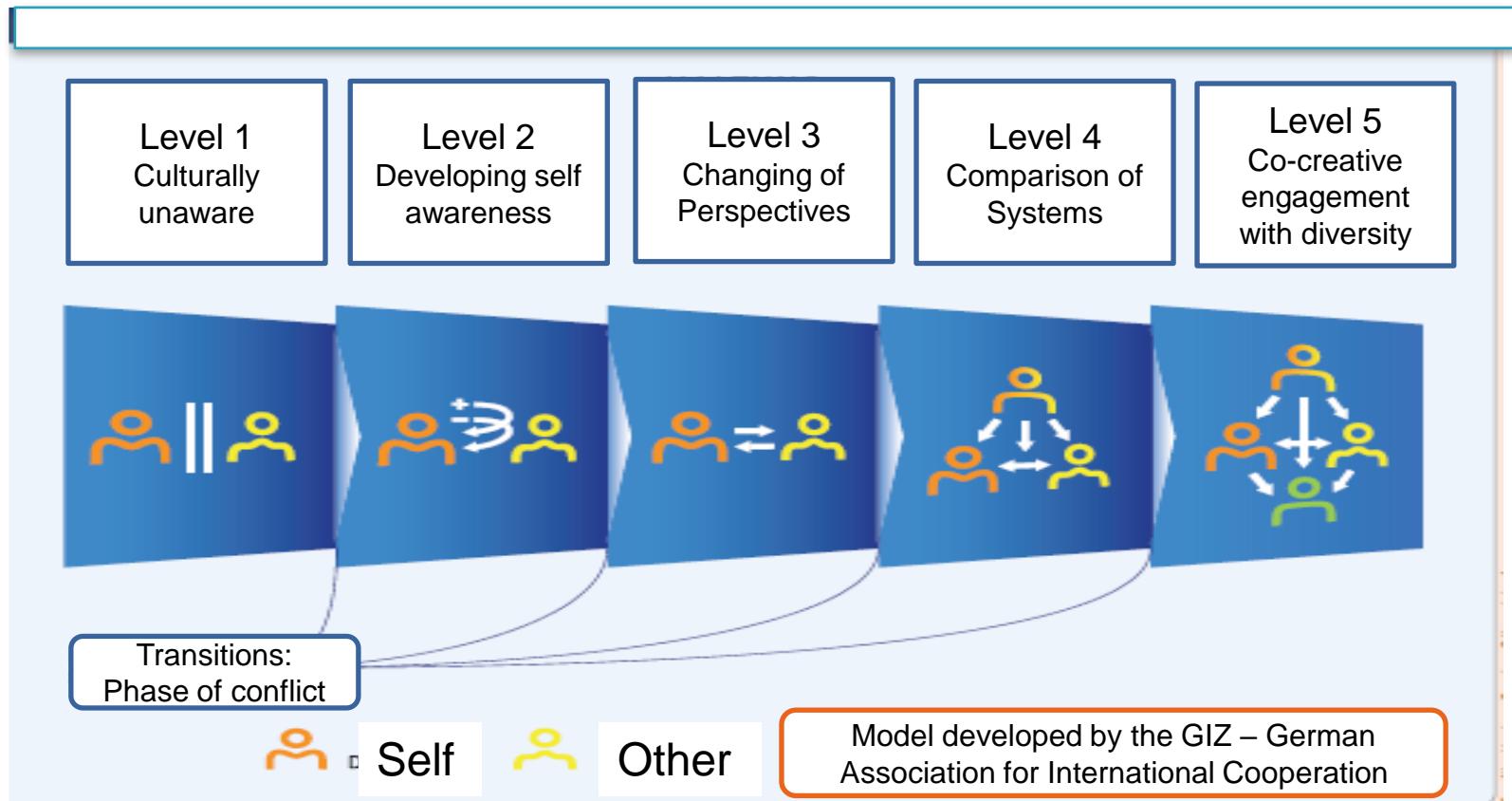
A (3 or more pages covering each targeted item), B (1 – 2 pages), C (most of a page) D (paragraph, 6 – 12 lines) to E (5 lines or less).

# Culture-inclusive Curricula: How and What ?

- Not IF -> but How and What.
  - Dedicated Chapter/ Course?
  - Inclusion of studies as topics are taught?
  - Both?
- Textbook study & other resources:
  - Increase knowledge ✓
  - Raise awareness ✓
  - Increase motivation/ interest ✓
  - Improve behavioural skill set (i.e. cultural competence) ?

# Cultural competence – help students along the path from cultural unawareness -> co-creative engagement

## ■ GIZ Stage model for Diversity Competence



## ■ Courses developed by Regensburg University => UdP

# EuroPsy: Standards and Quality in Education for Professional Psychologists (Lunt et al. 2014)

- Psychology is a **science-based** profession.
  - Committed to a scientific perspective towards professional activity and the scientist practitioner approach to education and practice.
  - **Evidence-based** or evidence-informed is held up as the gold standard.
  - This quality standard demands professional aspirations for rigor,
    - For robust and **reflexive interaction** between science and practice
    - For striving for continuous evaluation and improvement of interventions and professional practice.
  - A **wise** combination of evidence-based sources may help to **contextualize** these theoretical models inspiring professional interventions in specific environments and for specific individuals and groups.

- Curricula – very compact
- Enough time for reflection?
- Enough time for critical method reflection and the process of science production?
- Enough contextualization?

## Final thoughts:

- Radical de-cluttering/ rethink about the essence of Psychology and how to teach Psychology?
  - Start by:
    - Creating more room for **self-reflection**
    - Include **diversity awareness** as a core competence to be achieved
    - Address **positionality** – embed in core competencies
  - *Board – Cultural and Ethnic Diversity Initiative:*
    - > Development of a stand-alone course
    - > Accompany students in their trajectory of *becoming a psychologist*
  - Sufficient attention to diversity, ethnicity and culture at 17<sup>th</sup> ECP congress?



DBCS | DEPARTMENT OF  
BEHAVIOURAL AND  
COGNITIVE SCIENCES



[Elke.murdock@uni.lu](mailto:Elke.murdock@uni.lu)