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Thematic Session 6

Mixed national family constellations – a qualitative study on their impact on **identity construal processes** in emerging adults growing up in **transcultural contexts**.

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- A growing body of research focuses on identifications of persons growing up with **multiple cultural experiences** and how these influences are negotiated within themselves.

- Few studies focus on **family constellations** and their impact on transmission processes in transcultural contexts.

- Individual development takes place within **systems** – the complex dynamic interplay within micro – meso – exo – macro and chronosystem (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).

- **Microsystem** – family network central for development. Primary context for socialization conditions and experiences (Trommsdorff, 2008).

- Family structures (i.e. separation) or migration are central experiences within families. **Ecological factors** included in the model of ethnic identity development (Umaña-Tayler & Fine, 2004)

Different models of bicultural development

- First attempts (Rebane, 2018)

  - Park & Stonequist
  - Goldberg

- Early Models (Murdock, 2016)

  - **LaFromboise, Coleman & Gerton** (1993) – Cultural Competence
  - Phinney & Devich-Navarro (1997)

- Newer Models (Murdock, 2016)

  - Cultural Frame-switching (CFS) – Hong et al. (2000)
  - Bicultural Integration Model (BII) – Benet-Martínez et al. (2012)
  - **Acculturation Complexity Model** – Tadmor & Tetlock (2006)

- Recent Model

  - Transformative Theory of Biculturalism - West et al. (2017)
  - **Multicultural identity integration framework** Yampolsky et al. (2013)

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- Dimensions for **bicultural competence**

  1. **Knowledge** of cultural beliefs and values

  2. Positive **attitudes** to both groups

  3. Bicultural **efficacy**

  4. **Communication ability**

  5. **Role repertoire** (range of culturally or situationally appropriate behaviors or roles)

  6. Sense of being **grounded** (stable social networks)

Acculturation Complexity Model (ACM), Tadmor & Tetlock (2006, p. 176).

Accountability Pressure
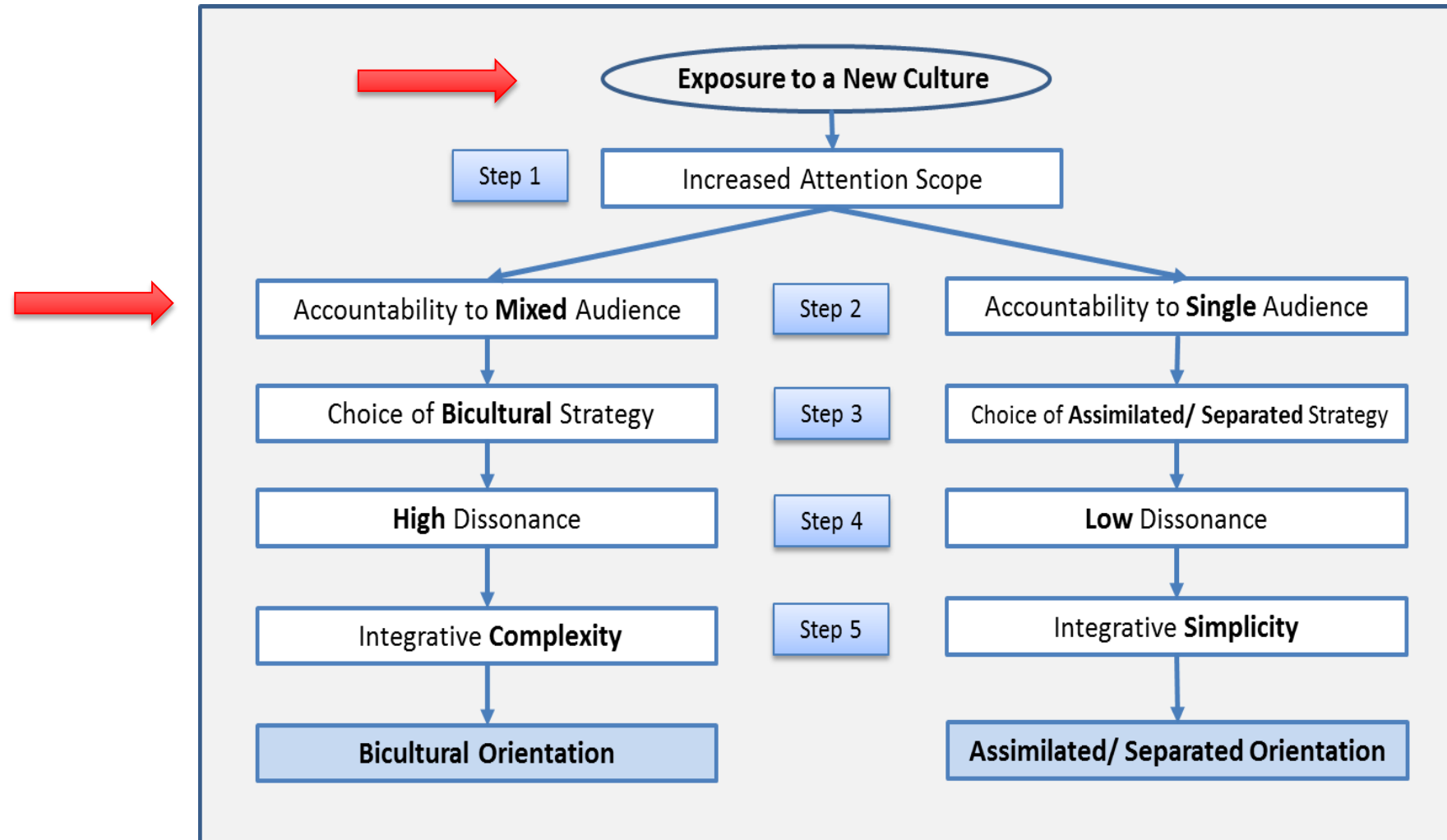
Multicultural identity integration framework (Yampolsky et al., 2013):

- **Categorization:** People identify with one of their cultural groups over others

- **Compartmentalization:** People maintain multiple, separate identities within themselves

- **Integration:** People link their multiple cultural identities.
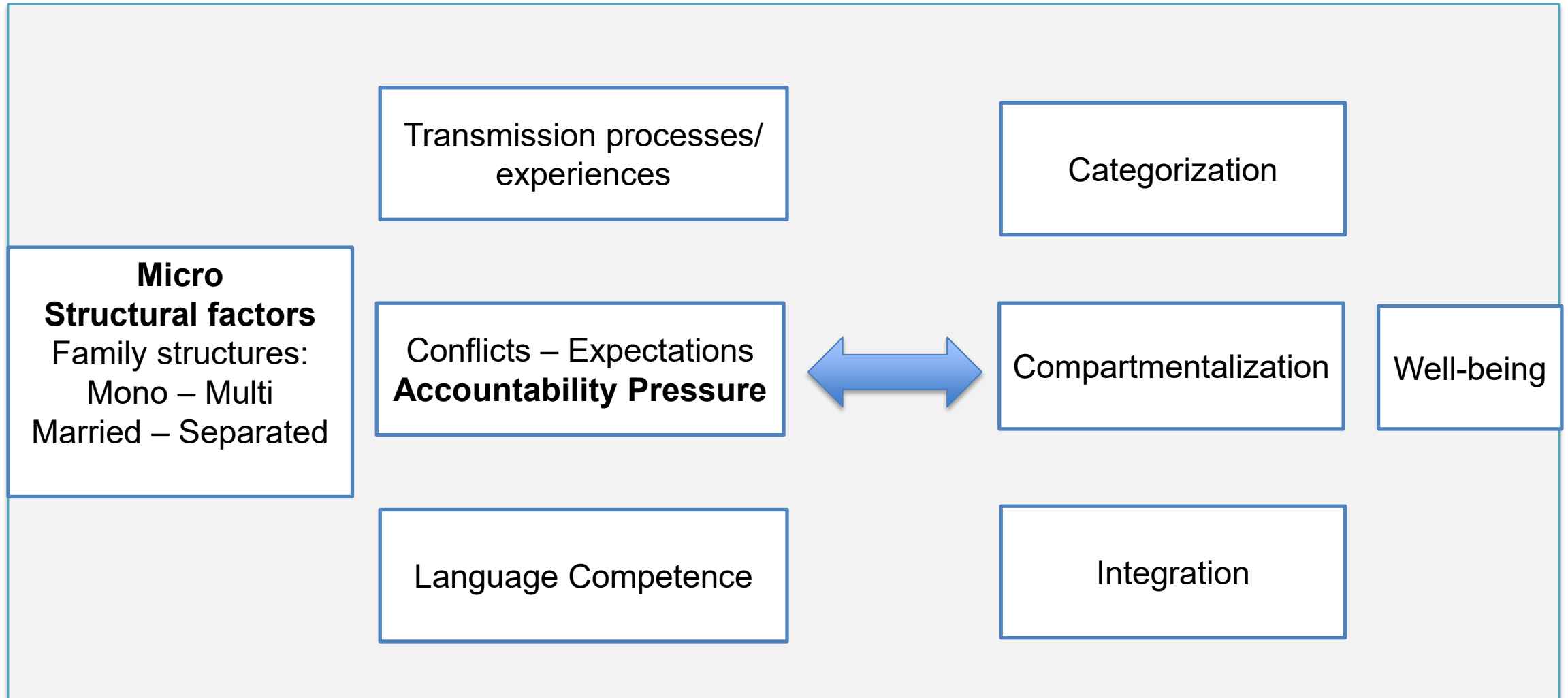
- Qualitative Study
- Recruitment in the Grand Région

- 9 young adults – aged between 19 – 23 years old

Participant Pt- No	CoO		Religion		Marital status	CoB	CoR
Sex/ Age	**Mother**	**Father**	**Mother**	**Father**	´Parents:		Participant:
1 f_20	**Morocco**		Islam		**married**		DE
2 f_23	Thailand	Lux	Buddhism	Cath.	married		Lux
3 f_20	FR	Brazil	Cath.		separated	DE	FR
4 f_19	**Bosnia**		Islam		**married**		DE
5 m_21	Finland	DE	Prot.	none	married		DE
6 f_23	Senegal	DE	Islam	none	separated		DE
7 m_23	**Togo**		Islam		**married**		DE
8 w_21	IT	DE	Cath.	Prot.	married		DE
9 m_22	DE	Ivory Coast	Cath.	Islam	separated		DE

- **Semi-structured interviews + 2 exercises**
  - Adaptation of the **IOS scale** (Inclusion of other in self scale, Aaron et al., 1992) – relationship with cultural influences
 - Which image represents your relationship with your culture?
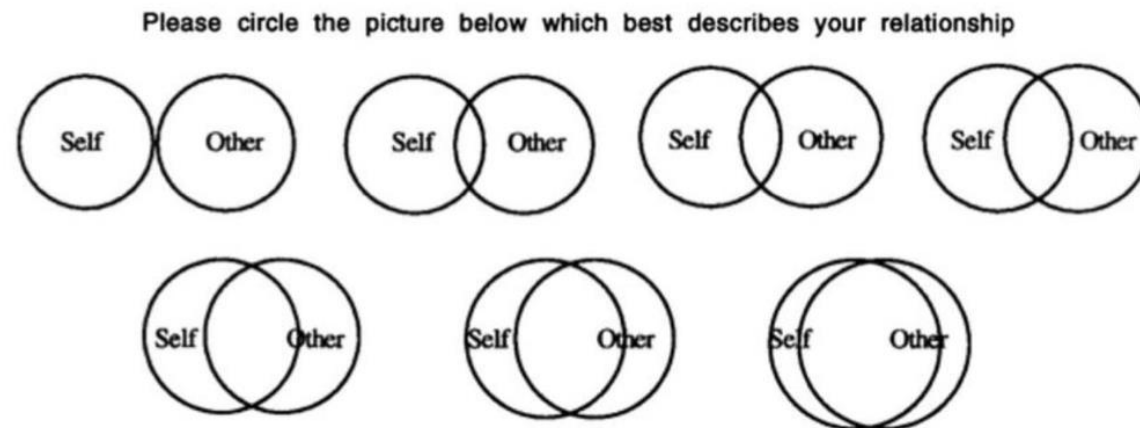
- Adaptation of Prasad (Prasad, 2014)
  - Colour in how different parts
    of your body in a way that
    represents your cultures
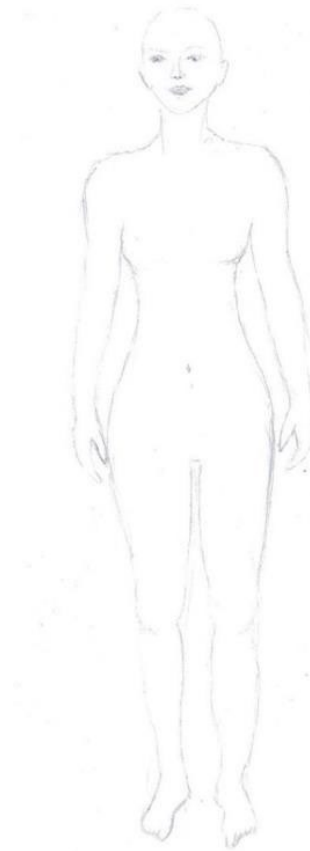
Bi-national parents		Mono-national Parents
Separated	**married**	**married**
FR -Brazil	IT-DE	Bosnia
Senegal-DE	Thai -Lux	Togo
DE-Ivory Coast	Finland - DE	Morocco

Please circle the picture below which best describes your relationship
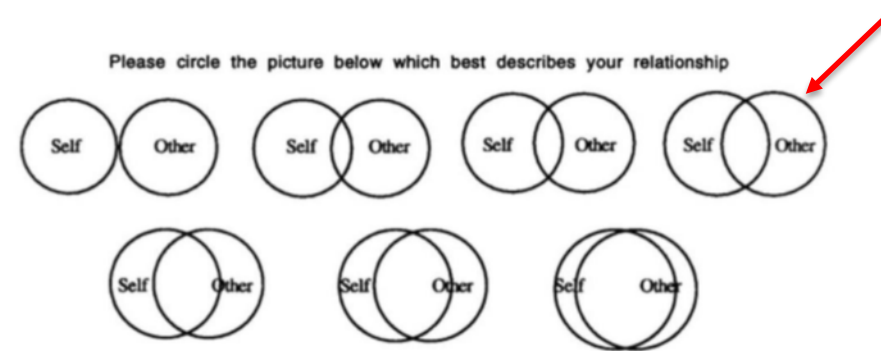
- *Hmm. I would say (pause) kind of the fourth, because even though Germany is my home, it's not like I don't feel Moroccan at all. So, on the one hand, I have a Moroccan side to me and a German side, but they overlap somewhere, so it's not like they're completely different, but it's also not like they're one and the same.*

Yes. So blue, for Germany, I painted almost everything on my head and just a small piece pink, for Morocco. Then I painted one arm blue, half of my upper body blue in the middle, and both legs blue down to my toes, but my toes are pink. And the other half of my upper body is pink. From my mouth to my chin, too. The other arm and my toes are pink. And I painted curls in pink because I think they're really important to my identity.

Note –Hair is her "trademark"

Please circle the picture below which best describes your relationship
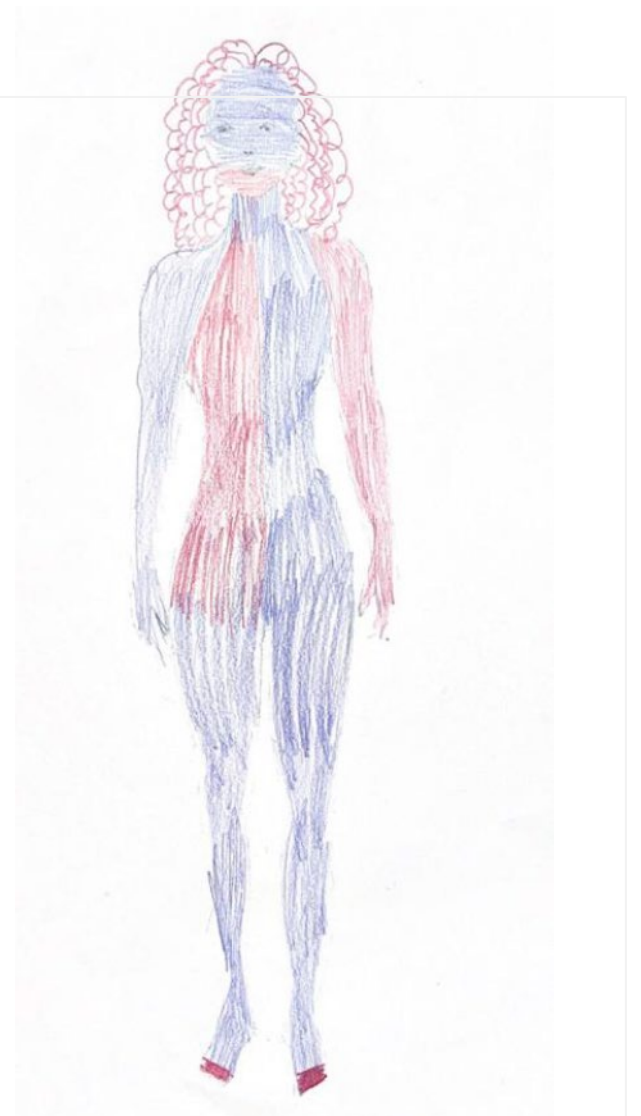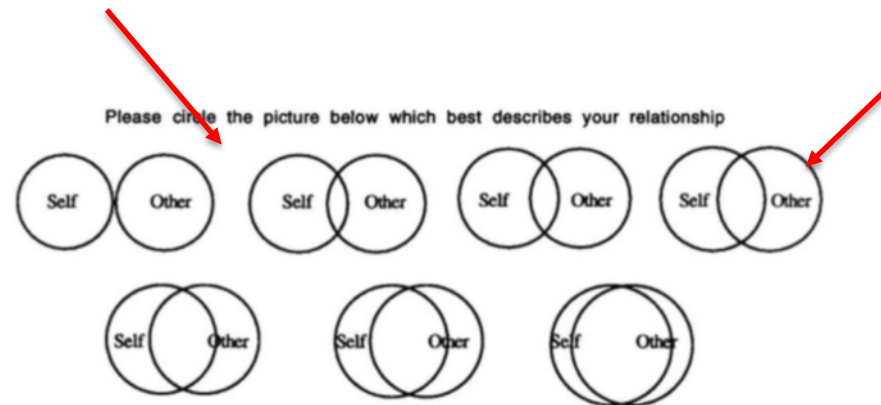
- *Yes, I would say fifty-fifty, so the fourth option. It's difficult, I have both sides, but the thing is, it always depends on who I'm with and whether I can just let this Bosnian side, this foreign side, come out. Because if I'm only with Germans, then I try to adapt somehow. So I wouldn't say I separate it 100%, but most of the time I do. But as I said, it always depends on who I'm with, so maybe it's more the first or second option.*

Yes, so I've chosen blue and red. Blue stands for Bosnia and red for Germany, simply because of the flags. I painted half blue and half red because, as I mentioned earlier, I already identify as both German and Bosnian, and I don't know, I do make a distinction, but both are part of me and I would say I am both, yes.
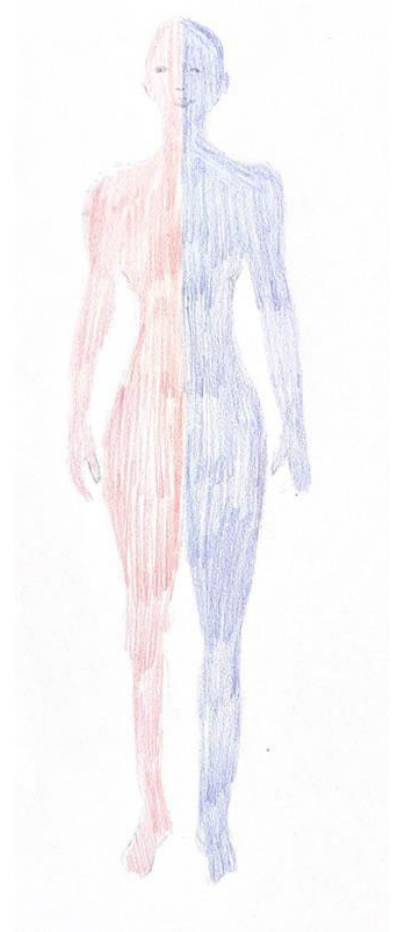
- Cultural transmission is **important** to parents (Language, traditions & religion)
- Differences are acknowledged – but overall "feeling both"
  - Conditions for bicultural competence are met
- **Integration** strategy, BUT
- Depending on context also emphasis more on one or the other – **Compartmentalization.**

  - TN 1 – not prototypical – need to justify

Please circle the picture below which best describes your relationship
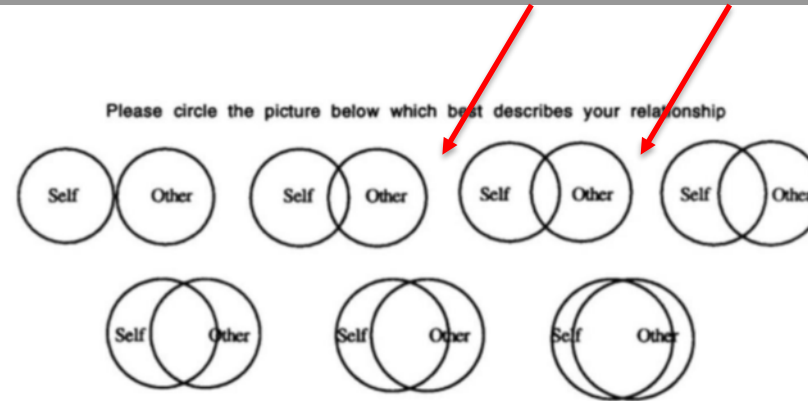
Definitely not the first. Hmm, I think I would tend more toward the second or third circle. Because (pause) I know Thai culture and I respect it and understand it and all that, but I would say that I haven't integrated most of it into my own identity, but a little bit, so it's not that I'm not confronted with it at all, just a little, but more the Luxembourgish than the Thai.

Although, maybe not the second, more the third or fourth, but definitely not the last row (pause). But when I see the overlap and think about it, I would even choose the third, because I would say the fourth overlap is fifty-fifty, now that I look at it more closely, and the other is a little less than fifty-fifty, and yes, that's why I would tend toward the third, because I wouldn't say that I'm really, how should I put it, my identity is really not fifty-fifty, that's why, but less than fifty-fifty.

*Yes, the thing is, I think I would paint everything blue, so everything Luxembourgish, because I just don't know what I would paint Thai, except for my silhouette. **So now I've painted my silhouette Thai.** I also painted my stomach orange because the food tastes better, I mean, it tastes really delicious, and as I said, the silhouette is orange too because I probably look more Thai than Luxembourgish, but I painted my head and hands Luxembourgish simply because the way I think is more European and my actions are more European too. So when I'm in Thailand, I do behave differently, but only because that's what's expected of me, and I painted the rest a little blue because otherwise I find it a bit empty (laughs).*
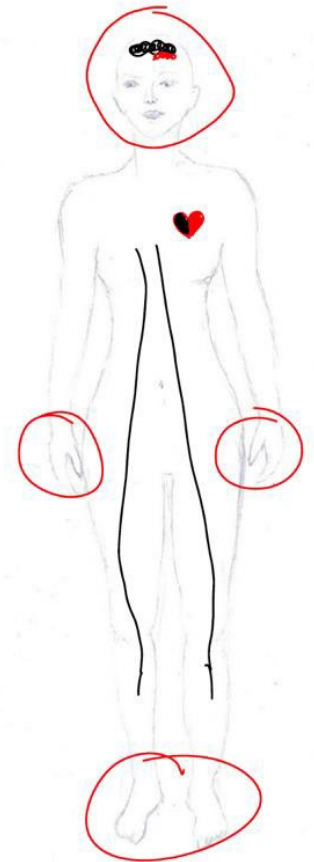
- Moderate cultural transmission through Thai mother
- Participant moderately comfortable in Thai
- Stronger identification with Luxembourg – although Thai roots are acknowledged as part of her – also because of the silhouette

Please circle the picture below which best describes your relationship
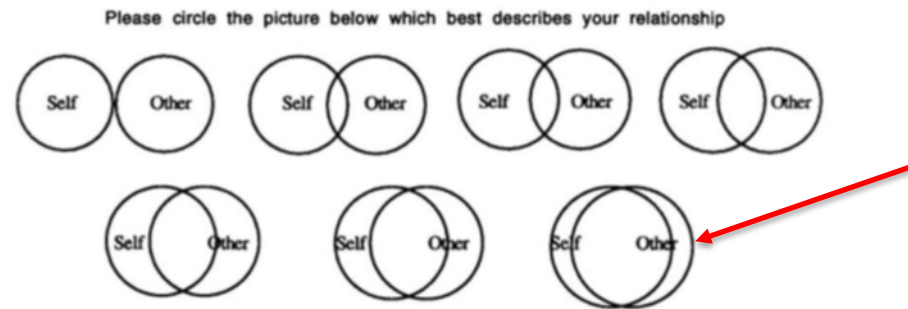
- *I would take the latter, precisely because I have always travelled between these two countries and still have a large part of my family there and am always in contact with the other country, also through my mother, of course. So I feel very connected to the country, and if I had visited less and had less family there, it might be different, but because there is this constant exchange and I go there regularly, it is definitely a big part of my life. So it would be really weird if that were to disappear now, or if I decided not to go for a year, it would feel totally wrong. So these two identities are well mixed, that's how I would describe it.*

Um, I painted Germany black and Italy red. I think I made Germany more neutral because that's more like the base in my mind, and red is just like an "extra touch." So now I've painted the inside of the body black, for Germany, and the extremities for Italy. Because I think I have the feeling that I repeat myself a lot (laughs), but I really think that simply because I grew up in Germany, it's just more what I meant earlier, that I don't feel like an "impostor," where I have more of a connection to it because it's really the foundation of my upbringing and of me and my being. The extremities are because I had other influences, and okay, the hands are a cliché, but I feel like I use them a lot more when I'm with other people, I notice that when I'm talking (laughs).

. Italien
. DE

- Importance of cultural transmission through mother – **high** – also supported by father.
- Circle – illustrates the integration strategy
- BUT – also feeling as an "impostor"
  - as she grew up in Germany.
  - Justifies her second cultural influence

Please circle the picture below which best describes your relationship
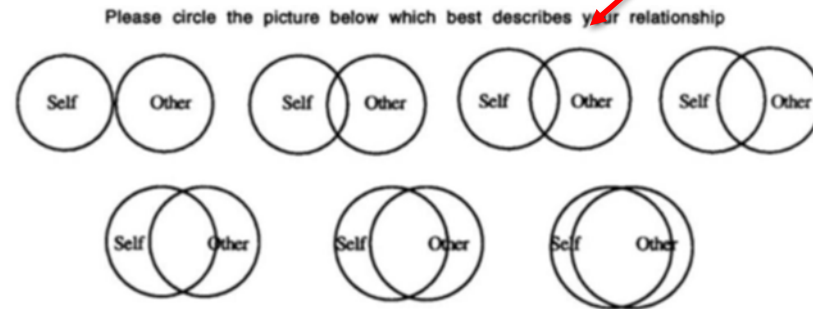
- *Hmm (pause) I would have said the third option. Because I definitely see them as very separate, because these circles don't overlap too much. I definitely identify as German, but I still have this background, and when I'm in contact with my mother, I notice it even more because she lives and breathes the culture much more, and I think that inevitably rubs off on me a little. So also the language, I mean it's not a crazy language, it's just French, but it still comes from the fact that my mother is Senegalese and that's her mother tongue. And yes, regardless of whether I feel German or not, I have this background and I also look a little different, so I would say that I'm not super super little, but not super super much, somewhere in the middle, but leaning more towards separate.*

Yes, I chose blue for Germany and red for Senegal, but only because of the order of the colors (laughs). Um, I've outlined my head in red for Senegal because I think that's what connects me most to the culture, the appearance, the fact that you can see that I'm not purely German. But I still have a brain that's painted blue (laughs), because I think I think very German, and I think I've internalized German culture more, so it guides my thinking a bit more. But my look isn't that German. Then I made my legs and hands red because I'm quite tall, which is typical of Senegalese people, and the rest is blue, including where the heart is, because I definitely identify more as German and I think that's the majority of who I am.
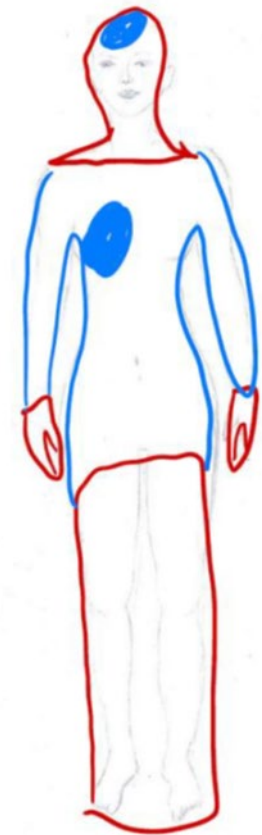
- Whilst cultural transmission important to mother
- Lack presence means – stronger influence by father
- BUT – when present – strong identification with Senegal

  - Importance of CONTEXT

- All participants see themselves as product of several cultural influences
- Overall, multiple influences seen as a resource
- The role of context – practice different identity strategies
- Mono-cultural parents: High accountability pressure
- Bi-cultural parents – different accountability pressure
  - Low importance – less pressure
  - Impostor – claiming to be two
- Prototypicality – need for explanation

- Results validate LaFromboise et al. model
  - Mononational – fulfil conditions more than bi-national

  - Binational upbringing – stronger dependence on
    - Family dynamics (married/ separated)
    - Importance of cultural transmission – relationship between parents – their support (or lack of it) for cultural background
    - Expectations.

Results:

Parental status	Language 1	Language 2	Self-Identification
FR-Brazil (s)	Portuguese German French	English	*French with Brazilian influence*
Senegal – DE (s)	German	French English	***German with other background***
DE-Ivory Coast (s)	German	French English	*German*
IT – DE (m)	Italian German	English French	***German and European***
Thai-Lux (m)	Lux	English DE FR Thai	***Luxembourgish, but I always explain that I am half Thai***
Finland-De (m)	Finnish German	English	*German*
Bosnia (m)	Bosnian	German English	***Depends on the situation***
Togo (m)	Togolese German	English	*Human being (Mensch)*
Morocco (m)	German	French English	***German***

Thank you!

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