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Third Culture Kids and Other Cultural Hybrids

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Third culture kids (TCK) or individuals (TCI)

People who were raised or lived in a culture other than that of their parents' or country of nationality during a significant part of their child development years.

- 1st culture—that of their parents'
- 2nd culture—that in which they grew up
- 3rd culture—the group ties among all third culture individuals who share similar experiences in growing up

2

Today's TKC's: Migration, mobility, and the "New Demographic"

Global migrant population reached 281 million people—1/5 of the world economy

- US—in 2020 the largest ethnic group became mixed-race
 - Silicon Valley 53.3% of the population is non-Caucasian.
- Canada—National policy of multiculturalism
 - 20%+ immigrant (25% South-East Asian, 24% Chinese)
- Japan—foreign residents hit a record high of 3 Million in 2022
- Singapore—lowest fertility rate in Asia—National policy to go multicultural
- Parallel trend in Europe—low birth rates of the established population
 - increase in proportion of non-European born and second-generation immigrants
 - E.g.. Spain—50% foreign born in Madrid and Barcelona
- Gulf region—70% expatriates, 17% Muslim, 3% Bedouin

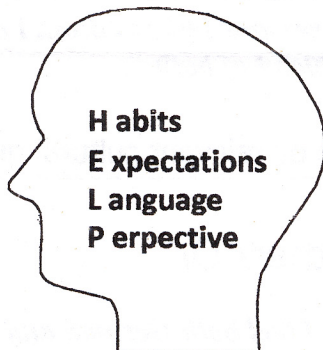
3

Cultural Hybrids: Biculturals, Multiculturals, Global Cosmopolitans, Immigrant kids...

- Bicultural person—someone who has deeply internalized more than one cultural schema
- Multiculturals—those who have deeply internalized two or more cultures
- Global cosmopolitans—those who lived in three or more countries before the age of 18
- Immigrant kids have legal status in the country where their family now lives whereas TKC's generally live in countries they know they will have to leave.

4

Culture as learned H.E.L.P.



Habits—patterns of behavior and thought

Expectations—for ourselves and others, accepted norms

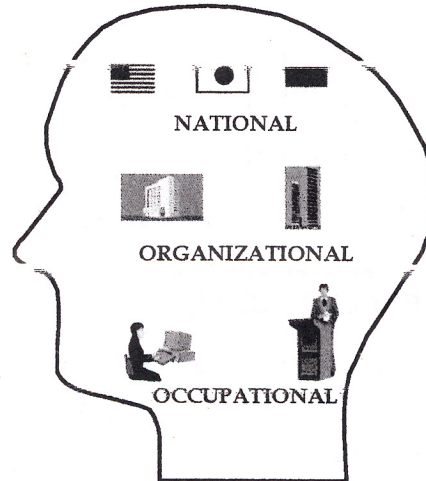
Language--spoken and non-verbal symbols with shared meaning

Perspective--assumptions about how the world works

5

Biculturals and Other Cultural Hybrids

- Deep knowledge of more than one cultural system
- Agile in moving from one cultural frame of reference to another
- Cultural bridgers/ Boundary spanners



6

Cultural self-identity	
<p>1 Home</p> <p><i>“I am Japanese-American, but I don’t speak Japanese and I’ve only been to Japan once and I felt like I was an embarrassment to my mother’s family.”</i></p>	<p>Both/ And</p> <p><i>“ I am Vietnamese and French. I know both cultures and I like to think I am a premium blend of both.”</i></p>
Acceptance by relevant cultural group	
<p>Neither/Nor</p> <p><i>“I am a Korean-Dane living in Sweden now. Growing up in Denmark, I never felt Danish, though I speak Danish fluently. I’ve never been to Korea, but I feel Korean—I’ve always been told I’m Korean.”</i></p>	<p>Either/ Or</p> <p><i>“Although I feel both German and Canadian, I feel more Canadian when I am in Germany and more German when I am here in Canada. It depends where I am right now.”</i></p>
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7

Bicultural Types

- One home – biculturals who identify more fully with one cultural identity.

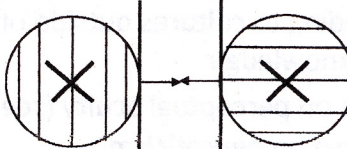
- Assimilated 
- Fused 

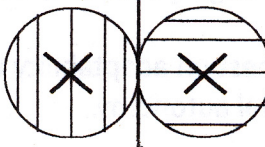
- Ethnic 

8

Bicultural types continued

- Either/Or – biculturals who alternately identify with one or the other of their cultural schemas, based on the context.

- Conflict 

- Harmony 

9

Bicultural types continued

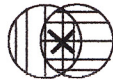
- Neither/Nor – biculturals who identify with both but do not feel fully accepted by either culture

- Marginalized



- Both/And – biculturals who identify with both and harmoniously leverage both cultural schemas in daily life

- Blended



10

Different skillsets by type

- **One-Homes**—most similar to monoculturals, highest on personal autonomy
- **Either / Or**—highest on cultural metacognition—intuitive ability to apply cultural understanding to cultures outside of the ones of which an individual has direct knowledge
- **Neither/Nor**—highest on perceptual acuity (seeing the forest and the trees), but highest also on neuroticism
- **Both/And**—highest in leveraging culture specific knowledge appropriately
- **Global Cosmopolitans**—highest on adaptability and emotional resilience/ lowest on personal autonomy.

11