IDENTITY, ACCULTURATION AND ADAPTATION IN FIRST AND SECOND GENERATION SAMOAN YOUTH

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do immigrant youth live within and between two cultures?

- What is the relationship between HOW youth engage in intercultural relations and HOW WELL they adapt?

- How do these intercultural and adaptation processes vary over generations?

- How does immigrant adaptation compare to the adaptation of national youth?
RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

- Demographic factors- e.g., gender, ethnicity, birthplace, citizenship

- Intercultural factors- e.g., language use and proficiency, national and ethnic identity, peer contacts, acculturation preferences, family values

- Adaptation indicators- e.g., school adjustment, behavioural problems, psychological symptoms, life satisfaction
RESEARCH SAMPLE

- 250 Samoan youth
  - 46.2% female
  - 12-19 years (M = 15.5)
  - 57.2% NZ born
  - Overseas born - residence in NZ: M = 9.78 years
  - 78% NZ citizens

- 510 national youth
  - 396 NZE and 114 Maori
  - 50% female
  - 12-19 years (M = 14.9)
  - 98% New Zealand born
KEY FINDINGS
GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN IDENTITY AND CULTURAL MAINTENANCE
SAMOAN AND NZ IDENTITY

$F(1, 203) = 43.85, p < .001$
Samoan and English Language Use and Proficiency

Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>1st Gen</th>
<th>2nd Gen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samoan</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proficiency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>1st Gen</th>
<th>2nd Gen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samoan</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F (1, 187) = 60.23, p < .001

F (1, 199) = 75.22, p < .001
PEER CONTACTS

F (2, 406) = 7.82, p < .001
FAMILY VALUES

$F (1, 202) = 85.37, p < .001$
HOW DO MIGRANT YOUTH LIVE WITHIN AND BETWEEN TWO CULTURES?
FOUR ACCULTURATION PROFILES

- (Moderately) Multicultural
- Ethnic
- National
- Diffuse
(MODERATELY) MULTICULTURAL

- Moderately strong ethnic and national identity
- Good English proficiency
- Strong Maori peer contacts
NATIONAL

- Moderately strong national identity
- Good proficiency in and frequent use of English
- Poor ethnic language proficiency and infrequent use of ethnic language
- Strong national peer contacts and weak ethnic peer contacts
- Rejection of parental obligations
ETHNIC

- Moderately strong ethnic identity and endorsement of integration
- Weak national identity and few national peer contacts
- Very good proficiency in and frequent use of ethnic language
- Poor English proficiency and infrequent use
- Strong endorsement of parental obligations and low support for children’s rights
**DIFFUSE**

- Weak ethnic identity and very weak national identity
- Little peer contact from ethnic or national groups
- Rejection of integration
- Moderately poor English proficiency
## ACCULTURATION PROFILES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profile</th>
<th>Samoan born</th>
<th>NZ-born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multicultural</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>49.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffuse</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOW MIGRANT YOUTH ENGAGE IN INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS AND HOW WELL THEY ADAPT?
LIFE SATISFACTION

$F (3, 182) = 2.52, p < .059$
PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS

$F (3, 183) = 0.41, ns$
$F (3, 125) = 5.37, p < .002$
BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS

$F(3, 181) = 2.86, p < .04$
ADAPTATION IN IMMIGRANT AND NATIONAL YOUTH
LIFE SATISFACTION

$F (3, 669) = 3.64, \ p < .002$
PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS

$F(3, 682) = 0.71, \text{ ns}$
SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT

$F(3, 641) = 20.94, p < .001$. 
BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS

$F(3, 679) = 5.73, p < .001$
DISCRIMINATION

$F (3, 681) = 36.28, p <.001$
Overall, Samoan youth value cultural and language maintenance.

Samoan identity and peer contacts remain strong across generations, but language loss occurs.

NZ identity and English use and proficiency increase in second generation youth.

Overall, Samoan youth adapt well and of the four acculturation profiles “Ethnic” youth tend to have the best outcomes.

Adaptation is achieved despite discrimination.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Promote policies and practices that encourage maintenance of traditional language and culture
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