

A holistic framework for recognising cross-cultural student diversity



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ISANA: International Education Association Inc. Conference
3 December 2014, Adelaide Hilton Hotel, South Australia

(Initial PhD) Research

Primary Research Question:

What is the nature and extent of the cross-cultural influences on transnational students in Tokyo?

Research Aim:

To create a framework for analysing the extent to which (1) family, (2) school, and (3) residential partnerships overlap to provide the contexts for the social and educational development of (4) transnational students.



What is Human Ecology?

The word 'ecology' was coined by German zoologist Ernst Haeckel (1834 - 1919) to characterise the area of study in biological sciences concerned with the relations of organisms to their environment.



Human ecology can be applied to describe the development of students, the environments in which they grow-up, and especially the interaction among them all that collectively comprise a 'developmental ecology'.



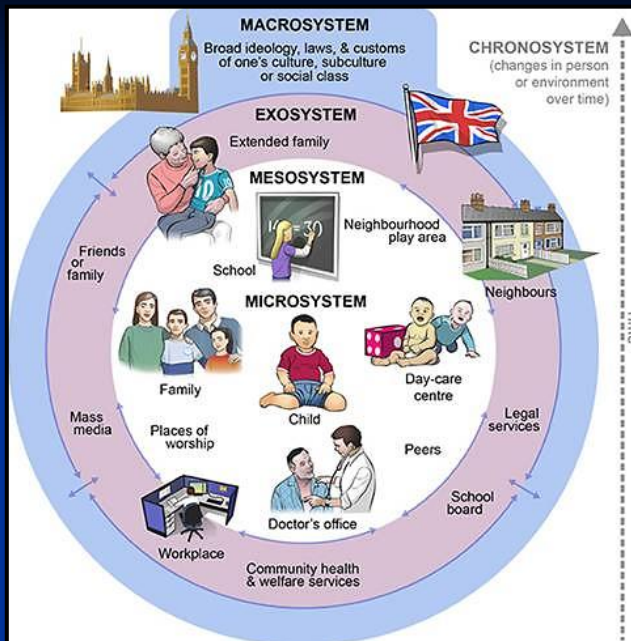
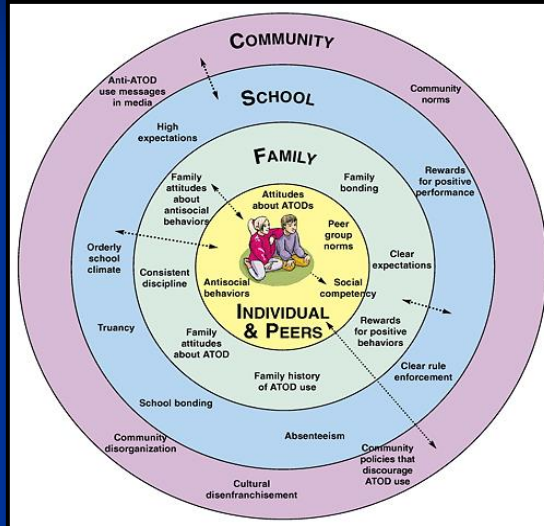
An analogy is a 'seed' ...

If you want a seed to develop into a normal, healthy plant, you must give it appropriate soil, light, and moisture. The quality of these environmental factors, along with characteristics of the seed itself, will determine how it grows and matures.

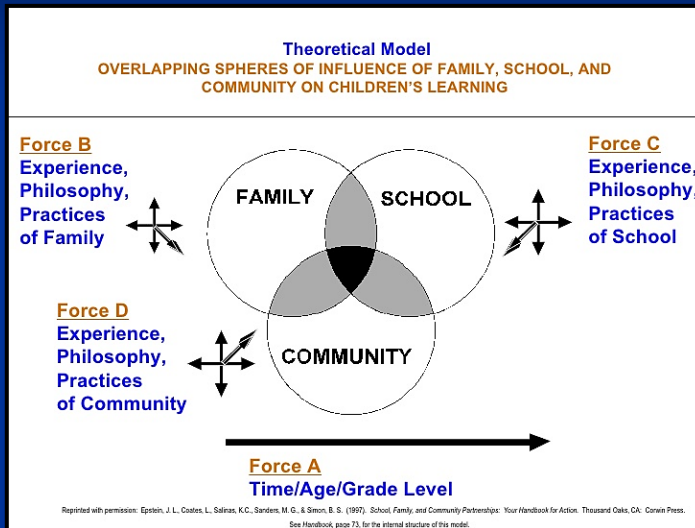
Human development, both physical and psychological, requires an appropriate context for its unfolding. If that context is abnormal, development may be, too.



Bronfenbrenner's (1979) 'Human Ecological Theory'

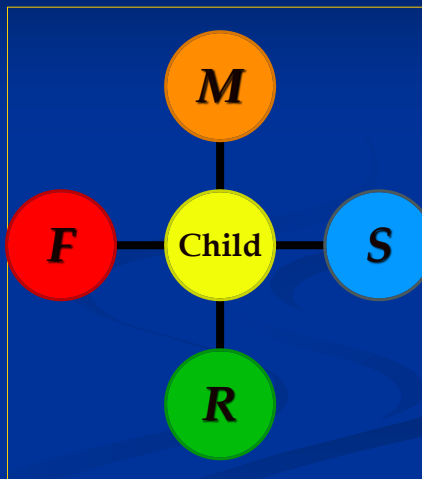


Epstein (1987) 'Overlapping Spheres of Influence'



Four Cross-Cultural Influences

- M = Mother's Cultural Background
- F = Father's Cultural Background
- S = School Cultural Background
- R = Residential Culture



'Cross-Cultural Scenarios' Framework

cross-cultural scenarios	M = Mother	F = Father	S = School	R = Residence
Bicultural scenario A	Japanese	Other 1	Japanese	Japanese
Bicultural scenario B	Other 1	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese
Bicultural scenario C	Japanese	Japanese	Other 1	Japanese
Bicultural scenario D	Other 1	Other 1	Japanese	Japanese
Bicultural scenario E	Japanese	Other 1	Other 1	Japanese
Bicultural scenario F	Other 1	Japanese	Other 1	Japanese
Bicultural scenario G	Other 1	Other 1	Other 1	Japanese

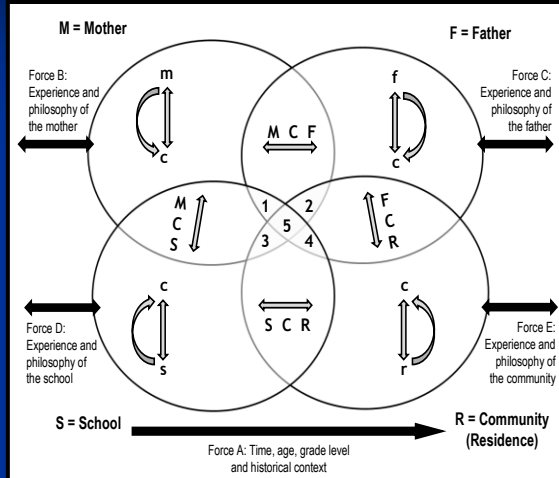
- Monocultural Scenario irrelevant to this study.
- Other 1 = A non-Japanese cultural background.

'Cross-Cultural Scenarios' Framework

cross-cultural scenarios	M = Mother	F = Father	S = School	R = Residence
Tricultural scenario A	Japanese	Other 1	Other 2	Japanese
Tricultural scenario B	Other 1	Japanese	Other 2	Japanese
Tricultural scenario C	Other 1	Other 2	Japanese	Japanese
Tricultural scenario D	Other 1	Other 1	Other 2	Japanese
Tricultural scenario E	Other 1	Other 2	Other 1	Japanese
Tricultural scenario F	Other 2	Other 1	Other 1	Japanese
Polycultural scenario	Other 1	Other 2	Other 3	Japanese

- Other 1 = A non-Japanese cultural background.
- Other 2 = A second non-Japanese cultural background, different from Other 1.
- Other 3 = A third non-Japanese cultural background, different from Other 1 and Other 2.

Velliaris (2010) Cross-Cultural Scenarios Framework



Velliaris, D. M. (2010). International parents in Tokyo and the education of their transnational children, Adelaide Research & Scholarship Online Thesis (PhD), University of Adelaide, School of Education. LINK: <http://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/handle/2440/63326>

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