Intercultural Psychology - Roskilde University
Roskilde Universitetet
Roskilde University

”In tranquillo mors, in fluctu vita”
”I stilheden døden, i strømmen livet”
”In stillness death, in movement life”
Intercultural Psychology at Danish universities- Roskilde University

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Agenda

Introduction
Context  global & local
Direct & indirect  focus
Thematic  Illustrations
Collaboration
Conclusion
Introduction

Classical definition
When individuals who are members of different cultural groups come into contact, the domain of intercultural psychology becomes central to understanding human behavior in all groups.

(Berry, 1996)

Differences, similarities, power issues, conflicts & temporal aspects

Intersection of multicultural and international in professional practice (Lowman, 2013)
Introduction

- Differential terms and understandings
Increased movement of human beings & knowledge across borders both spatial and ideological aspects

- Roskilde University-reform university established in 1972

Interdisciplinarity, problem-oriented project work and courses, the combination of practical work and theory, research and education
Direct & Indirect Focus

- In Psychology
  - Bachelor level
  - Masters level
  - PhD level

- In integration with other disciplines
  - Culture Encounters
  - Educational Studies
  - International Development
  - Communication
Thematic Illustrations

• IDENTITY, ETHNICITY & GLOBALISATION
  (diaspora, transnationalism)

• INCLUSION & EXCLUSION
  (theorisations of intersectionality)

Interplay between Eastern & Western Psychology:
  Meditation, Mindfulness

• Global Health

• Frictions in the field:
  Encountering ‘the other’
  (health and power relations)
Thematic Illustrations

At Ph.D. level

• To belong everywhere & nowhere:
  Narratives about Muslimness, community and belonging

• Family life in transition - fleeing civil war in Syria and conducting an new everyday life in Denmark
Thematic Illustrations

• At Masters level
Alien in an everyday perspective
Refugees: a life of trauma,
children of asylum
autumn 2013: Migration

(within a phenomenological an post-structural
approach)
Collaboration?

• Competition & conflicts between different subject area and approaches

Intra -and interdepartmental levels

• Interaction with the broader societal/international levels

Co-operation across Universities

Reality/utopia
Conclusion

Limited focus

Efforts to enhance collaboration

Suggestions welcome !!