

# Intercultural Psychology- Roskilde University

Roskilde  
Universitet



# Roskilde Universitet

# 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

Rashmi Singla, Associate Professor, International co-ordinator  
Psychology,  
Roskilde University  
Denmark



# 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



# Context Global & Local

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 and 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 !!

