

## Human Relations as Acculturation

Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 10:08 PM

From: **Ajmarsella** <[ajmarsella@gmail.com](mailto:ajmarsella@gmail.com)>

This may be of interest to our list.

The “cultural construction of reality” requires us to recognize all human encounters, interactions, and relationships are subject to “*acculturation*” dynamics and pressures. They constitute meetings of different world views. Personal and situational inclinations toward power, dominance, and rigidity in role, styles, and identity, are arbiters of the outcome.

**Anthony J. Marsella, Ph.D.,**  
**Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii,**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96822**

[ACCULTURATION AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS.pdf](#)

Sent from my iPhone

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Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 8:52 PM

From **Bond, Michael [MM]** <[michael.bond@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:michael.bond@polyu.edu.hk)>

Absolutely, Tony, and every encounter a negotiation about a possible future. The big unasked question is how each of us got together in the first instance.

Time, place, and the great genetic lottery, I would say, acknowledging that these features of our “throw ness” need sound social scientific unpacking.

Some of us start out fortunate; others, cursed by fate. Enter the endlessly fascinating question of suicide, Hamlet’ question of “whether to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune or..”

Your further thoughts?

Michael in HK, June 11, 2018

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From Tony Marsella <[ajmarsella@gmail.com](mailto:ajmarsella@gmail.com)>

The realities of Acculturation in all human relations does not deny the processes and nuances of the encounter . Obviously, individual, dialogical, and collective survival, adaptation, and adjustment are the crucible.

Differences are the hallmark of life, negotiating differences are the tactics, strategies, and consequences.

I say acknowledge and appreciate differences, even as we increase efforts to identify commonalities. And reduce the tragic impositions of power as the determinant and arbiter of the process.

Be alert to the virtues and malignancies of power distribution. It is the struggle to insist on "my way" as the toxin.

When this occurs, both and all sides lose! Redistribute power to establish greater equality. When this occurs, compromise in reality constructions are possible. Amen! Tony

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From: **Kenneth J Gergen** <[kgergen1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:kgergen1@swarthmore.edu)>

To extend Tony's view of acculturation, let's include the brain....as proposed in the attached...Ken

[Acculturated Brain- Theory and Psychology.pdf](#)

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Date: Wed, Jun 13, 2018 at 12:46 PM

From **Bond, Michael [MM]** <[michael.bond@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:michael.bond@polyu.edu.hk)>

I agree, Tony; now, let's work out the details, providing a complex-enough model of processes leading to outcomes...

Michael, "Slouching towards Bethlehem"?

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From Ajmarsella <[ajmarsella@gmail.com](mailto:ajmarsella@gmail.com)>

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From Paul T. P.  
Wong <[dr.paul.wong@gmail.com](mailto:dr.paul.wong@gmail.com)>

Thanks Ken for an excellent article. I will forward it to my friends in neuroscience.

Best

Paul T. P. Wong, Ph.D., C.Psych. ([www.drpaulwong.com](http://www.drpaulwong.com))  
President, [International Network on Personal Meaning](#)  
President, [Meaning-Centered Counselling Institute Inc.](#)

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**From:** [Sunil Bhatia](#)

Hi Louise,  
Thanks for inviting me to contribute to this discussion on acculturation

A few papers are attached that might contribute to this discussion. I am attaching a link to my book that goes in some depth at the relationship between race, whiteness, ethnicity, and acculturation:

- 1) Rethinking the concept of acculturation from postcolonial identities and diaspora cultures
- 2) The concept of acculturation and diasporic self as analyzed in Edward Said's book, "Out of Place"
- 3) Acculturation and social justice from the point of view of 9/11 with specific analysis of Muslim and Sikh identities and the idea of "Dissenting Citizenship."
- 4) Link for the book: <https://www.amazon.com/American-Karma-Identity-Qualitative-Psychology/dp/0814799590>

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Faculty Profile: <http://www.conncoll.edu/directories/faculty-profiles/sunil-bhatia/>

My New Book: **Decolonizing Psychology: Globalization, Social Justice and Indian Youth Identities.**  
<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/decolonizing-psychology-9780199964727?cc=us&lang=en&>

[Acculturation Dialogical Self.pdf](#)

[Rethinking acculturation-Human Development-1.pdf](#)

[Social Psychology and Social Justice- Citizenship and Migrant Identity in the Post 9\\_11 era.pdf](#)