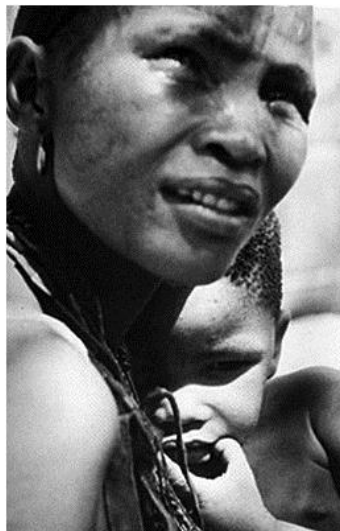


Culture and Personality Week 10

Research / Real People . . . Real Places . . .

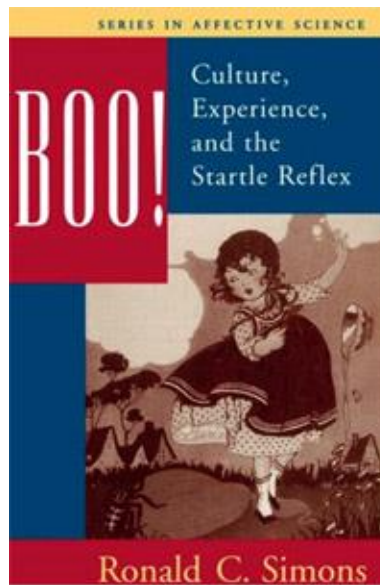
N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman and *Latah: A Culture-specific Elaboration of the Startle Reflex*

After pondering how to research the effect of birth order on folks living in dominant and a non-dominant cultural world, **we'll venture off to Africa this week and meet N!ai**, a *zhun/twasi* woman in her mid-thirties who will talk about her arranged marriage to /Gunda—at the age of eight. [*Zhun/twasi* are also known aka Khoisan, !Kung, San, and, less acceptably, “Bushmen.”]



What is the effect of arranged (and sometimes forced) child marriage on an individual's personality? We'll try to sort that out a little bit after our inspiring work on personality research dealing with individuals in categories not well-known or well-represented in our provincial American lives.

From Africa we'll travel to Southeast Asia on Wednesday, 23 March 2016, **to visit a small group of Malaysian individuals living in their own special psychological world, people with Latah.** Latah, often etic-ly called a “cultural-specific syndrome”—or “folk illness”—is a psychological-biophysical state brought on by people poking a Latah individual, and by other startling events. Because of this reaction to startle-ment Latah is also known medically as the “Startle Reflex.”



As you will see, these special persons often fall into a **trance** and exhibit repetitive speech and body movements. And we'll see that while in the trance state they are echopraxic (involuntarily imitating or repeating movements of others—from *echopraxia*) and echolaliac (involuntarily repeating another's speech—from *echolalia*).



Not so long ago a student in Culture and Personality, whose mother is Latah, after seeing the film *Latah* in class, said “she’s just the way they show in the film.”

Latah will introduce us to the world of **cultural-bound syndromes**, and the personality “disorders” (etic-ly speaking) that go with them.

And finally this week, as time permits, we'll review “**Culturally Constituted Behavioral Environments**” (CCBE) in general.

Next Week we visit Alejandro Mamani, an elder Aymara Indian whose village is located in the mountains of Bolivia. We'll look at his world, and the spirits in it, and witness still another reality. We'll go with him as he goes mad, in a culturally prescribed way. And we'll see how his family and friends react to his changing psychological worlds.

Rate and Rank the Films / Videos

-  **Response to the film *N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman*** (Due by the end of Week 10—Saturday, 26 March 2016; Your Name Will Be Logged)Feedback
-  **Response to the film *Latah*** (Due by the End of Week 10—Saturday, 26 March 2016; Your Name Will Be Logged)Feedback

If you haven't yet done so, **Sign up for Class Presentation Time.** Sign up for one time slot selected from the days listed in **Moodle.** (Week 9).

As I mentioned last week, and earlier in the semester, a major part of this course is your research project—not just for the points, but because researching a topic you are interested in and presenting your findings to others, and then writing the results up as a formal paper, is one of the best ways to learn things. So this week be sure to spend some time this week working on your Paper and Presentation. If I can be of help with your Project, please let me know.

Sign up for your Presentation time:

-  **Sign up for Class Presentations Session I:** Week 14 Day 25, Monday, 18 April 2016 URL
-  **Sign up for Class Presentations Session II:** Week 14 Day 26, Wednesday, 20 April 2016 URL
-  **Sign up for Class Presentations Session III:** Week 15 Day 27, Monday, 25 April 2016 URL






Share your ideas with others. It's always a good idea to share your ideas with others. You can discuss them on-line with the others in class. And you should do that.

s2016 **Student Collaboration Space**
for your own personal use

 Wiki for Project Collaboration

The above item will be found at the top of your **Moodle** folder under "Student Collaboration Space".

Remember to check the results of the class Video Responses from earlier weeks when they close. You can find the results in the **Moodle** Blocks where they first appeared. This week have a look at . . .

-  Results--*Personality All About Me* s2016
-  Results—"Psychological Anthropology" from the *Faces of Culture* Series s2016
-  Results--*Chimp Talk* s2016 File resource
-  Results--"Everything is Relatives: William Rivers" s2016 File resource
-  Results--"New Orleans Black Indians: A Case Study in the Arts" s2016
-  Results--"Grouping by Gender, Age, Common Interests and Class" s2016 File resource
-  Results--"Coming of Age: Margaret Mead" s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Margaret Mead and Samoa* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Stranger in the Mirror: An Examination of Visual Agnosia* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Synesthesia: Derek Tastes of Earwax* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Making Sense of Sensory Information* s2016 File resource
-  Results--"ESP" segment from *Science Frontiers: Put to the Test* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Birth Order and Its Effects* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Magical Death and Children's Magical Death* s2016 File resource

REM:

No class on Wednesday, 30 March 2016

I will be at the [Applied Anthropology Meetings in Vancouver, B.C.](#)

Your **(1) Topics** and **(2) Readings** and **(3) Assignments and Activities listings** are available in the **Week 10 Block** of your **Moodle** folder.

In the meantime, if you have any general or specific questions, please let me know <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs