

Culture, Psychological Processes and Behavior: Understanding Disparities among Anglos and Latinos in the U.S.A.



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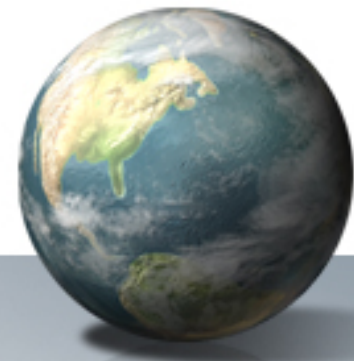
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A Major Challenge to Research with Culturally Diverse Populations



- For progress in research regarding variations in psychological functioning and behavior attributed to culture we should:
 - (a) Define what is meant by “culture” in terms that are clearly different from ethnicity, race, gender, religion, social class, and other population categories.
 - (b) Identify, measure, and scientifically demonstrate what it is about culture that is driving group disparities in behavior or outcome.
 - (c) Empirically demonstrate how these cultural factors relate to behavior, as well as to mediating psychological factors.

Definition of Culture



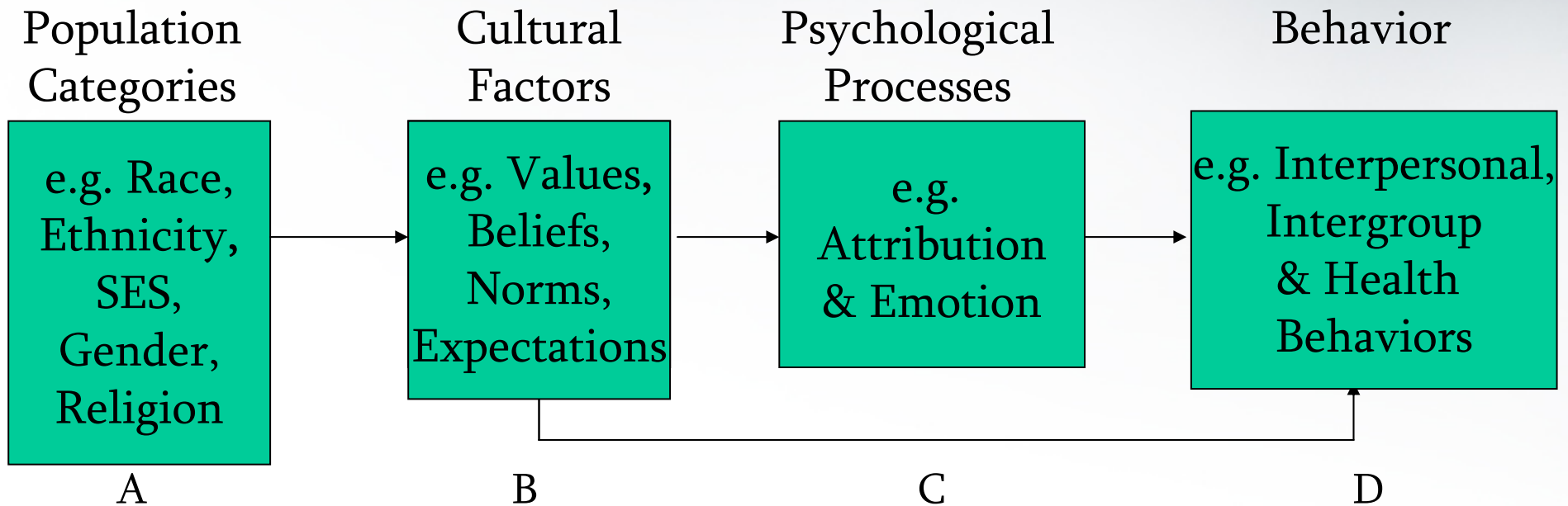
As the Human-Made Part of the Environment

- Objective
 - Roads
 - Buildings
 - Tools
 - etc.
- Subjective
 - Social roles & norms
 - Behavioral expectations
 - Beliefs & values
 - World view
 - etc.
- Culture should be defined in terms that are meaningful to the phenomena of interest.

A Model for the Study of Culture in Psychology



Distal.....To more proximal determinants of behavior



Population/social categories (A) represent sources of cultural variation but are more distal (less influential) to psychological functioning (C) and behavior (D). Culture (B) influences behavior (D) directly and through mediating psychological processes (C).

The Structure of Relations among Antecedents of Behavior as Specified by the Model



- Culture (B) influences behavior (D) directly and through mediating psychological processes (C).
- Population/social categories (A) represent sources of cultural variation but are more distal (less influential) to psychological functioning (C) and behavior (D).
- The study of ethnicity, race, gender, SES, religion, and related population categories should deal with culture.
- The study of culture may account for disparities attributed to those population categories. It should identify what about one or another group's culture may be responsible for the observed group differences.
 - Group comparisons based on those categories are popular (e.g. ethnic health disparities), but tell little about the role of culture and reinforce stereotypical or prejudicial views of individuals and groups.

Illustration of Research on Culture, Psychological (e.g. Attribution- Emotion) Processes, & Behavior



- **Study I: (Zaw & Betancourt, 2002)**
 - Preferences for a style of conflict resolution were examined as a function of collectivism/ individualism value orientations & participants' attributions for the conflict behavior of the other party.
- **Study II: (Flynn, 2005)**
 - Breast cancer screening intention was investigated as a function of fatalistic value orientations, attribution processes and emotions associated with screening, and expectancy that screening leads to early detection.

Study I:

Culture, Attributions, & Conflict Resolution

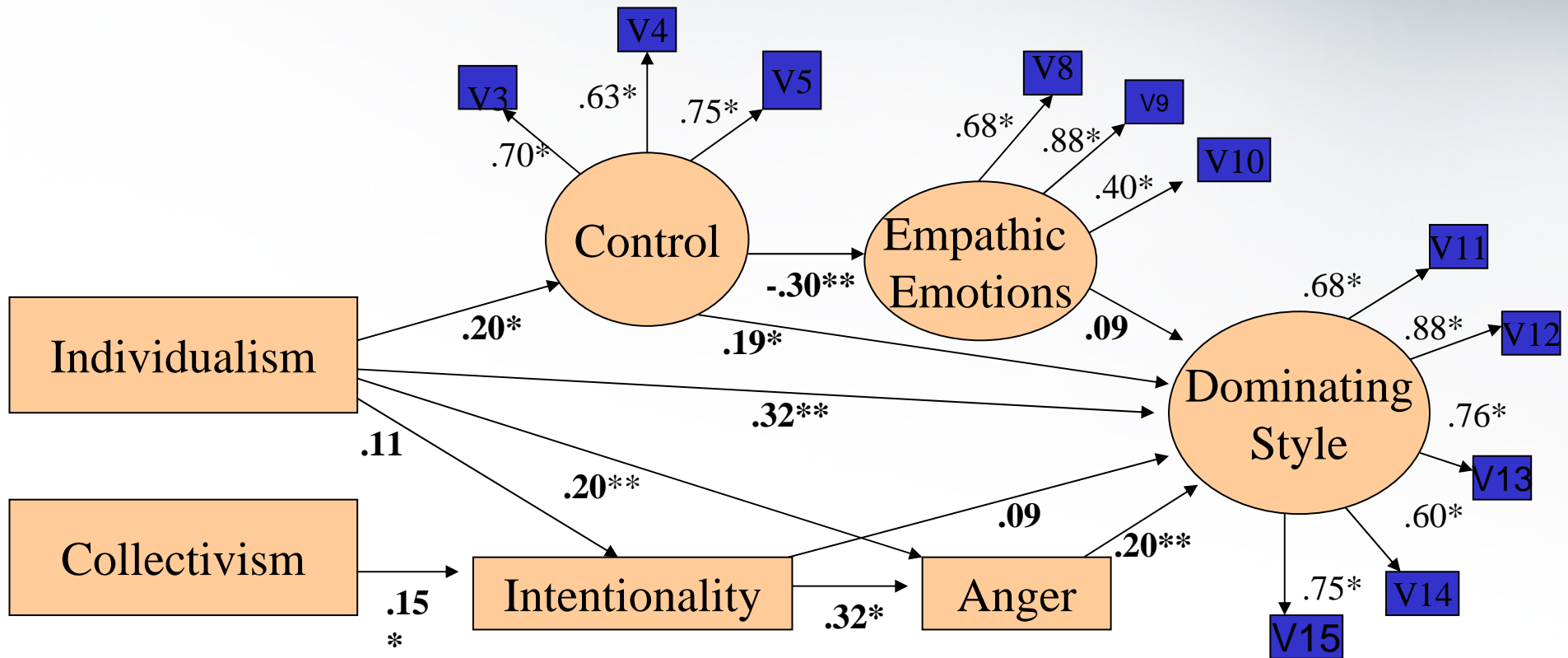


- **Participants:**
 - 184 male and female college students of various ethnic backgrounds
- **Instruments:**
 - Culture:
 - Individualism/Collectivism Scale (Triandis et. al., 1993)
 - Attribution/Emotions:
 - Causal Dimension Scale II (McAuley, Duncan, & Russell, 1992), utilizing a vignette of a conflict situation to assess causal controllability and intentionality
 - Attribution Emotion Scale (Betancourt & Associates, 2004) to assess empathic and anger emotions associated with a conflict situation
 - Styles of Conflict Resolution:
 - Rahim Organizational Conflict Inventory-II (Rahim, 1983) to assess a dominating style of conflict resolution

Figure I: Culture, Attributions, & Conflict Resolution



Dominating Style of Conflict Resolution

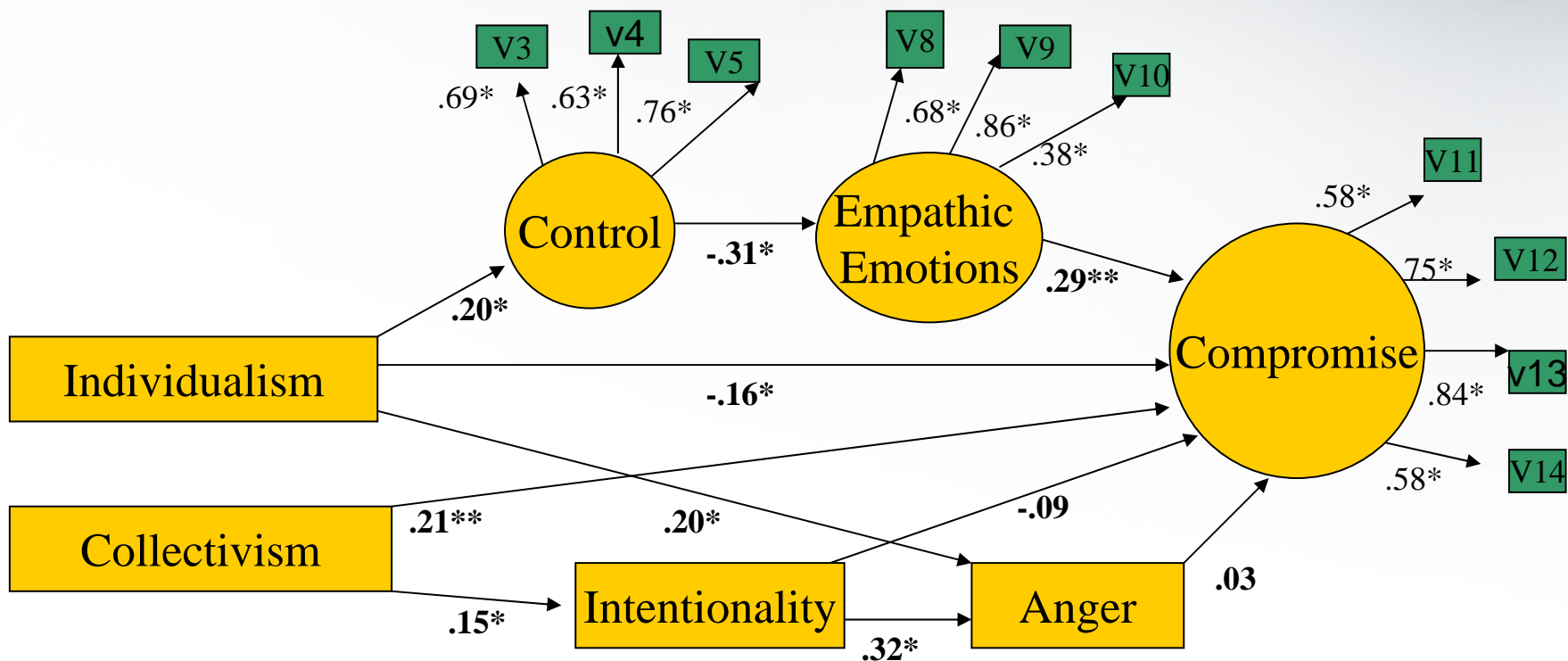


CFI= .97, χ^2 (83, N = 184) = 105.61, $p=.05$

Figure II: Culture, Attributions, & Conflict Resolution



Compromising Style of Conflict Resolution



CFI= .942, $\chi^2 = 100.06$, DF= 71, $p = .013$, LSR= -.246

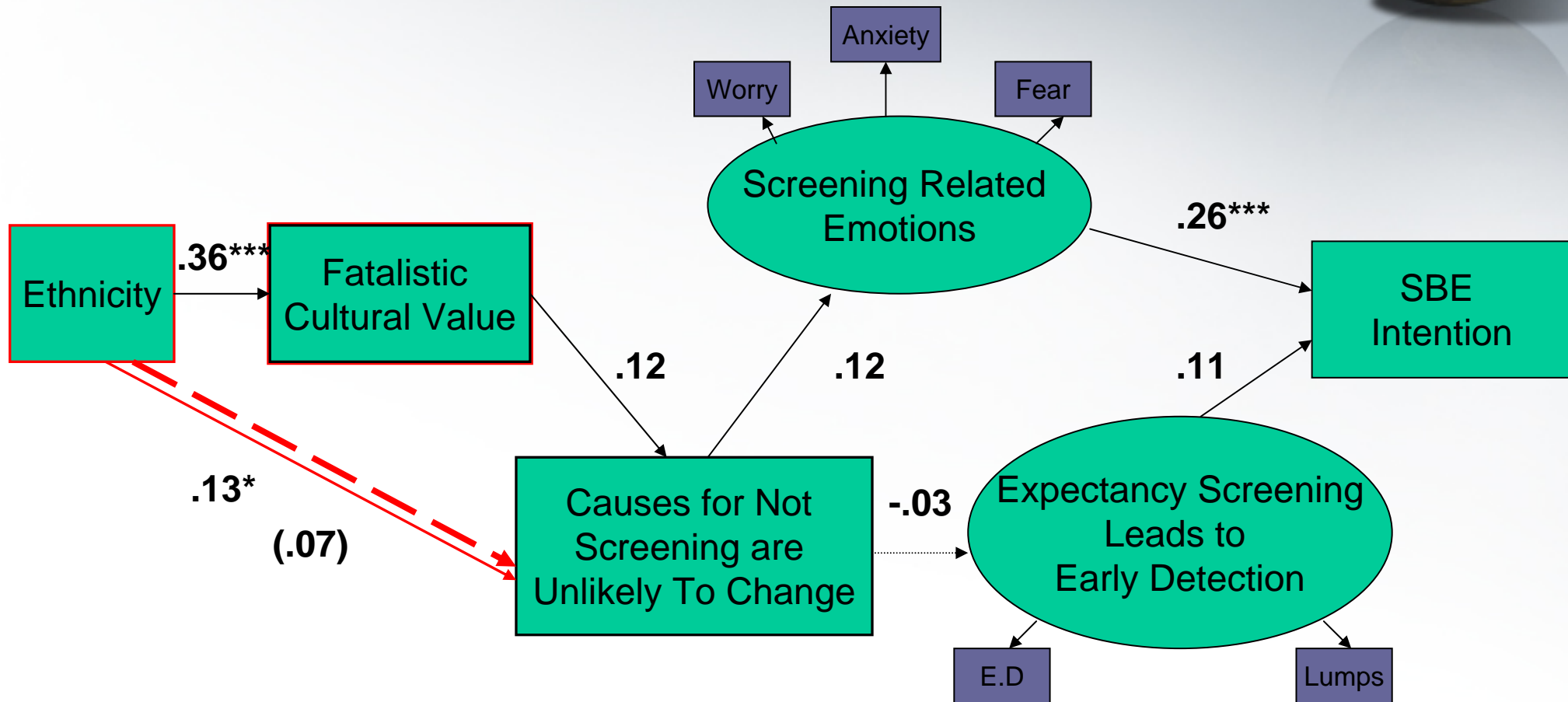
Study II:

Culture, Attributions, & Cancer Screening



- **Participants:**
 - 268 Latino and Anglo women
- **Instruments:**
 - Culture
 - Value Orientation Scale (Betancourt & McMillin-Williams, manuscript in preparation) to assess fatalistic values.
 - Attribution/Emotion
 - Attribution - Emotion Scale (AES, Betancourt & Associates, manuscript in progress) to assess stability of the causes of missing or being late for a mammogram or CBE.
 - Anxiety emotions associated with missing or being late for screening.
 - Expectancy of Screening Outcome
 - Pros and Cons Index (Rakowski, et al., 1992) was reviewed for content regarding the development of items to assess the expectancy that screening leads to the early detection of breast cancer.
 - Breast Cancer Screening Intention
 - Stages of Adoption Questionnaire (Rakowski, Fulton, & Feldman, 1993) to assess future intention to perform a self breast exam.

Figure II: Culture, Attributions, & Cancer Screening



(CFI: .94; χ^2 (25, N = 266) = 88.98, $p = .00$; $\chi^2/df = 3.55$; RMSEA = .10)

CFI: .95; χ^2 (18, N = 268) = 68.54, $p = .00$; $\chi^2/df = 8.56$; RMSEA = .10

Conclusions



- The model for the study of culture
 - Can be applied to various behaviors and outcomes as well as with various ethnic or national groups
- Understanding the relations among culture, population categories, psychological factors, and behavior can contribute at the
 - Individual: delivery of psychological services and professional-client interaction
 - Social: through the development of public policy & intervention
- Explaining differences in the outcomes of individuals based only on their membership in a group or nationality assumes that groups are culturally and behaviorally homogenous and may reinforce prejudicial views of individuals from different cultures. This may result in:
 - Policies that ignore the intra-group diversity of multiethnic societies
 - Discriminatory policies and practices, nationally and internationally.
- Attention needs to be directed at understanding *cultural* and other factors responsible for differences in behaviors at the group as well as at the individual level of analysis.

Cultura, Procesos Psicológicos y Comportamiento: Understanding Disparities among Anglos and Latinos in the U.S.A.

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