



[IP--an APA presentation inspired dialogue](#) by Louise S. [2013, Jul 29]

Dear All,

I share below some interesting conversations inspired by Joe Trimble's APA slide show on Well being considerations among North American Indians. Again, his presentation is August 4th, 12 to 2PM, Honolulu Convention Center, Room 318B.

Enjoy,

Louise

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From Joan Koss

Dear Joe: Great slide show! Years ago I ran a panel at an SfAA meeting on the meanings of well-being and life fulfillment in various cultures but never published anything. This is an area of study that should be further developed!

Thanks, Joan

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Below is a continuous exchange between Michael Bond (MB), and Louise Sundararajan (LS). Attached please find Michael's paper relevant to this conversation.

From MB:

Thank you for passing on this remarkable ppt from Joe Trimble, the fellow human who blessed me with my Indian name, "Many Words"!

Joe's ideas about place are inspiring; whenever I test a model on SWB, I always end my paper acknowledging what % of the variation remains unexplained and invite readers to propose whatever might be missing. [Vivian and I are capturing about 20-30% nation to nation in the study we're now doing] Could one's sense of place be such a construct, defined and characterized in various ways [one's place of origin, one's place of origin compared to one's current place, one's current place...Joe, your ideas about place or other neglected constructs?]

So many possible measures are missing from our data sets, e.g., one's sense of sexual satisfaction, one's sense of insecurity where one lives, one's sense of meaning for one's life [but see Church et al., 2012, JCCP] etc.

So many questions to ask, so little time to find answers!

Michael

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LS: The cultural groups such as the native Americans suggest to me that culture is not defined by national boundaries. What do you think?

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MB:

As for culture, it lives through us in many forms simultaneously – gender, age, education, type of occupation, family of origin, family of creation, tribe, work group, company, ethnic heritage, nation and...the key question is who is this other person and out of which logics is he or she functioning? By the same token, who am I and what moves me and makes sense?

Michael

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LS: The logic out of which people function is for me one of the most important questions concerning culture. And there are multiple types of logic that cannot be captured by the IND versus COL dichotomy. Furthermore, these types of logic do not fall along national or geographical divides. How many types of logic are there in human relationships? Four, says Alan Fiske. And I think he is onto something very important about culture.

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MB:

Yes, Alan developed a sensible topology, indeed! I would love to see a measure developed whereby individuals, dyad, teams, organizations, yes even nations. Aside from this article: <http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/psp/60/5/656/> however, this metricizing seems not to have happened; I don't know why. Instead, we develop topologies that can be related to these elementary forms, e.g., the attached paper on national goals for the socialization of children. They may map onto the same territory, but that's a matter of conjecture until Fiske provides us a metric.

Maybe I'm missing something known to folks on the IP list?

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LS: Fiske is mapping out the logic of the relational cognition, whereas you are measuring the modernity of national populations. If you want to tap into Fiske's domain of research, which I think you should, then you need to go beyond

modernity measures. However you measure it, the West always turns out to be leading the race to modernity, but what if this race is taking human civilizations to a cliff?

 [Citizen-making: The Role of National Goals for Socializing Children](#)