

 [Cross-Cultural Positive Psychology](#) by Louise S. [2012, Apr 24]

Dear Louise & company,

I'm attaching here a recent paper on Cross-Cultural Positive Psychology. I would appreciate any feedback from you and the group.

I am also organizing a Meaning Conference in Toronto, July 26-29, 2012. For details, please visit [www.meaning.ca/conference/](http://www.meaning.ca/conference/). I hope that we can have a symposium on Indigenous Psychology and Positive Psychology. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

I am also attaching here the announcement for our Student Competition. Please pass it along to your graduate students and encourage them to submit something to me.

Paul Wong

[www.drpaulwong.com](http://www.drpaulwong.com)  [Cross-Cultural Positive Psychology April 12 2012 copy edit](#)  [Meaning Conference 2012 Student Competition](#)

 [Re: Cross-Cultural Positive Psychology by Paul](#) by Louise S. [2012, Apr 26]

Dear Friends,

I am encouraged that several of you have expressed interest in participating in a symposium on An Indigenous Perspective of Positive Psychology or some similar title for the symposium.

Please send me a 200-word abstract as soon as possible.

Thanks,  
Paul Wong

 [Comment from Wael Mohamed](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 15]

Dear Dr Paul

Please find attached a suggestion to my talk if I will be included in such symposium

I selected the title of Critical Psychology in Egypt....if we have another speakers from other countries then each one can address critical psychology in the context of his/her culture

The main theme of the symposium could be Critical psychology from different cultural perspective

Waiting your thoughts

Wael Mohamed

 [Solitude final](#)  [VISIO-Solitude Figure 1](#)

 [Comment from Louise S.](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 14]

Dear Wael,

To stoke the fire of your critical thinking, attached please find a copy of my critique of positive psychology.

Here is the reference:

Sundararajan, L. (2008). Toward a reflexive positive psychology: Insights from the Chinese Buddhist notion of emptiness. In J. C. Christopher, F. C. Richardson, & B. D. Slife (eds.), *Thinking through positive psychology*, a special issue of *Theory & Psychology*, 18, 655-674.

Enjoy,  
Louise

 [Comment from Paul W.](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 14]

I will welcome everyone to submit something. We can put together more than one symposium to accommodate all the submissions. I also plan to publish an edited volume on indigenous PP.

Hi Louise, I have cited your paper several times. Perhaps, you can present an undated critique of PP from an indigenous psychology perspective.

Paul  
www.drpaulwong.com

 [Comment from Louise S.](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 14]

Thanks, Paul. Frankly, I don't believe in positive psychology. But if you can accommodate my paper on "The function of negative emotions in Chinese poetics" which is a book chapter for an edited volume on the importance of negative emotions, I'd be happy to participate in your meaning conference.

Warm regards,  
Louise

 [Comment by Darrin](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 14]

I share Louise's position on positive psychology to some degree. It strikes me that such development constitute a good example of the 'inverse care' law by which those with the least need consume the most healthcare resources.

Regards  
Darrin

 [Comment from Paul W.](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 14]

Thank you for your submission. Here is my view of organizing one or two symposia at the Meaning Conference. I will welcome any submission from this list that is related to meaning-making, well-being, social harmony, the struggle to achieve social justice and overcome poverty, etc. from the perspective of Indigenous Psychology or Cross-Cultural Psychology. It can be a theoretically oriented essay or a report on empirical research (both qualitative and quantitative).

Thank you all for your interest. I look forward to receiving your abstracts.

Paul  
www.drpaulwong.com

 [Comment by Louise](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 15]

Thanks, Darrin. Attached please find a relevant critique on PP.

Enjoy,  
Louise

 [Happiness Donut](#)

 [Comment by K. K. Hwang](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 15]

Dear Louise,

Recently I had a chance to read your two articles on reflexive positive psychology. I strongly agree with you on the "moral donut" of individualistic positive psychology. Your distinctions between the two directions of cognitive attention outward toward the world vs. inward toward the self are very important for us to understand. Let's talk more on related issues when you visit Taiwan next month!

All best,  
K. K. Hwang

 [Comment by Louise](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 15]

Dear K. K. Hwang,

Thanks for the feedback. To give the self-reflexivity screw another turn, I argued in a recent co-authored paper on solitude that the relational self which makes it possible the self to self transactions may be the determining factor between solitude and loneliness, see attached.

Here is the reference:

Averill, J. R., & Sundararajan, L. (under review). Experiences of solitude: Issues of assessment, theory, and culture. In R.J. Coplan & J. Bowker (Eds.), A handbook of solitude: Psychological perspectives on social isolation, social withdrawal, and being alone. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

Looking forward to pursuing this topic further with you in Taiwan.

Louise

 [Comment by Wael Mohamed](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 15]

Dear Louise

I agree with Louise and Darrin regarding positive psychology

I can participate with my paper "Hubris syndrome and Egyptian presidents" ...I can talk on that paper from a cross culture concept and political psychology especially with Arab Spring still happening

Let me know your thoughts

Best  
wael mohamed

 [Comment by Paul W.](#) by Louise S. [2012, May 15]

Dear Wael,

Thank you for your contribution. I think your paper will fit in the conference fine.

I have tentatively named the symposium "Positive Psychology from Indigenous Perspectives". In this symposium, I encourage participants to criticize Marty Seligman's brand of positive psychology, which is based on the Western individualistic value orientation. I also encourage participants to present their indigenous view of positive psychology, which may include the negative sides of American Positive Psychology or the positive sides of the inevitable negative experiences. Your presentation sounds like the positive values of confidence can become a negative trait of hubris.

So far, I only have Louise & Wael for the symposium. I need two more participants. Please send me something as soon as possible.

Paul  
www.drpaulwong.com



 [Comment by John Christopher](#) by Louise S. [2012, Jul 05]

Hi Paul,

Thanks for sending the paper. I look forward to reading it. I'm very interested in the symposium but I'm going to be in Asia for the next year during my sabbatical. I'm attaching an article critiquing positive psychology that I wrote with Sarah Hickinbottom that you might find of interest.

As part of my sabbatical I'm going to attend the 6 week summer intensive on Indian indigenous psychology sponsored by the Indian Psychological Institute in Puducherry. I've also been invited to Bhutan through a trip sponsored by the National Board of Certified Counselors (US) and the government of Bhutan to explore establishing counseling as a profession there in October. And then I'll return to India to do a Fulbright-Nehru on Indian Indigenous Psychology. And in between I'm going back to Bali to spend time with the balians (Balinese shamans). So quite a year of being immersed in indigenous psychology.

John

 [Cross-Cultural Positive Psychology April 12 2012 copy edit](#)  [Positive Psychology, Ethnocentrism, and the Disguised Ideology of Individualism](#)