

 [Questions on addiction posed by Dharm Bhawuk](#) by Louise S. [2012, Jul 04]

Have cultural, cross-cultural, or indigenous psychologists studied ADDICTION? What would be the best source to find how addiction has been framed across cultures? Or, just like everybody else, have addiction scholars been running with the western model of addiction and imposing it on all other cultures?

 [Comment by Rick Shweder](#) by Louise S. [2012, Jul 04]

With regard to the comparative study of addiction my medical anthropological colleague Eugene Raikhel (eraikhel@uchicago.edu) does work on the concept of addiction, with special reference to Russia.

I have also attached to this e-mail a smart critical evaluation of the concept of addiction by Gene Heyman.

Other key texts include the book "Heavy Drinking", by Herbert Fingarette which is a critique of the disease approach to alcoholism.

One of the most provocative empirical studies of addiction is the study of heavy heroin and opium use by Vietnam vets in Vietnam but for the most part not after they returned home. Key references include these:

ROBINS, L. N., HELZER, J. E., & DAVIS, D. H. (1975). Narcotic use in Southeast Asia and afterward: An interview study of 898 Vietnam returnees. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 32(8), 955-961.

ROBINS, L. N., HELZER, J.E.HESSELBROCK, M., & WISH, E. (1980). Vietnam veterans three years after Vietnam: How our study changed our view of heroin. In L. Brill & C. Winick (Eds.), *Yearbook of substance use and abuse*. New York: Human Science Press.

Regards,

Rick Shweder

 [Is Addiction a Chronic, Relapsing Disease? by Heyman](#)

 [Comment by Dr. Serena Wadhwa](#) by Louise S. [2012, Jul 04]

This is actually something I am quite interested in as I am beginning some cross-cultural research relating to drinking patterns in the East Indian community. I am curious how cultural aspects affect these patterns both in India and among East Indians in America. Does anyone know of any research/theories relating to this?

Thank you!

