



Rachel Sing-Kiat Ting, Louise Sundararajan

Culture, Cognition, and Emotion in China's Religious Ethnic Minorities

Voices of Suffering among the Yi

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- Challenges the classical understanding of cognition and emotion in western psychology
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- Displays collaborative research utilizing the disciplines of religion, anthropology, sociology, and psychology

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This study examines the suffering narratives of the Bimo and Christian religious communities of the Yi minority who reside in the remote mountains of Sichuan and Yunnan, China, respectively. It is informed by the theoretical framework of ecological rationality, which posits that religions influence and are influenced by cognitive styles that have co-evolved with the ecological niche of a culture. It was predicted and found that in times of adversity, traditional religious communities differ in emotion expression, causal attribution, and help-seeking behavior, with far-reaching ramifications for how they are uniquely vulnerable to the ravages of modernization. The authors hope that the voices of the study participants, heard through their harrowing narratives, may inspire a deepened sensitivity to the plight of rural Chinese communities as China races to become a superpower in the global economy.

"The nascent field of cultural psychology of religion is in dire need of exemplary studies. This book provides one. In the stories of unjust suffering of Yi Christians and the Bimo in Southwest China, the authors find that culture, cognition, emotion, and spirituality are inextricably interwoven. With profound respect and sensitivity, the researchers evoke the participants' stories, and as a result, common bonds of kindness blossom between them."

—**Alvin Dueck**, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Cultural Psychologies at the Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, CA, USA

"This book contributes to an area that Western social science as a whole has paid less attention to—namely, the study of ethnic minorities in China. It is wonderful that the authors were able to conduct research among the Yi from the perspective of both psychology and religious studies. It emphasizes human emotion while also considering cognition, which is a valuable contribution to indigenous psychology in China. It enriches social science research at large."

—**Xiaoxing Liu**, PhD, Professor of Chinese Language & Culture at Soka University of America, USA

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