

## Cross Cultural Psychology

From: Sam Manickam <[ssmanickam@gmail.com](mailto:ssmanickam@gmail.com)>

Hi Louise

I have not read much about cross cultural psychology.

Have a question-

If one has participants from India, who are currently in US for their studies and one is comparing with the US born Caucasians can it be called as cross cultural or multicultural ?

In other words

If some one is temporarily living in another country and included as participants can the study be considered as cross cultural or considered as multicultural?

or is there any other term?

Would appreciate your help.

Regards

Manickam

PS. I did a study of students from different nationalities studying in India ( staying only for the purpose of study) and reviewers objected stating that it is not a cross cultural study.

Hence this question.

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L. Sam S. Manickam, Ph.D.

Professor in Clinical Psychology

Room 1105, Department of Psychiatry

JSS University

JSS Medical College Hospital

M G Road, Mysuru 570004, Karnataka, India

[ssmanickam@gmail.com](mailto:ssmanickam@gmail.com)

0-9448673648, [7406672209](tel:7406672209)

(Home) 0821-2424648

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**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 6:09 PM

**From:** [Harris Friedman](#)

Hi Sam,

I do not know of consensual definitions for the terms used in the area of culture that you question. In my and Jerry Glover's recent book (see below), we offered some definitional approaches that might be useful, but not everyone follows these. For

example, monocultural (within one culture), bicultural (within and/or between two cultures), and multicultural (within and/or among more than two cultures) are pretty clear. However, I think bicultural and multicultural make sense more in comparing a group that within it has characteristics of two or more cultures (e.g., within the US, I would describe Miami, FL as predominantly bicultural, i.e., Latin and Anglo, whereas I would describe the many cultures in New York, NY as multicultural). Cross-cultural, on the other hand, alludes to crossing boundaries in either two or more cultures. In our book, we focused on "transcultural," which in terms of our theme of competence we defined as being able to navigate adaptively across any culture by understanding the basics of all cultures (without needing to know the details of any specific culture).

In my definitional scheme, I would call studying "participants from India, who are currently in the US for their studies and ... comparing [them to] US born Caucasians" a cross-cultural study. I would call your study of students from different nationalities studying in India, assuming there were three or more, a multicultural study.

I hope this helps. I also am interested in others' approach to such nomenclature.

Harris L. Friedman, PhD

Glover, J., & Friedman, H. (2015). *Transcultural competence: Navigating cultural differences in the global community*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.