

Abstract
Paper Sessions

Thursday, November 14, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

DIVERSITY AND CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS IN ASSESSMENT-4

African Enculturation and Performance on the African Neuropsychological Battery

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Objective: To test a core assumption of the African Neuropsychology Battery (ANB) that greater African enculturation is associated with better performance. **Method:** Subjects were 27 African immigrants to the U.S. [mean age = 39 (SD = 11.5), mean education = 16.3 years (SD = 2.9)], 32 African-Americans [mean age = 34.0 (SD = 11.2), mean education = 16.2 (SD = 2.5)], and 21 U.S. Caucasians [mean age = 45.7 (SD = 13.8), mean education = 17.2 (SD = 2.3)]. All subjects completed a questionnaire on familiarity with elements of African culture. The ANB was administered one-on-one, by trained technicians, in English, in a single session. ANB tests measured visuospatial perception, naming, memory, and abstract reasoning utilizing content drawn from sub-Saharan African cultures. **Results:** Groups differed significantly in age ($p < .05$), but not education or gender, and age was used as a covariate in subsequent group comparisons. African immigrants showed highest African enculturation, followed by African Americans, and Caucasians [$F(2, 74) = 36.16, p < .000$], with all groups differing significantly from one another in post-hoc comparisons ($p < .02$). African enculturation correlated significantly only with ability to identify pictures of African fruits (Pearson $r = .58, p < .001$) and objects ($r = .25, p < .03$). Analysis of Covariance followed by Bonferroni post-hoc comparisons confirmed that African immigrants were superior to Caucasians ($p < .001$) and African-Americans ($p < .001$) in identifying fruits, with the latter two groups not differing significantly from one another. African immigrants were superior to Caucasians in object identification ($p < .05$), but did not differ significantly from African-Americans. **Conclusions:** African enculturation influences performance on some ANB tests and results support the potential of the ANB to assess performance in a less culturally-biased manner in African immigrants.