Appreciating Cultural Diversity

Sheefteh Khalili, PhD
University of California Irvine
Who am I?

- Second Generation Iranian American
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} person in my family born in United States
- Family is Muslim, mostly non-practicing
- English/Persian language
Classroom Diversity

• Who are you? On a piece of paper please write:
• Your name
• Where you were born
• What languages you speak
• Your race & ethnicity
• Something you like about your culture
• A negative stereotype you have heard about your culture/group
Classroom Diversity

• What are the cultural backgrounds represented in this class?

• Surrounded by incredible diversity in just this classroom, now think of diversity on a global scale
But What is Culture?

• Social behaviors, arts, beliefs, and institutions of a society
• Non-material culture
• Material culture
Cultural Iceberg

Material Culture

Non-Material Culture
Material Culture

• All artifacts
• Architecture
• Jewelry
• Clothing
• Musical instruments
Material Culture
Material Culture
Material Culture
Non-Material Culture

- Beliefs
- Values
- Rules
- Languages
- Customs
Non Material Culture
Non Material Culture
Non-Material Culture
How Culture Influences Us

- The way we dress
- The food we eat or do not eat
- Notions of beauty
- Music we create and listen to
- The houses we build & live in
- The artifacts we use to decorate our homes
- The language(s) we speak and read
Negative Uses of Culture

- Cultural Appropriation
- Cultural Misappropriation
- Stereotypes
- Discrimination
Cultural Appropriation
Cultural Appropriation
Cultural Appropriation
Cultural Misappropriation

WE’RE A CULTURE, NOT A COSTUME

This is NOT WHO I AM, AND THIS IS NOT OKAY.

WE’RE A CULTURE, NOT A COSTUME

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Cultural Misappropriation

NEW YORK JEWS
SAN FRANCISCO CHINAMEN
CLEVELAND INDIANS

No race, creed or religion should endure the ridicule faced by Native Americans today. Please help us put an end to this madness and racism, by visiting www.ncaai.org or calling 1-800-424-3723.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS
Negative Uses of Culture

- Sometimes people focus on difference to condemn, to ostracize, to persecute and even to exterminate.

Darfur refugee camp - 2006
Jewish Concentration Camp ~1939
Respect and Understanding

see the world through different eyes
As Global Citizens...

- We must learn from each other
- Not just TOLERATE but rather APPRECIATE each others differences
Experiencing Other Cultures

- Meeting other people
- Having friends from other cultures
- Travel
- Study Abroad
- Language/Music/Food/Dance/Literature/Movies/Documentaries
Additional Concepts

• Culture Shock
• Assimilation
Thank you

Contact me:

skhalili@uci.edu