Appreciating Cultural Diversity

Sheefteh Khalili, PhD
Executive Director- Academic Planning, UC Irvine Executive Director- CalEarth Institute
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 your family was born
  - What languages you are aware of
  - 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
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.
Cultural Misappropriation
Negative Uses of Culture

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