

Anesa Mulic
Professor Alapo
CLDV 100
20 May 2021

Cultural Relativism and Ethnocentrism

My paper is about the lack of cultural relativism in the United States and the alarming presence of ethnocentrism. I chose to write about this topic because there is so much information about how racism is deeply rooted into the foundation of American society and culture. The topic itself and how it can be reformed into something better was intriguing and made me want to research and write more about it. Culture is defined as the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts; meaning that culture can be seen as the growth of a group identity fostered by social patterns unique to each specific group. But it is with cultural relativism that we understand a culture on its own terms by not making judgments using the standards of one's own culture. The goal of this is to promote the understanding of cultural practices that are not typically part of one's own culture. The United States lacks cultural relativism while ethnocentrism is deeply embedded into its history. Breaking that generational systemic cycle has proven to be more difficult and discouraging than what was once believed however it is with the newer generations that we hope will make the difference to one day live in a world where the term "white privilege" is no longer around and different cultures and values are respected and acknowledged.

Annotated Bibliography

"Austria: Incidents of Police Brutality Continue." *Amnesty.org*, Amnesty International Press,

July 2013, www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/136000/eur130072000en.pdf.

As the paper pertains to the lack of cultural relativism, this article is used to show that ethnocentrism isn't only an issue in the United States but in other countries as well. Here the author mentions how there has been a history of police brutality in Austria even though Austria has been a country for way longer than the United States has. Relating their police brutality against their black community strengthens my argument about the Black Lives Matter movement stemming from ethnocentrism. This article was an excellent use to supporting my paper and showing how cultural relativism lacks everywhere.

Cuncic, Arlin. "What Is White Privilege?" *Verywell Mind*, 25 Aug. 2020,

www.verywellmind.com/what-is-white-privilege-5070460.

White privilege is a point I used to show the importance of cultural relativism because there is a huge strain and indifference between white people and non white people. The country was founded upon and systemically created to favor the white man. The article defines the term "White Privilege" and provides examples of how white privilege affects white people. The article also goes into depth about acknowledging white privilege and how to change one's mindset if they don't believe the term is real.

Euro|Topics. "Protests in the US: How Deep-Rooted Is the Racism?" *Eurotopics.net*,

Bundeszentrale Für Politische Bildung, 16 June 2020,

www.eurotopics.net/en/241472/protests-in-the-us-how-deep-rooted-is-the-racism.

This was a good article to use when referencing how deeply embedded ethnocentrism is in the history of the United States. The article is broken up into several sections about class struggle, structural racism, deep rooted inequalities, and the progress the U.S. has made in regards to pushing for equality. All sections support my paper and idea behind the lack of cultural relativism in the United States.

“A Failing Criminal Justice System .” *The New York Times*, The New York Times,

www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/03/12/young-black-and-male-in-america/a-failing-criminal-justice-system.

After discussing issues about the lack of cultural relativism, I needed to support solutions to my social issues. This article explains the justice system and the issues a part of it. It explains how minorities are targeted and how corrupt the system truly is towards anyone who isn't white. I will be able to use this reference as a way to show the change that needs to be implemented in order to move away from racial profiling and disrespecting others cultures.

HF;, Dalky. “Perception and Coping with Stigma of Mental Illness: Arab Families'

Perspectives.” *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22757601/.

When talking about my own cross cultural experiences, I spoke about how mental health is looked down upon and suppresses people from reaching out for help because of their culture. The article talks about mental health in the Middle East and how it brings shame

and embarrassment onto one's family proving that one's culture can affect the way they see certain issues and become closed minded when in need of help.

Hill, Evan, et al. "How George Floyd Was Killed in Police Custody." *The New York Times*, The

New York Times, 1 June 2020,

www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html.

The murder of George Floyd and the spark of the Black Lives Matter movement and the racial injustices that caused it is a big part of my paper. The article explains the story behind George Floyd and the power we as citizens and people all around the world had to finally charge and prosecute his murderer; pushing the United States and a better more cultural relative direction.

Rosado, Caleb. "Cultural Relativism." *Www.andrew.cmu.edu*,

www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/80-241/guided_inquiries/articles/cultural_rel.html.

My whole paper is about cultural relativism and this article explains the idea behind cultural relativism and the importance it has on a society by being open minded and accepting of other cultures. The author goes in depth about how society is constantly changing and stresses the importance of having to accept and embrace those cultural changes or else we would all be stuck in a world full of ethnocentrism.

Santori, Christopher, and Lourdes Yasmin Nieves says. "Ethnocentrism in the US." *OLEAD 410*

Leadership in a Global Context, 19 Jan. 2017,

sites.psu.edu/global/2017/01/19/ethnocentrism-in-the-us/.

This article defines ethnocentrism and the toxicity it holds in the United States. It explains the influence one can have on others by explaining when Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, many of his supporters and followers spiraled into spewing hate speech at minorities attacking those who weren't white.

Schwartz, Andrew. "Hidden Afflictions: Mental Illness in the Middle East." *Hidden Afflictions:*

Mental Illness in the Middle East | Center for Strategic and International Studies, www.csis.org/analysis/hidden-afflictions-mental-illness-middle-east-0.

Going back to my own cultural experiences about mental health, this article showed statistics of just how many people in the middle east are depressed and have severe anxiety but refuse to seek help because of their culture.

"Understanding Social Interaction." *Lumen*,

courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-sociology/chapter/understanding-social-interaction/.

This article describes the great effect social interaction has one person and who they socially interact with can either make them more open minded or ethnocentric. This was an important article to use because it explains how one is introduced to cultural relativism at a young age and how that affects their social life as an adult.

