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# My Cross Cultural Experience

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Diversity is a variety of cultures and human differences in a society.



Cross Cultures: Dealing with or offering comparison between two or more different cultures or cultural areas.



My experiences:

NYC is very diverse, every store I walk pass has employees of different backgrounds, restaurants that make their cultures food, ex:indian food, spanish food, asian food, soul food, halal food, and american food!



# Encounters with cross cultural

When walking throughout NYC you talk and learn about where the Statue of Liberty came from, or walking into a bodega, a street fair that sells korean hot dogs, empanadas, selling waist beads, is all part of experiencing cross cultural. Coming from home which is where your norms are practiced and coming out to someones entrepreneurship is crossing cultures because their norm, foods, music that that is held in the business can be part of one's background.

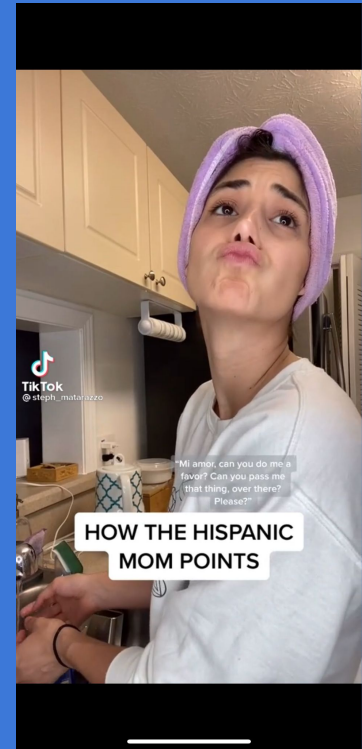
This is part to why understanding cross culture is important.

To not make faces when something you do not what was given to you, because it is disrespectful or wearing religious clothing, understanding that some other cultures eat differently'

# Cultural non verbal or verbal expressions

Shown on the right is an image of how Hispanic moms point, I used to think that it was a “only my parents thing” but come to find out all hispanic or caribbean parents do this gesture when pointing at something.

There's many non verbal gestures I have seen or heard of. For example when i said out loud “Omg, this dress would be really pretty with a pair of long black boots” my friends took their pointer finger and pulled their bottom eyelid down. When i asked them what it meant they said that in their country it means sike.



## Background about my other cross cultural experiences

Growing up I lived in a building that was also diverse and filled with people of different cultures/backgrounds, Mexican, African, Puerto rican, American, and African American. We all got along very well but me and Sofia spent most of the time at her house playing and eating popcorn, participating in house parties, and I enjoyed this because I enjoyed seeing the difference between my everyday and someone else's everyday life.

This is an example of a cross cultural experiences because I listened to music that was different from my background and norm, and ate different foods and snacks.

## Norms

Usually when getting home my mom has a rule to take off shoes at the door, when walking into my friends house it isn't needed. I know some hispanic households that eat together at the dinner table while my norm for eating at home is to eat wherever you'd like with whomever. Some norms for some other families are everybody has to help clean on sunday while my parents take that day to clean and relax for themselves.

## Beliefs

Some beliefs in my culture is the evil eye. Carrying or having the evil eye placed in your home a form of protection from all envy and dislike. If your evil eye breaks or whatever it is attached to breaks, it's usually taken as someone has gave you the evil eye. Usually people get this piece of jewelry blessed in botanica, a religious goods store, or church. I know in other cultures/religions one will cover their head with a veil or scarf to be protected from negative energy.



## Food

Some foods I grew up on were rice in my soup. sancocho or paella, a riced mixed with seafood. When going over to my friends house we ate things like mexican rice or popcorn with hot sauce on it, cucumbers with powdered hot sauce, which was very different but delectable to me. When going over to my Peruvian friends house we ate things like papa a la huancaína. A dish that potatoes covered in a sweet/spicy cheese.



# Sexist norms

Some sexist odd norms are that back in the day it was expected for women to make their husbands plate no matter the location. The wife was expected to stay home, take care of her house and kids, make dinner while the husband is the money maker, he brings the money home basically just supports financially sometimes. This continued on for some time even till present day meanwhile in other cultures the “tradition” has probably been put to an end due to different perspectives of the gesture.

# Religious practices

Christians usually dress formal for church and worship God by singing worshipping music and praying to him and Jesus and thanking them for all that they've done meanwhile Muslims may take strictly take time out their day to bring out a beautiful prayer rug to pray on. Christians may pray anywhere but Muslims pray in private.

## Holidays

In Mexican culture they celebrate días de los muertos, Day Of The Dead and on that day they will set up an ofrenda where their passed loved ones come and visit. Things that usually go on a ofrenda are photos of your deceased loved one and items that remind you of them.

In my culture we do something very similar to an ofrenda. When one passes we will set up a table with the person's pictures and candles in front of them and maybe a hat or candy, anything they enjoyed while being alive, to keep their spirit alive.



# How did my cross cultural experience shape me

My cross cultural experiences me in a positive way. Eating different foods and growing up in different cultural homes helped me understand the different dialect. When hearing someone speak a different language to me they sound a bit aggressive but once I understand what was said I understand that it was not at all aggressive that is their “lingo” and tone of voice.

# Why cross cultural understanding is important

Having knowledge about another person's background helps you to be open kindred and more accepting to trying new food, make more friend who aren't like you and lastly helps understand other language barriers.