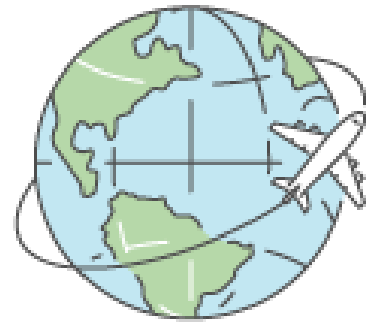


It's NOT a Small World After All:

How Study Abroad Experiences Contribute to Undergraduate Students' Cultural Humility Development

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Overview

Our research intended to reinforce existing arguments about the positive effects of study abroad and to help universities understand and develop the ways study abroad has a positive effect of cultural humility.

Research Question

What is the relationship between specific aspects of studying abroad and cultural humility development?

Literature Review

Across the literature, three cultural humility dimensions emerged: Self-awareness & other-awareness, Challenging privilege & bias, Lifelong motivation to learn from others

Schlossberg's Transition Theory

Focuses on “any event, or non-event, [which] results in changed relationships, routines, assumptions, and roles” (Patton et al., 2016, p. 37)

Constructivism

Learners are active participants in the learning process, construct new understandings and knowledge through experience and social discourse, and integrate this new information with their prior knowledge (Patton et al., 2016)

Environmental Theory

Anything that could constitute a potential stimulus that has an impact on a student's learning and development (Strange & Banning, 2015)

Studying Abroad

Studying abroad has a positive effect on students in a number of critical developmental areas. Suddenly becoming a minority and change a student's perspective and cause them to question their worldviews, and the shift can stay with them long after the experience

Methods

Participant Criteria

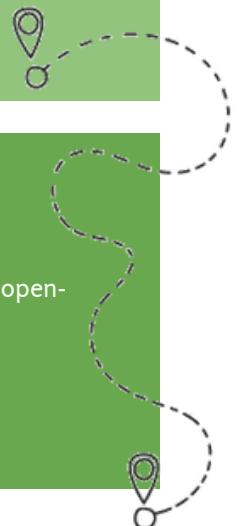
- Any IU Bloomington undergraduate student currently enrolled and studied abroad during their time at IUB

Recruitment Strategies

- Office of Overseas Studies
- Advisees
- Student supervisees
- Physical posters
- Social media

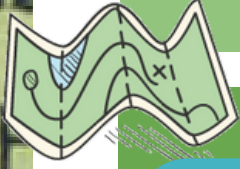
Survey Instrument

- Anonymous
- 33 close-ended questions, 1 optional open-ended question
- Three sections of questions:
 - Demographic Information
 - Study Abroad Information
 - Cultural Humility Development



Results

- 112 Responses
- 62 Open-Ended Responses
- 19 Days Data was Collected
- 26 Study Abroad Destination Countries Represented
- Mild Positive Correlations with High Significance
- The majority of the codes from open-ended responses could be grouped into two categories: increased appreciation of the host country's culture, and new critiques of the culture of the United States.



Discussion

Dimension 1: Self- & Other-Awareness

- **Interaction with locals** positively correlated with questions regarding awareness as well as likelihood of centering others in interactions
- These interactions could be understood as features of the constructed and aggregate environments (Strange & Banning, 2015)
- Students who answered this way went on to write about the impact of local interactions such as meal times as quality time

Dimension 2: Challenging Privilege & Bias

- **Language learning as an objective** was positively correlated with multiple questions from this category
- The experience of being a linguistic minority in a society can help a student broaden their perspective and question their worldview more critically (Belliveau, 2019)
- Some language learners wrote about how their time abroad made them more open and accepting as people

Dimension 3: Lifelong Motivation to Learn

- **Language learning and interactions with locals** both positively correlated with this category. These students tended to more greatly affirm that studying abroad motivated them to continue expanding their knowledge about the country and culture
- In the open-ended response, many shared the ways in which they continued to explore and practice the new cultural norms they experienced



Limitations

- Lack of pre- and post-data
- Self-reported data/self-assessed cultural humility
- Small scope of sample
- European countries over-represented

Recommendations

- Develop more measures for cultural humility
- Generate more readily quantifiable data
- Qualitative research into salient aspects
- Encourage language learning while abroad
- Facilitate opportunities for interaction with locals



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