

ACCULTURATION AND INTERCULTURAL PERCEPTIONS:

What I think, what you think, what I think you think and why it's all important



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RESEARCH BACKGROUND

- Interactive Acculturation Model (Bourhis et al., 1997)
- Positive relations occur when migrant and host attitudes are concordant
- Discordant attitudes result in problematic and conflictual intercultural relations

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What acculturation orientations are favoured by migrants?
- What acculturation orientations are favoured by hosts?
- Do migrants have accurate perceptions of hosts' acculturation attitudes?
- Are these acculturation attitudes and perceptions related to intercultural relations and migrants' adaptation?

RESEARCH SETTING: NEW ZEALAND

- Immigrant country: 1 in 5 are overseas born
- Ethnic and cultural diversity
- Multicultural policies and multicultural ideology

MEASURES

- Acculturation Attitudes
 - Integration
 - Assimilation
 - Separation
 - Exclusion
 - Individualism
- Perceived discrimination ($\alpha = .87$)
- Adaptation
 - Psychological (Life Satisfaction, $\alpha = .86$)
 - Sociocultural (Sociocultural adaptation scale, $\alpha = .89$)

ACCULTURATION ATTITUDES

Assimilation: *Immigrants should give up their culture for the sake of adopting NZ culture.*

Separation: *Immigrants should maintain their original culture as long as they do not mix it with NZ culture.*

Integration: *Immigrants should maintain their original culture while also adopting NZ culture.*

ACCULTURATION ATTITUDES

Individualism: *Whether immigrants maintain their original culture or adopt NZ culture makes no difference because each person is free to adopt the culture of his/her choice.*

Exclusion: *It doesn't matter which culture immigrants adopt because in any case there should be less immigration to this country.*

ASIAN MIGRANT SAMPLE

(n = 221)

- 98 males (45%) and 122 females (55%)
- Age: 15-86 years ($M = 38.5$, $SD = 12.5$)
- From 14 countries
- 67% South Asian (e.g., India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)
33% Other Asian (e.g., Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan)
- First generation
- 46% NZ citizens
- English as second language- 89%
- ELP: 4.14 on 5-point scale
- 80% tertiary education

NATIONAL SAMPLE

(n = 2020)

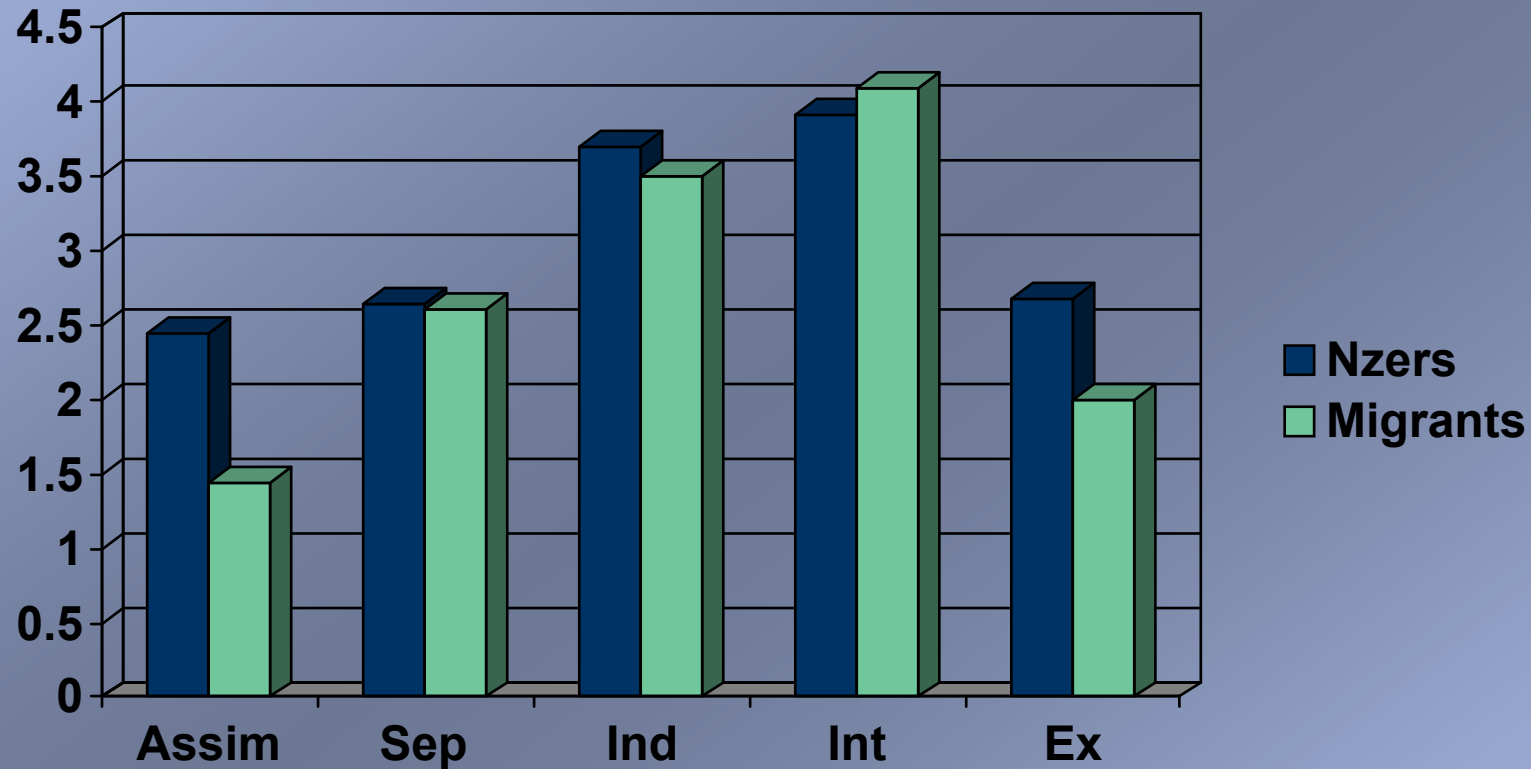
- 877 males (43%) and 1143 females (57%)
- 70% NZ European, 5% Maori, 4% Asian, 21% Other
- 76% NZ-born
- 88% NZ citizens
- 69% employed
- 60% post- secondary and 25% tertiary education

Ward & Masgoret (2008)

KEY FINDINGS

**WHAT I THINK AND
WHAT YOU THINK**

ACCULTURATION ATTITUDES

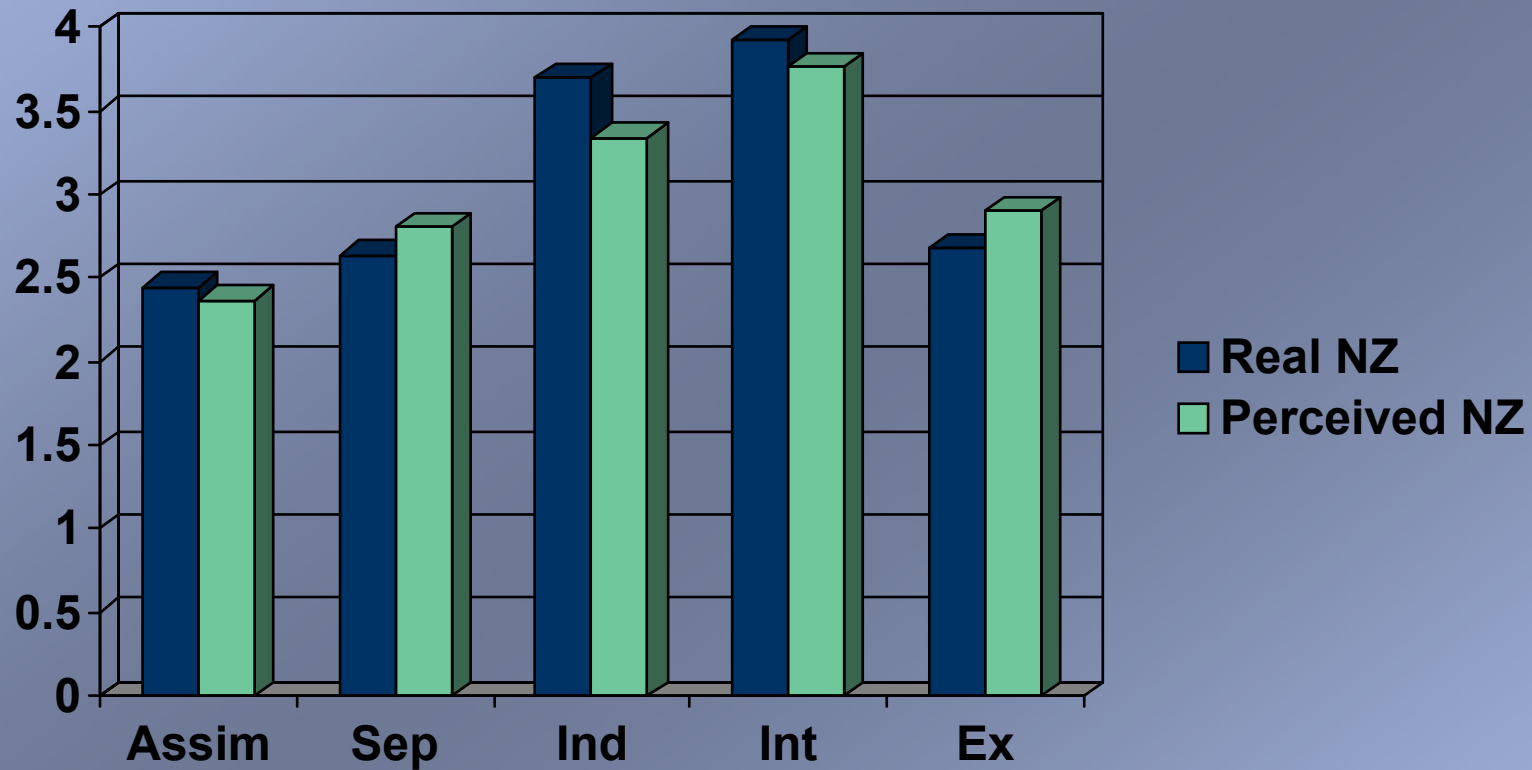


$F_{\text{migrants}}(4, 856) = 254.14, p < .001$

$F_{\text{RNZ}}(4, 8300) = 928.54, p < .001$

**WHAT YOU THINK AND
WHAT I THINK YOU THINK**

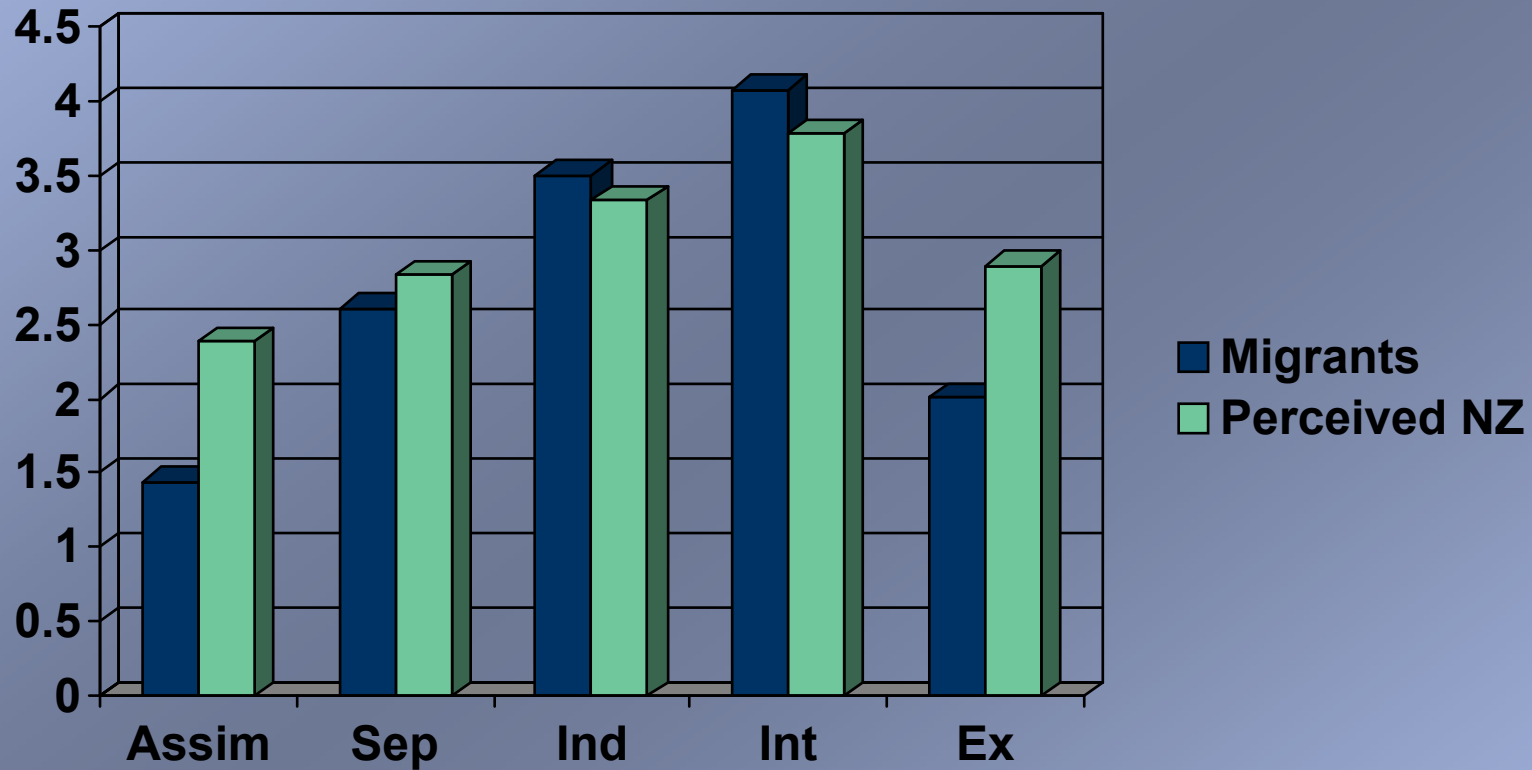
ACCULTURATION ATTITUDES



$F_{\text{perceived NZ}}(4, 844) = 50.13, p < .001$

**WHAT I THINK AND
WHAT I THINK YOU THINK**

ACCULTURATION ATTITUDES



**AND WHY IT MAY BE
IMPORTANT**

CORRELATIONS: DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN OWN AND PERCEIVED NZ ACCULTURATION ATTITUDES

	Life Satisfaction	Socio-cultural Adaptation Difficulties	Perceived Discrimination
1. Assimilation	-.27**	-.01	.18**
2. Separation	.08	.04	-.06
3. Individualism	-.02	-.01	-.03
4. Integration	.07	.06	-.15*
5. Exclusion _*	.01	.03	.16*

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

CORRELATIONS WITH PERCEIVED NZ ACCULTURATION ATTITUDES

	Life Satisfaction	Socio- cultural Adaptation Difficulties	Perceived Discrimination
1. Assimilation	-.22*	.05	.13
2. Separation	-.01	.01	.04
3. Individualism	.08	-.05	-.00
4. Integration	.29*	-.07	.03
5. Exclusion	.00	.05	-.04

* $p < .001$

SUMMARY

- While there are significant differences between the strength of endorsement of acculturation attitudes between migrants and hosts, there is considerable convergence in their preferences
- Integration is most preferred and assimilation least preferred by both groups

SUMMARY

- Immigrants have accurate perceptions of the rank ordering of hosts' preferences
- Discrepancies between own and perceived hosts' acculturation attitudes (assimilation, integration and exclusion) are associated with perceived discrimination
- Perceptions of hosts attitudes (integration and assimilation) relate to migrant adaptation

LIMITATIONS, CHALLENGES, ISSUES

- Use of difference scores
- Range and variance of socio-cultural adaptation scores
- Multi-cultural context and convergence of acculturation attitudes



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