

# IDENTITY, ACCULTURATION AND ADAPTATION IN FIRST AND SECOND GENERATION SAMOAN YOUTH



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# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do immigrant youth live within and between two cultures?
- What is the relationship between HOW youth engage in intercultural relations and HOW WELL they adapt?
- How do these intercultural and adaptation processes vary over generations?
- How does immigrant adaptation compare to the adaptation of national youth?



# RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

- Demographic factors- e.g., gender, ethnicity, birthplace, citizenship
- Intercultural factors- e.g., language use and proficiency, national and ethnic identity, peer contacts, acculturation preferences, family values
- Adaptation indicators- e.g., school adjustment, behavioural problems, psychological symptoms, life satisfaction



# RESEARCH SAMPLE

## □ 250 Samoan youth

- 46.2% female
- 12-19 years (M = 15.5)
- 57.2% NZ born
- Overseas born - residence in NZ: M = 9.78 years
- 78% NZ citizens

## □ 510 national youth

- 396 NZE and 114 Maori
- 50% female
- 12-19 years (M = 14.9)
- 98% New Zealand born



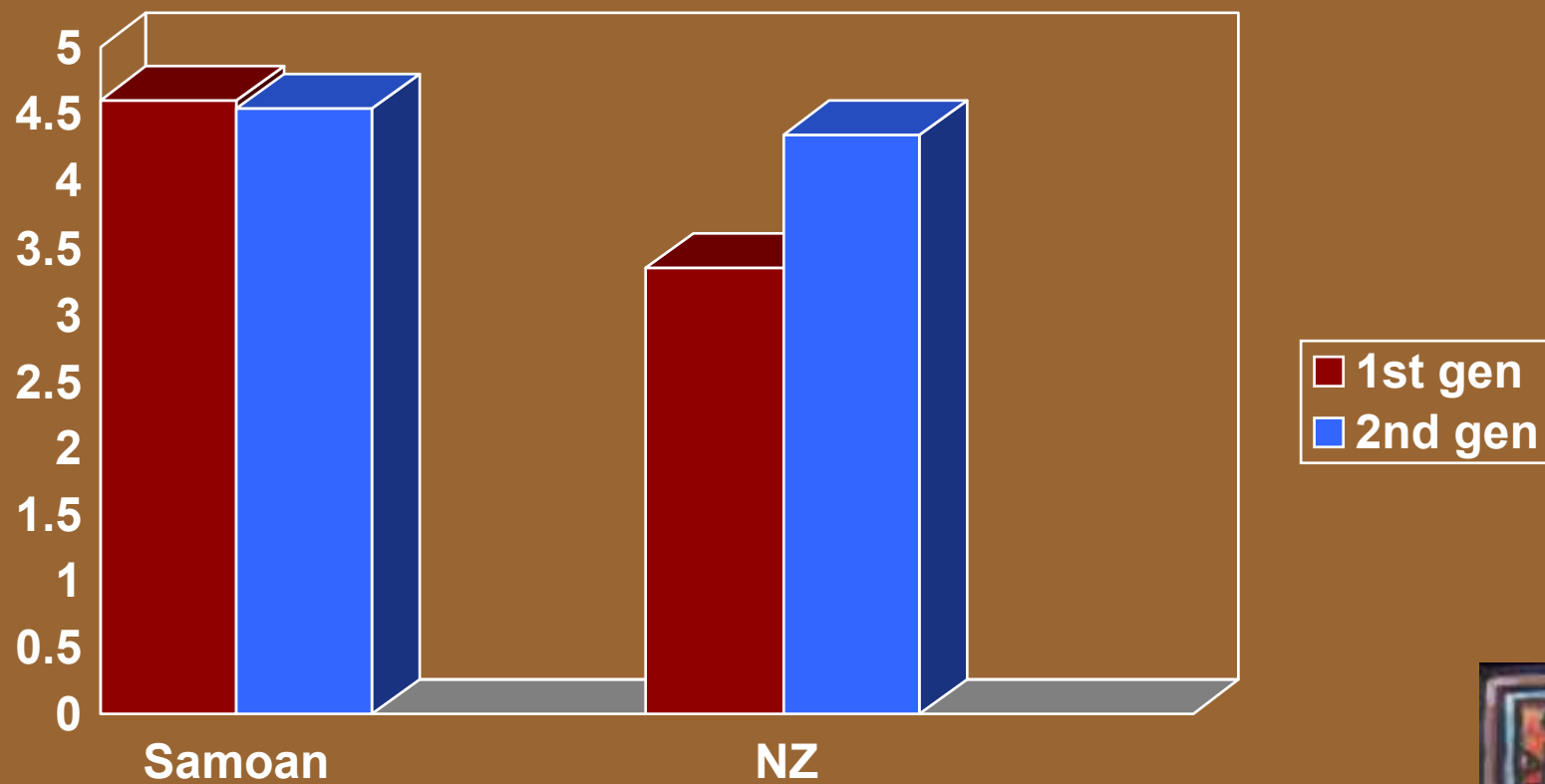
# KEY FINDINGS



*GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES  
IN IDENTITY AND CULTURAL  
MAINTENANCE*



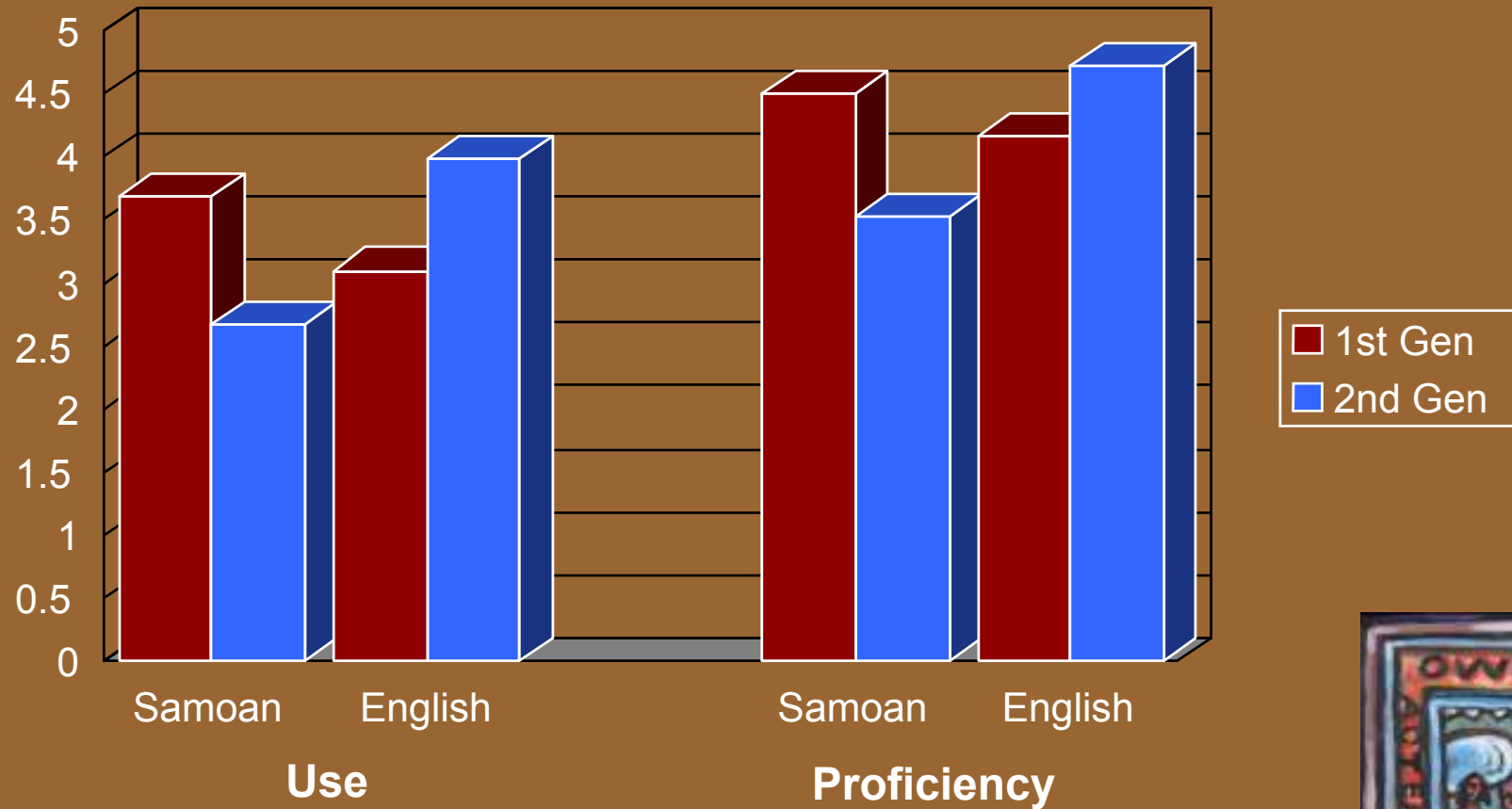
# SAMOAN AND NZ IDENTITY



$F(1, 203) = 43.85, p < .001$



# SAMOAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE USE AND PROFICIENCY



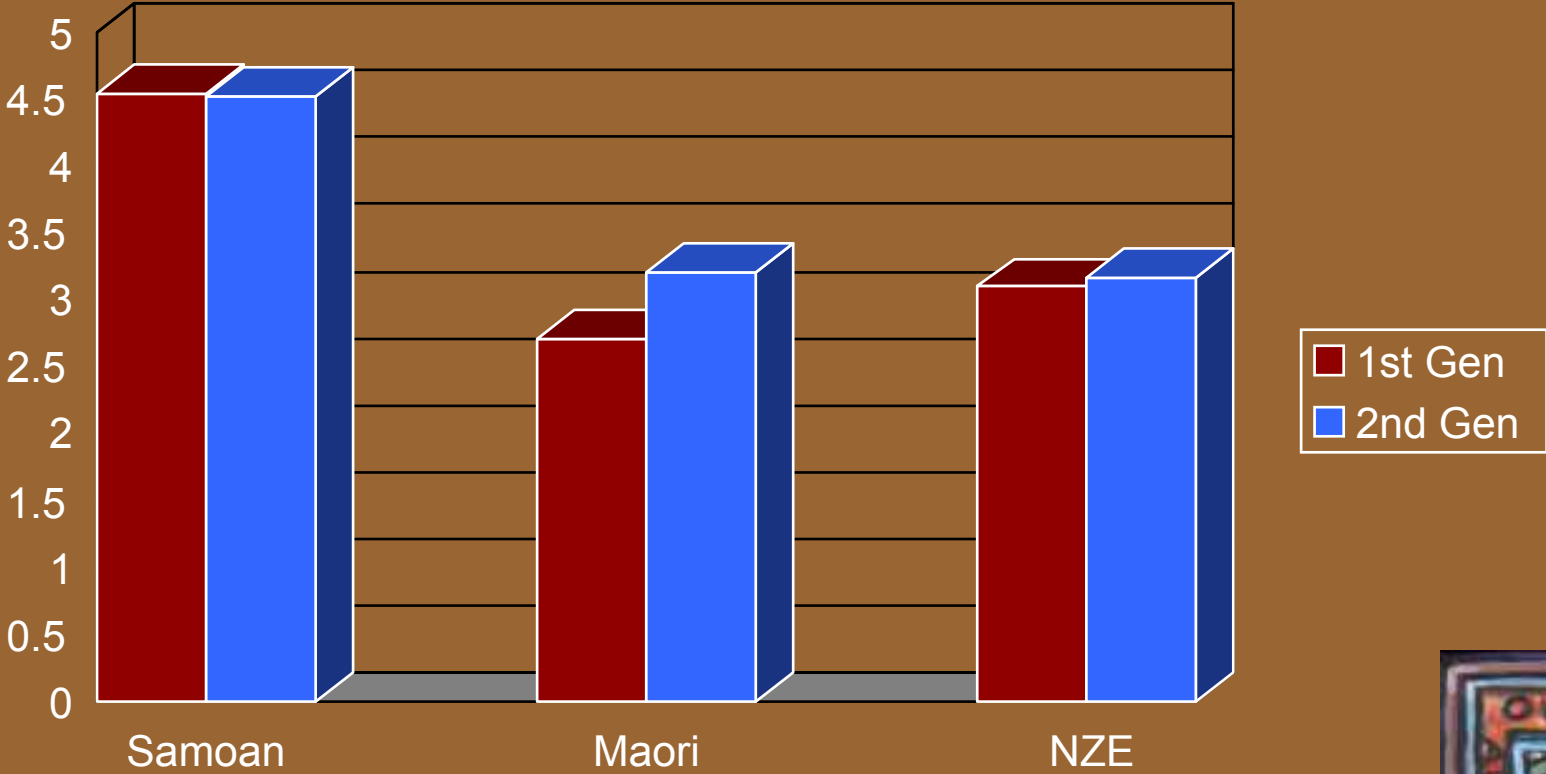
$F(1, 187) = 60.23, p < .001$

$F(1, 199) = 75.22, p < .001$





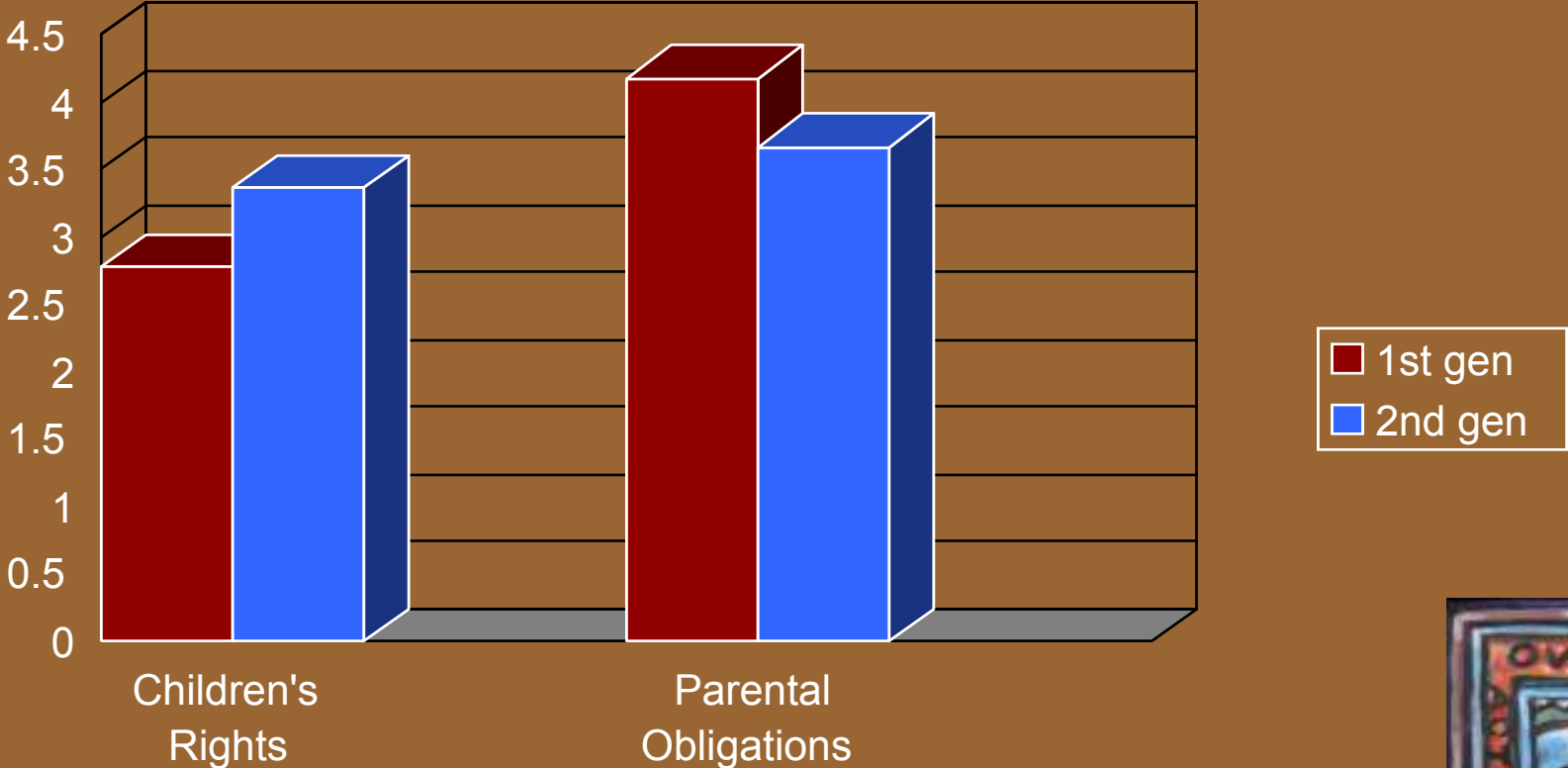
# PEER CONTACTS



$F(2, 406) = 7.82, p < .001$



# FAMILY VALUES



$F(1, 202) = 85.37, p < .001$



# HOW DO MIGRANT YOUTH LIVE WITHIN AND BETWEEN TWO CULTURES?



# FOUR ACCULTURATION PROFILES

- (Moderately) Multicultural
- Ethnic
- National
- Diffuse

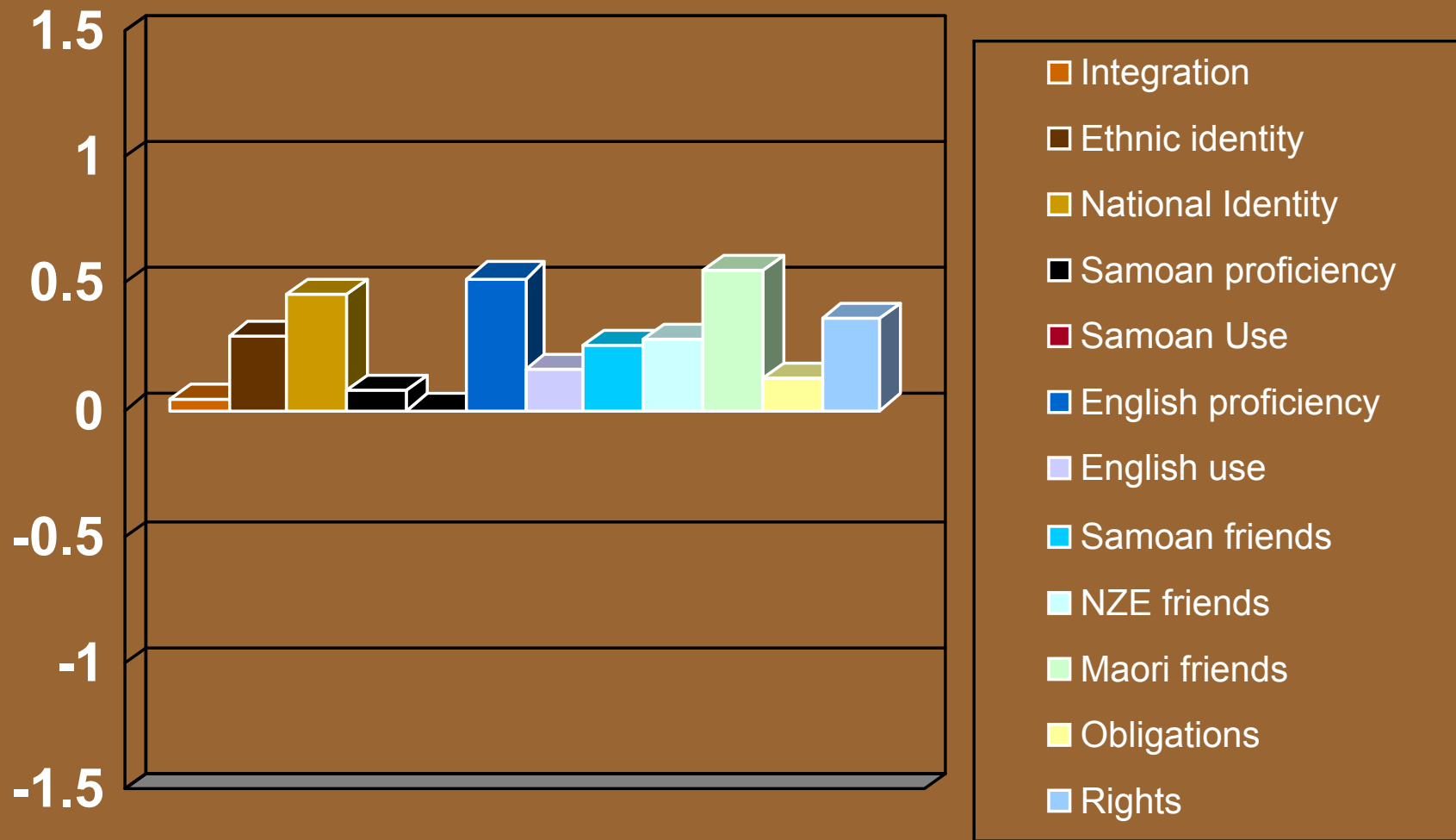


# (MODERATELY) MULTICULTURAL

- Moderately strong ethnic and national identity
- Good English proficiency
- Strong Maori peer contacts



# MULTICULTURAL PROFILE

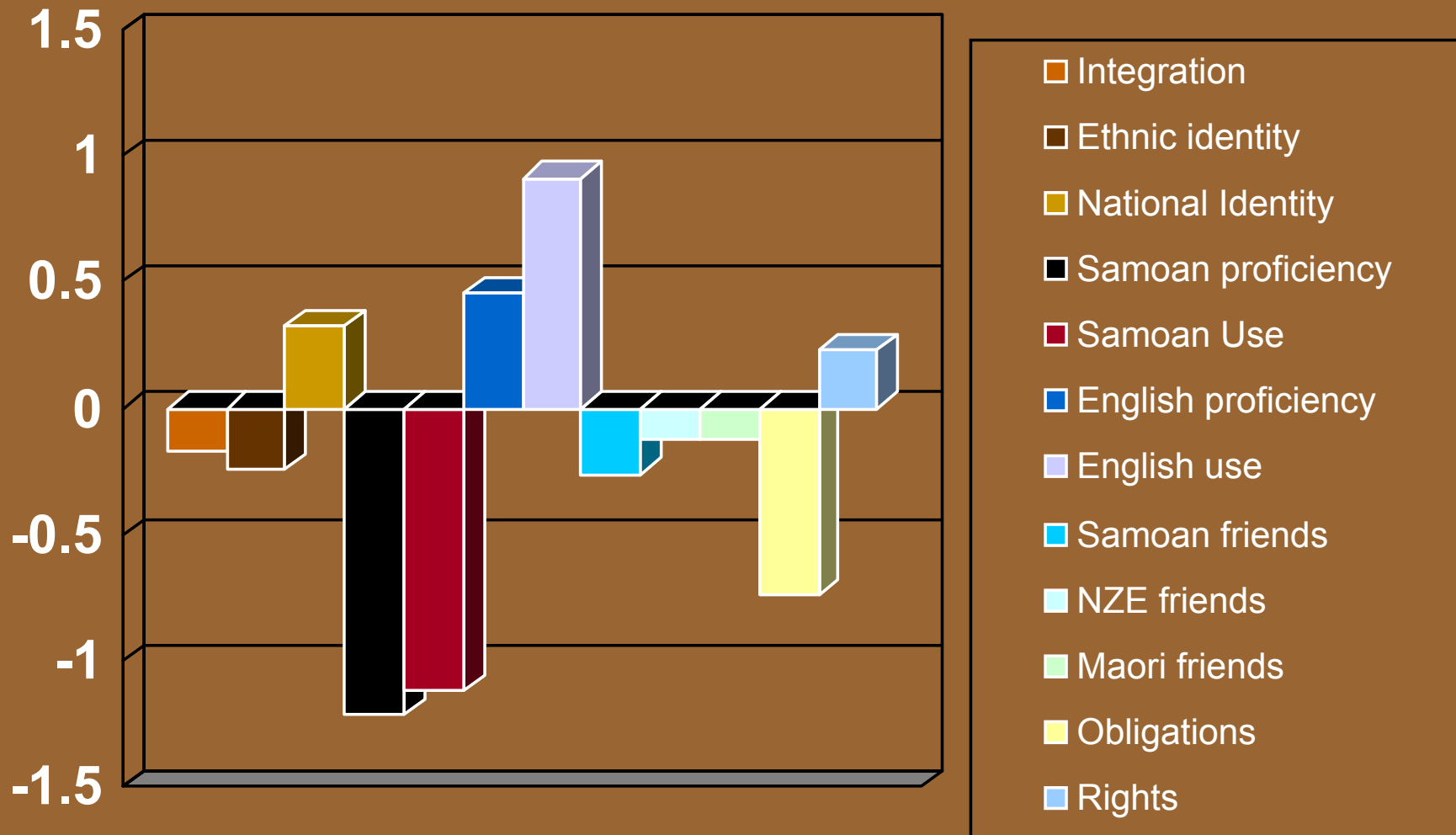


# NATIONAL

- Moderately strong national identity
- Good proficiency in and frequent use of English
- Poor ethnic language proficiency and infrequent use of ethnic language
- Strong national peer contacts and weak ethnic peer contacts
- Rejection of parental obligations



# NATIONAL PROFILE



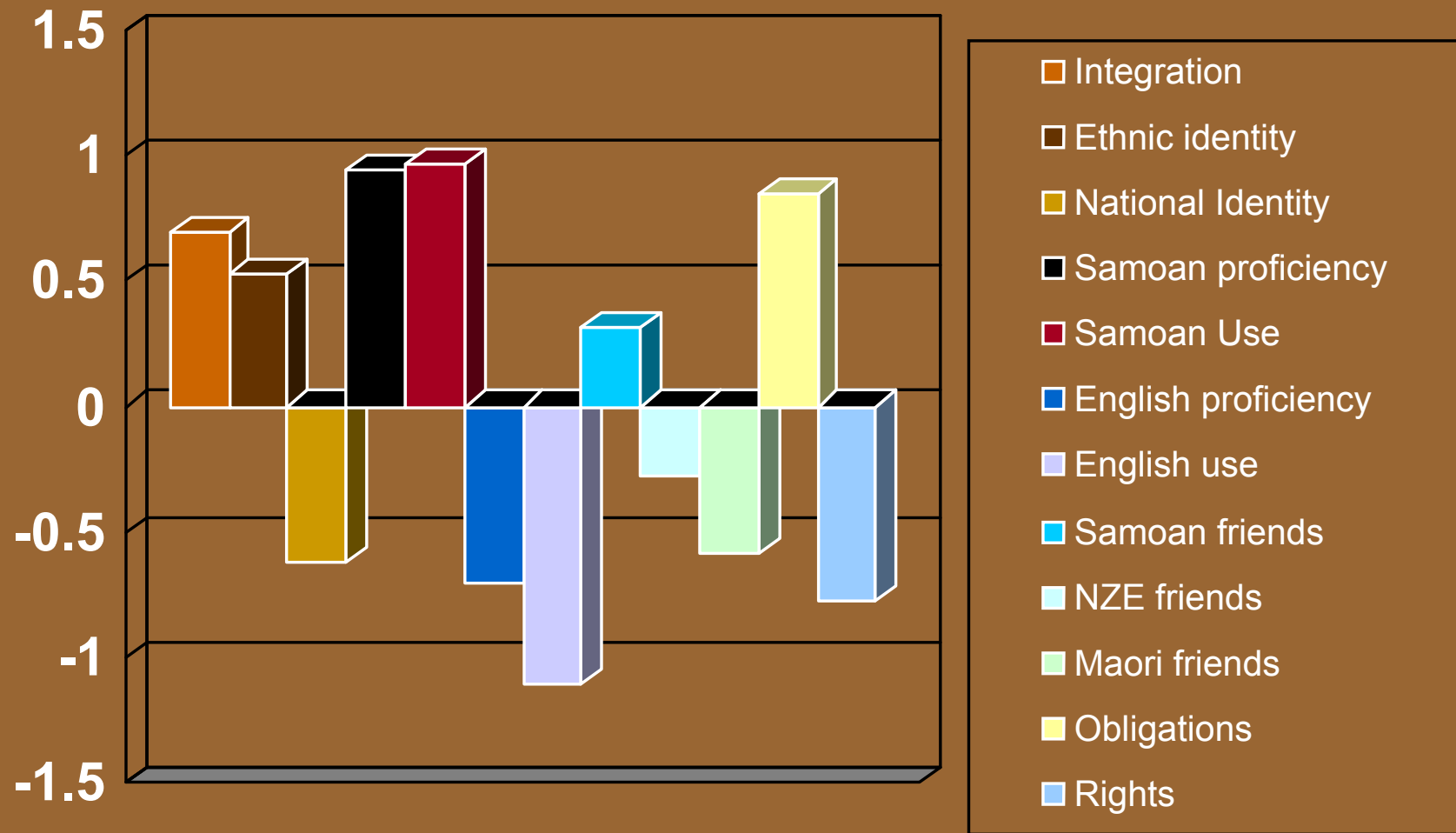


# ETHNIC

- Moderately strong ethnic identity and endorsement of integration
- Weak national identity and few national peer contacts
- Very good proficiency in and frequent use of ethnic language
- Poor English proficiency and infrequent use
- Strong endorsement of parental obligations and low support for children's rights



# ETHNIC PROFILE

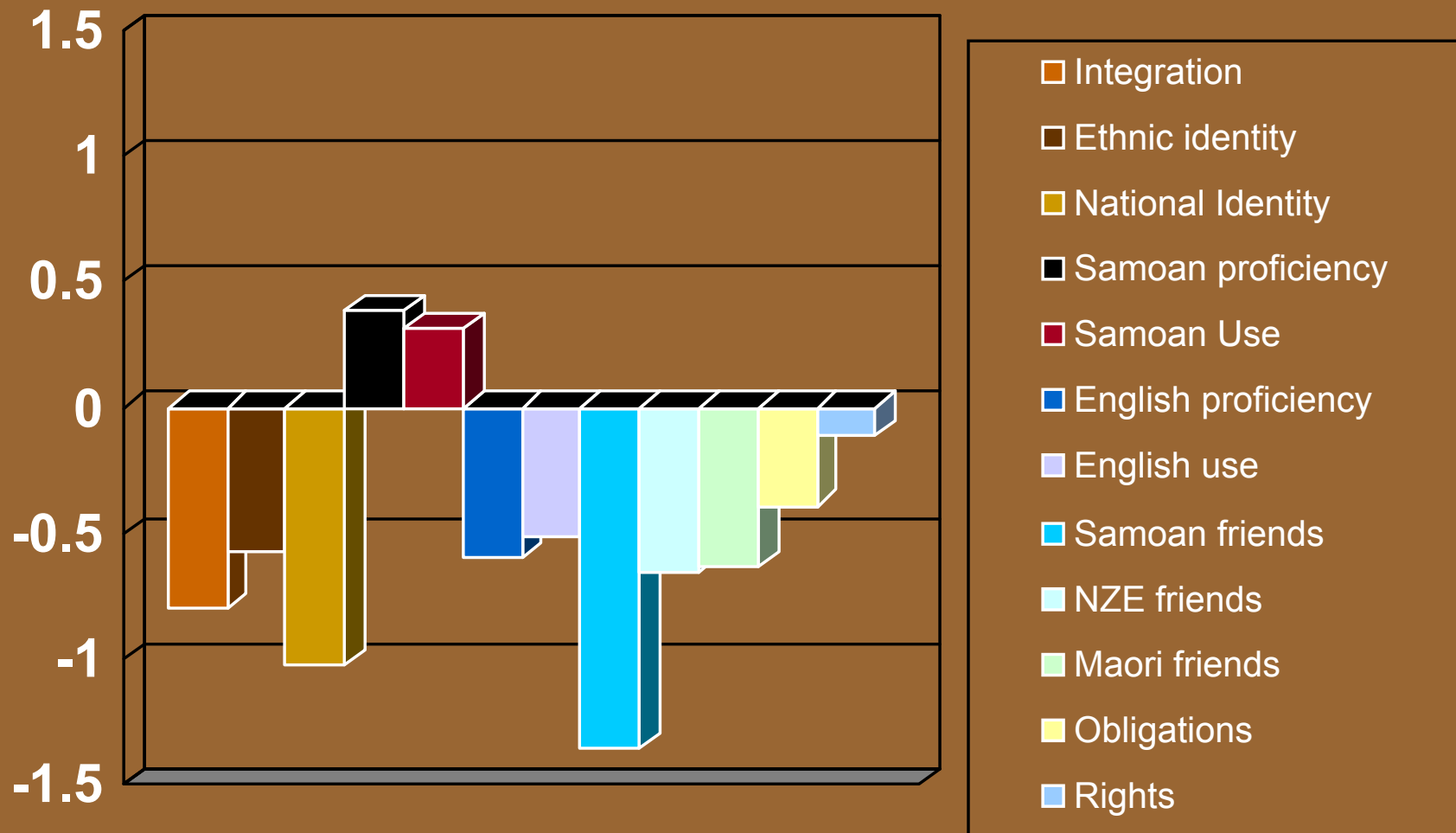


# DIFFUSE

- Weak ethnic identity and very weak national identity
- Little peer contact from ethnic or national groups
- Rejection of integration
- Moderately poor English proficiency



# DIFFUSE PROFILE



# ACCULTURATION PROFILES

%

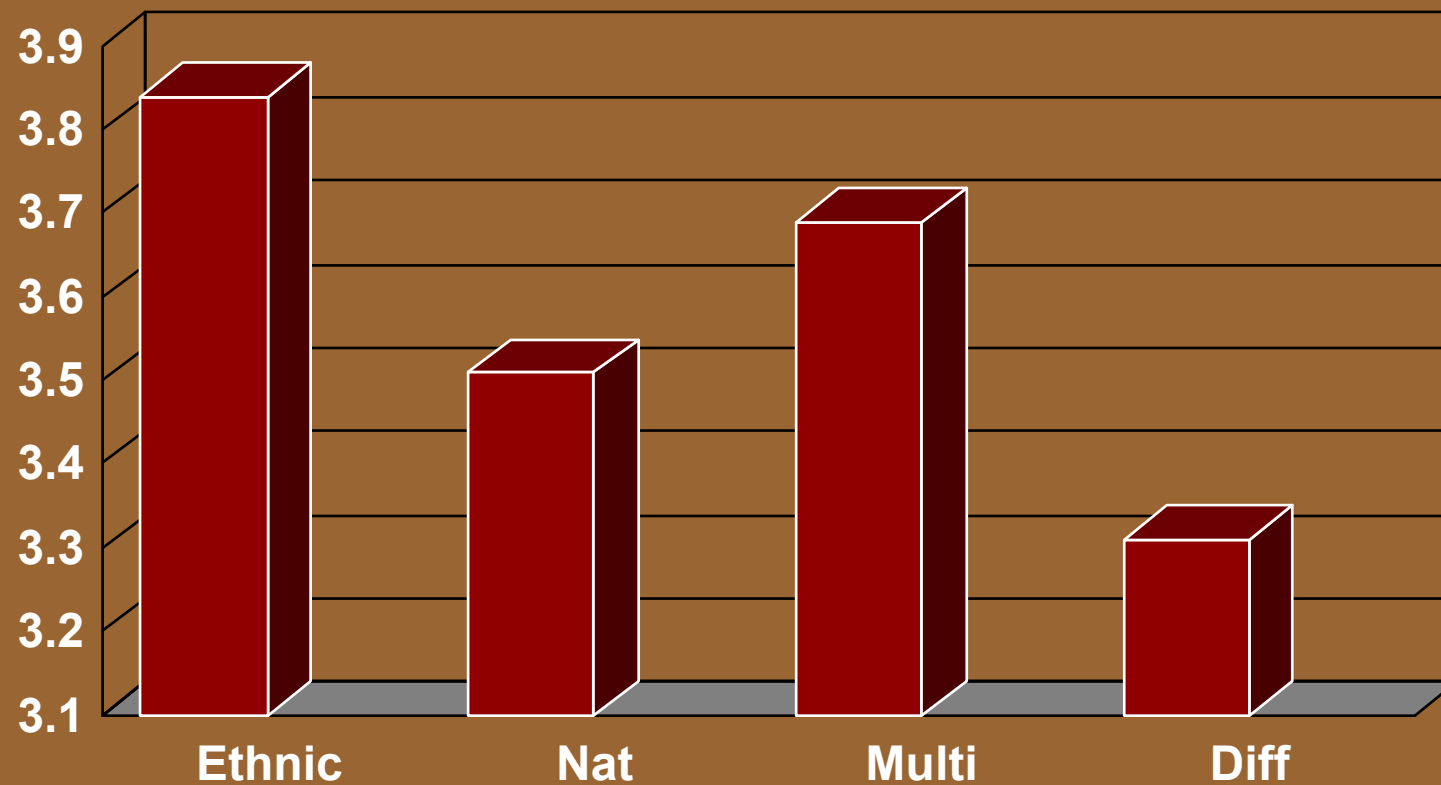
Profile	Samoaan born	NZ-born
Multicultural	25	49.5
National	4.5	40
Ethnic	52.3	7.6
Diffuse	18.2	2.9



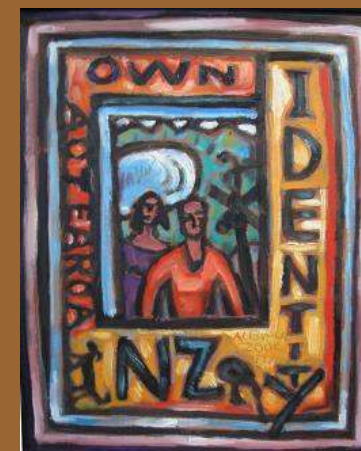
*WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN HOW MIGRANT YOUTH  
ENGAGE IN INTERCULTURAL  
RELATIONS AND HOW WELL  
THEY ADAPT?*



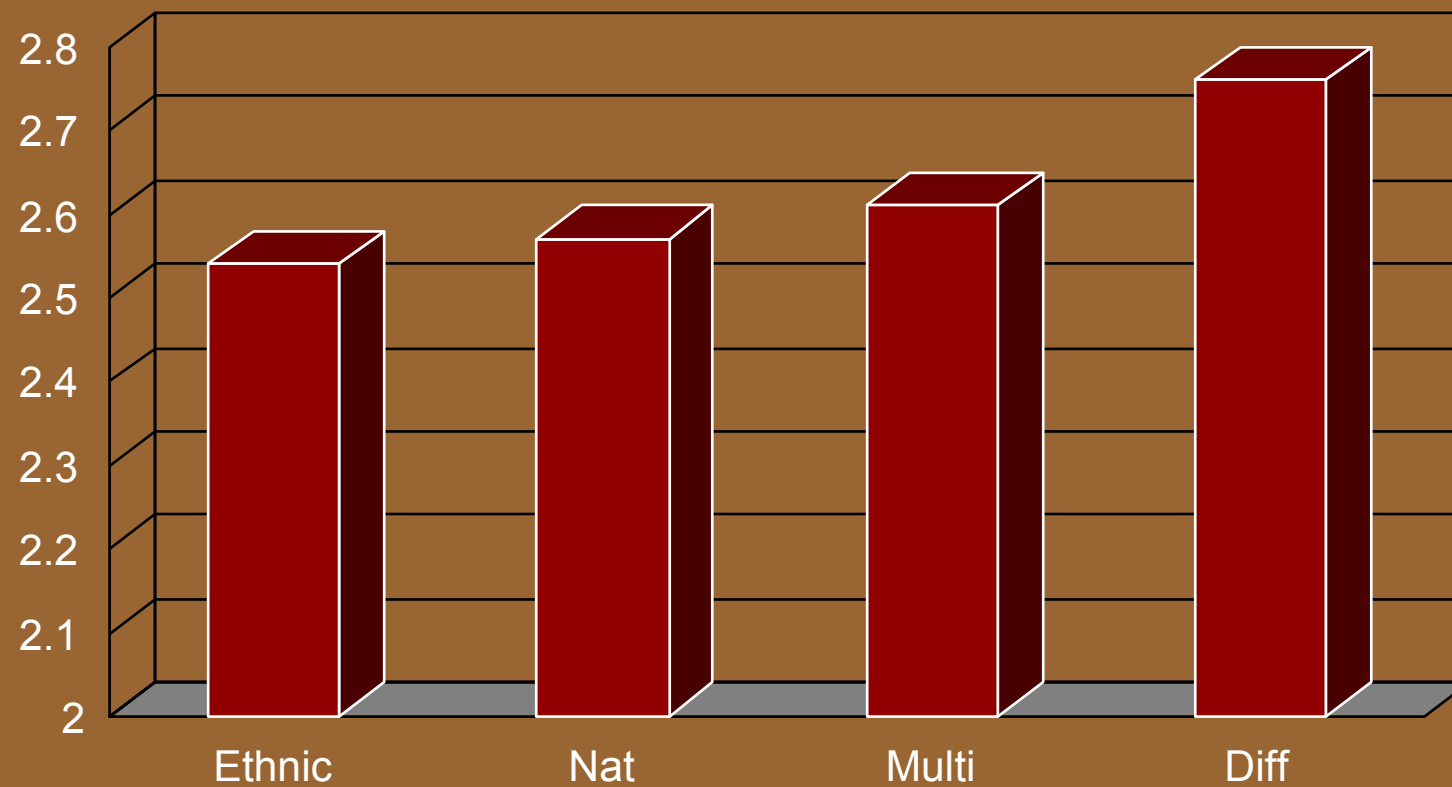
# LIFE SATISFACTION



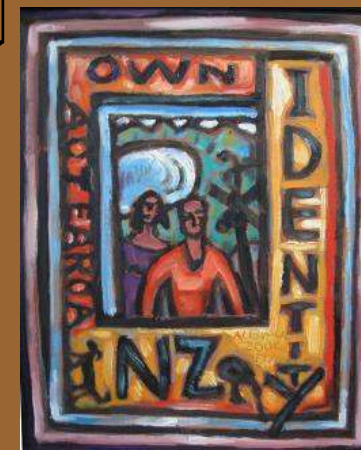
$F(3, 182) = 2.52, p < .059$



# PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS

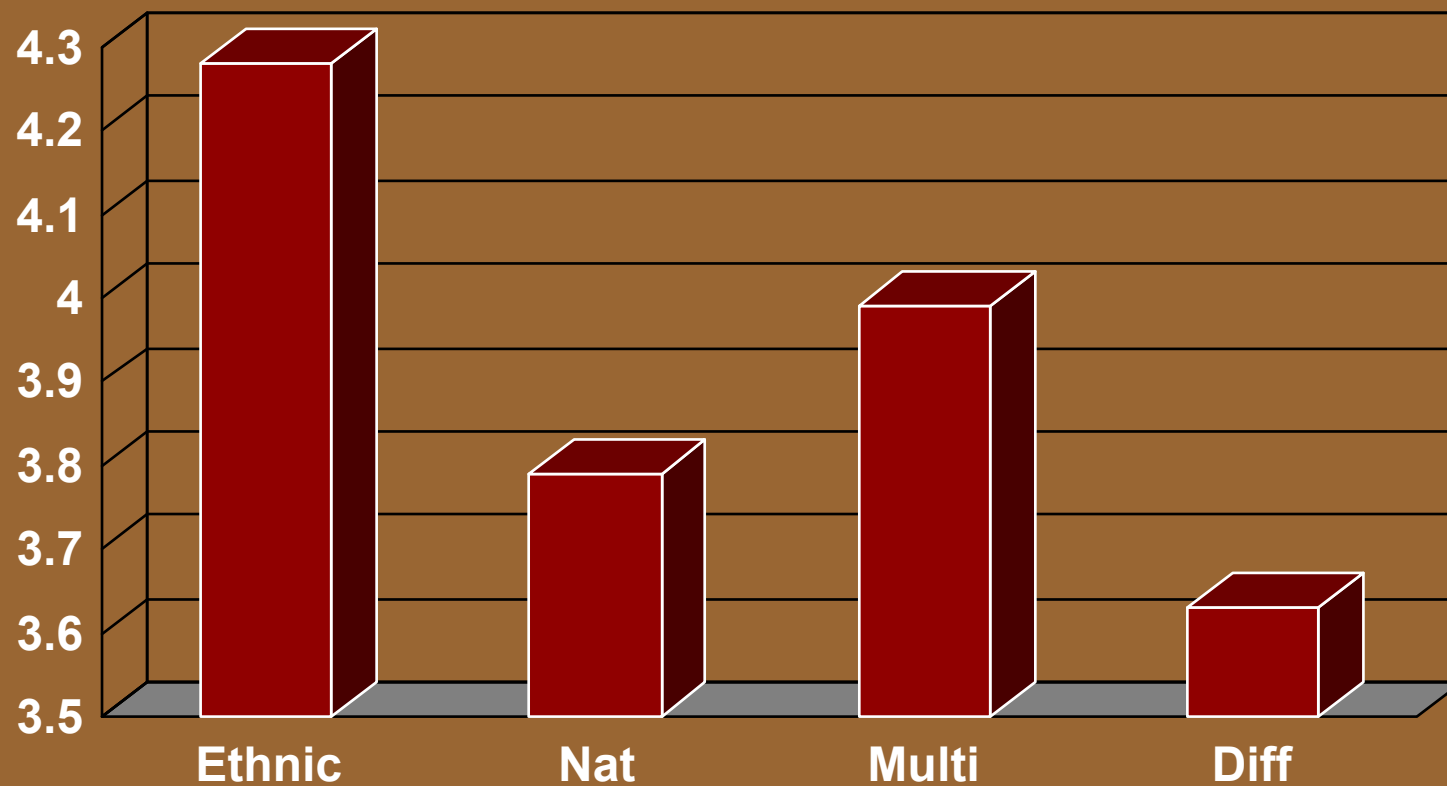


$F(3, 183) = 0.41, ns$

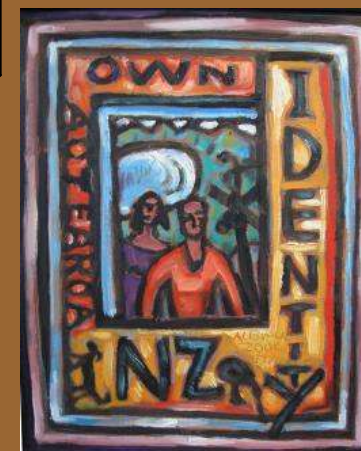




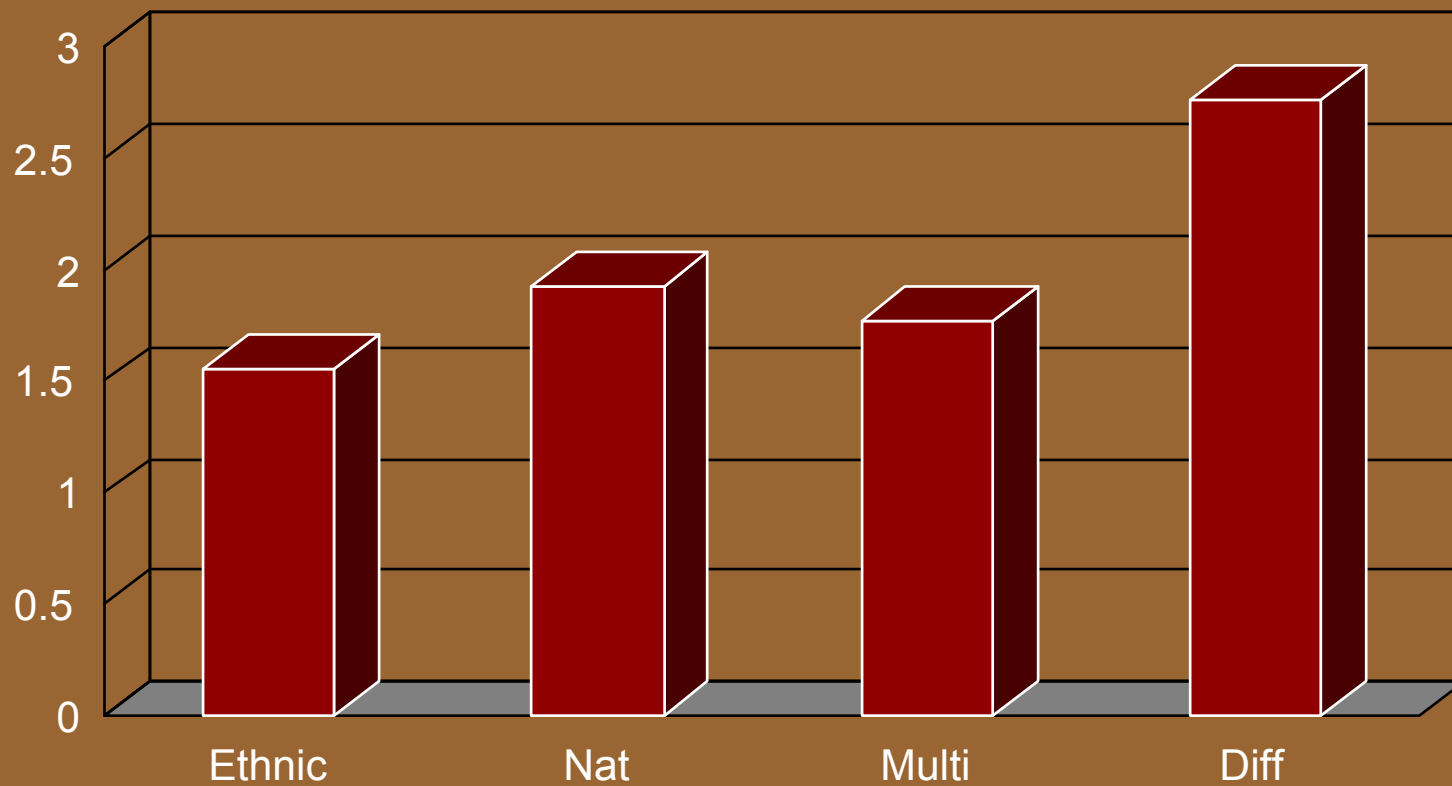
# SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT



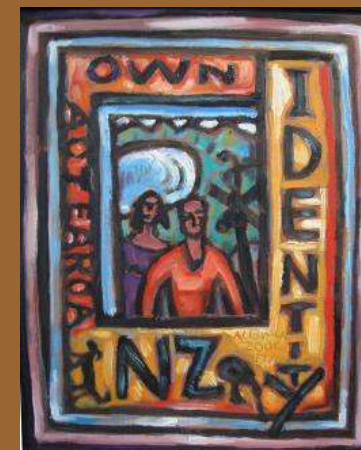
$F(3, 125) = 5.37, p < .002$



# BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS



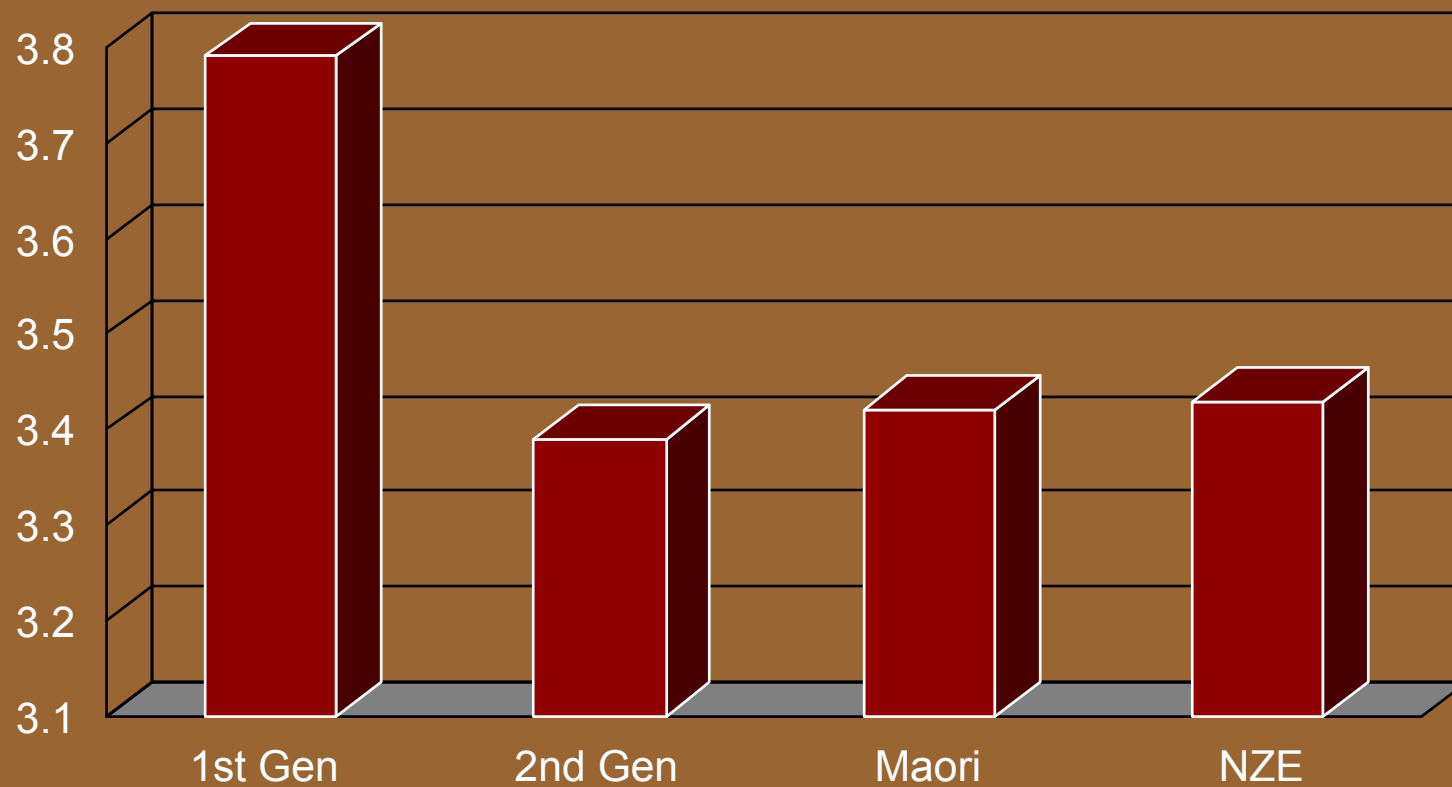
$F(3, 181) = 2.86, p < .04$



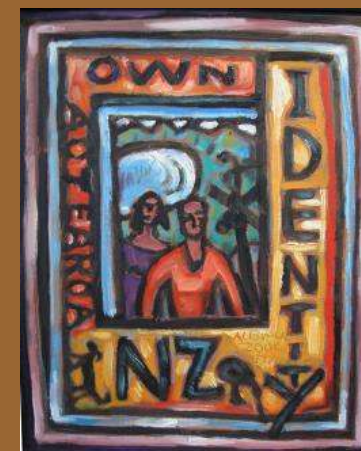
*ADAPTATION IN IMMIGRANT  
AND NATIONAL YOUTH*



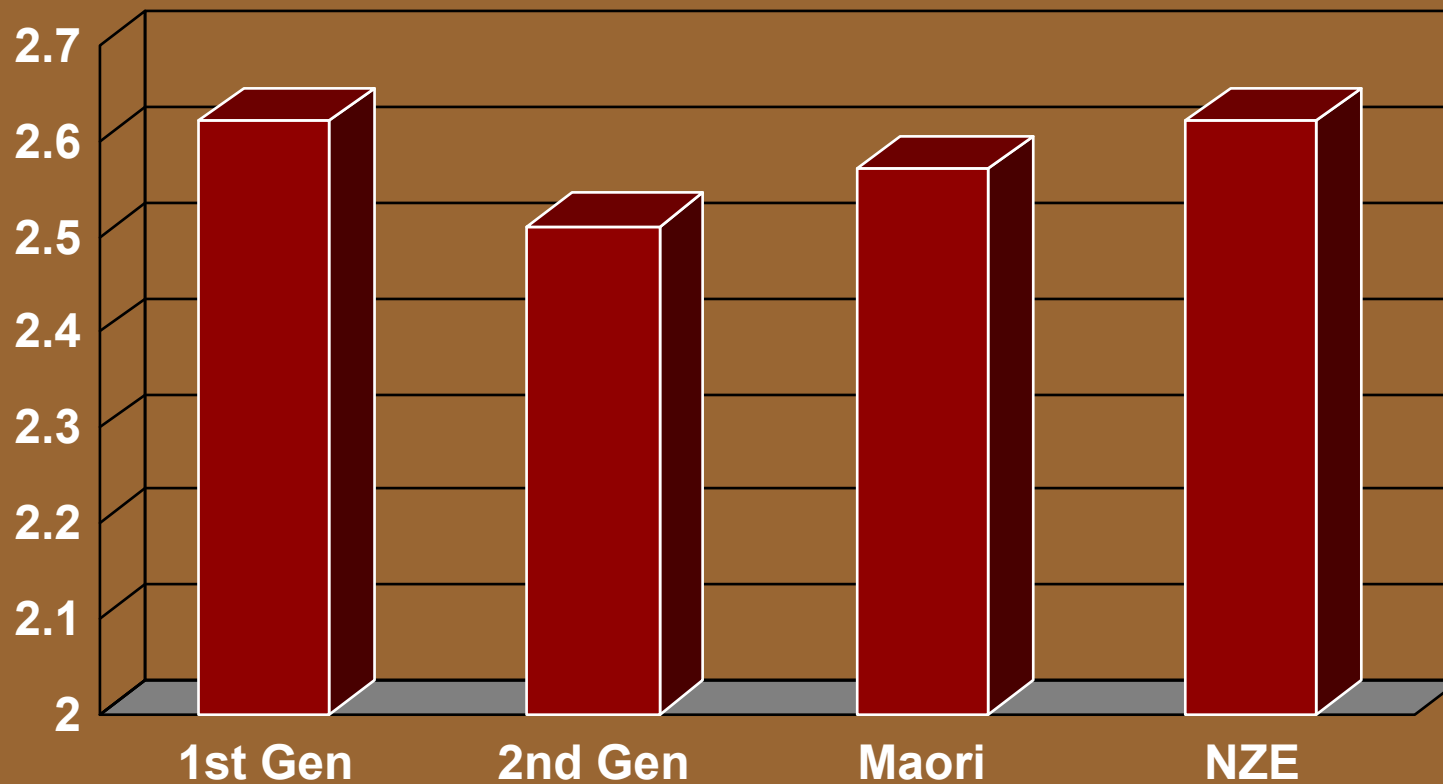
# LIFE SATISFACTION



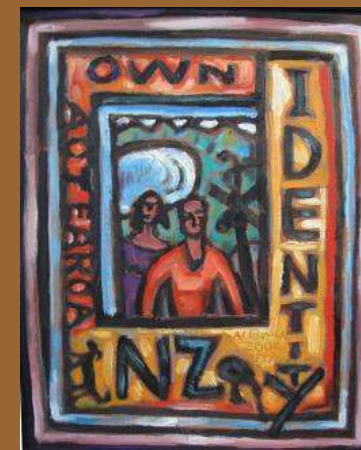
$F(3, 669) = 3.64, p < .002$



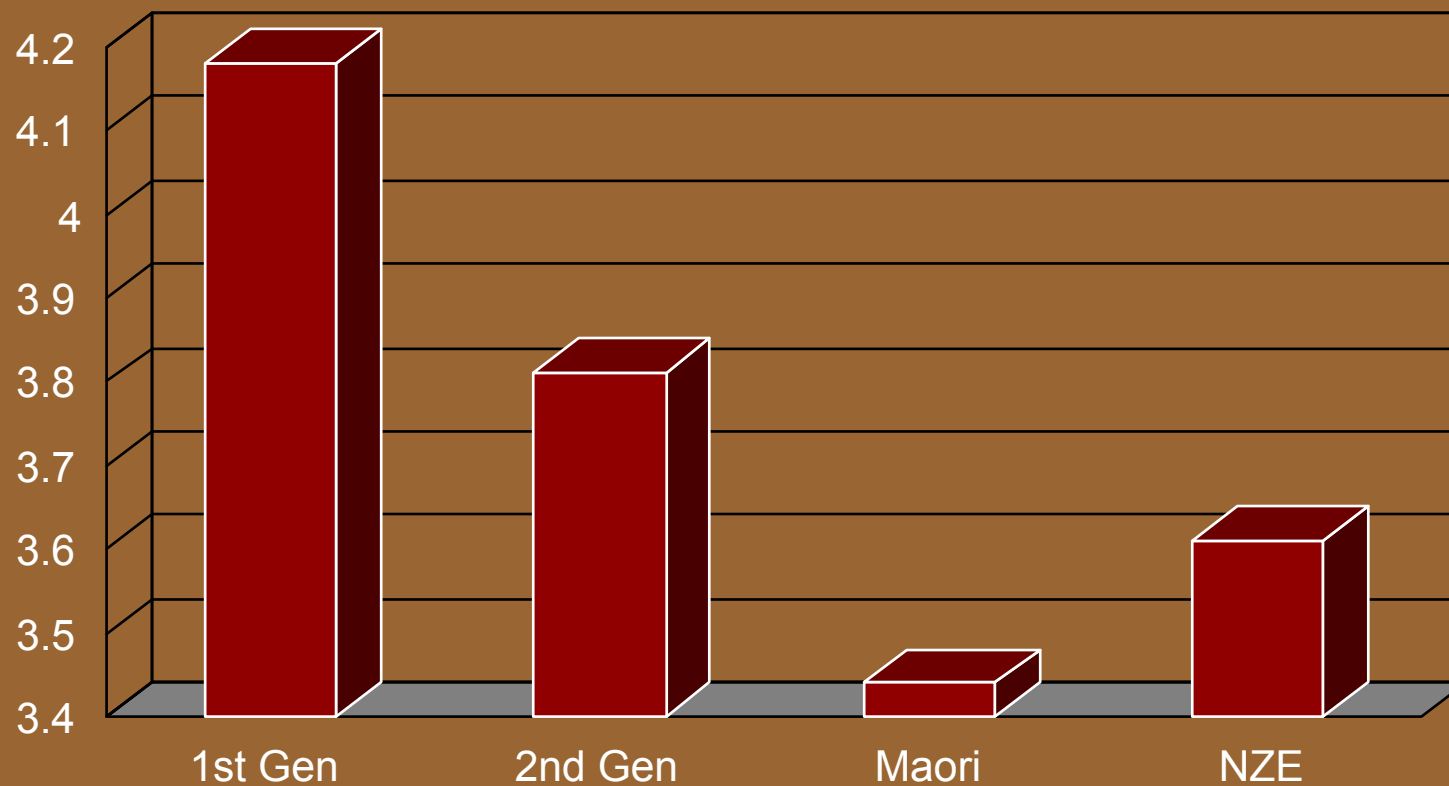
# PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS



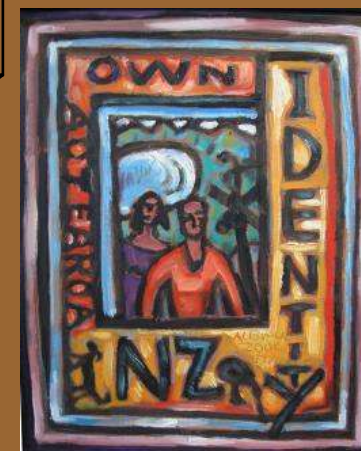
$F(3, 682) = 0.71, ns$



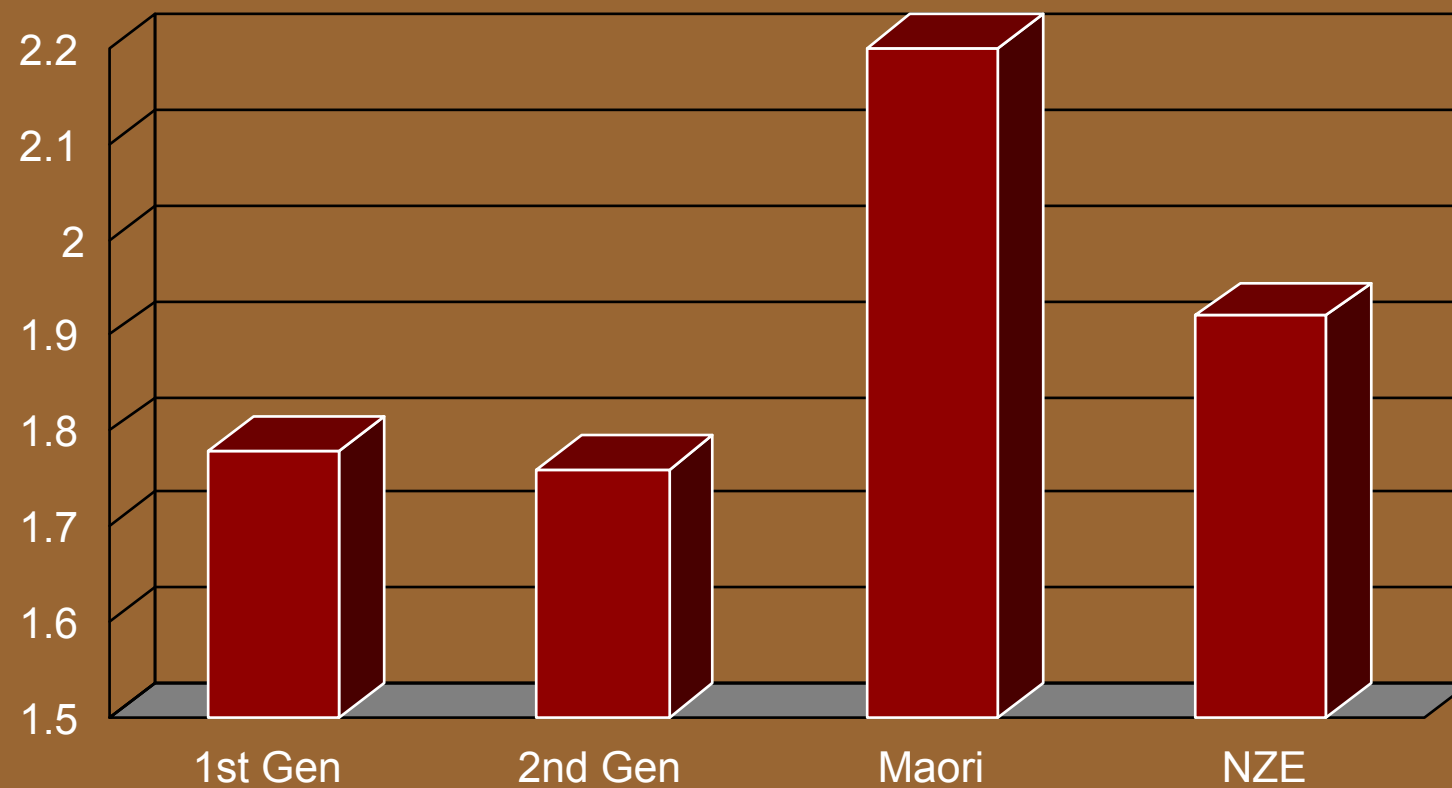
# SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT



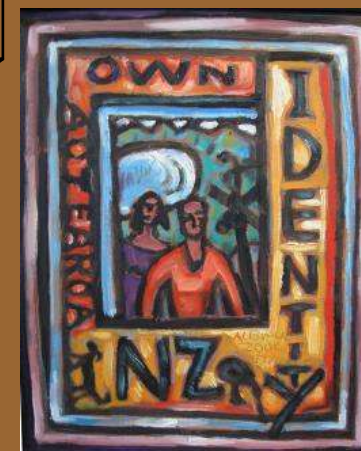
$F(3, 641) = 20.94, p < .001.$



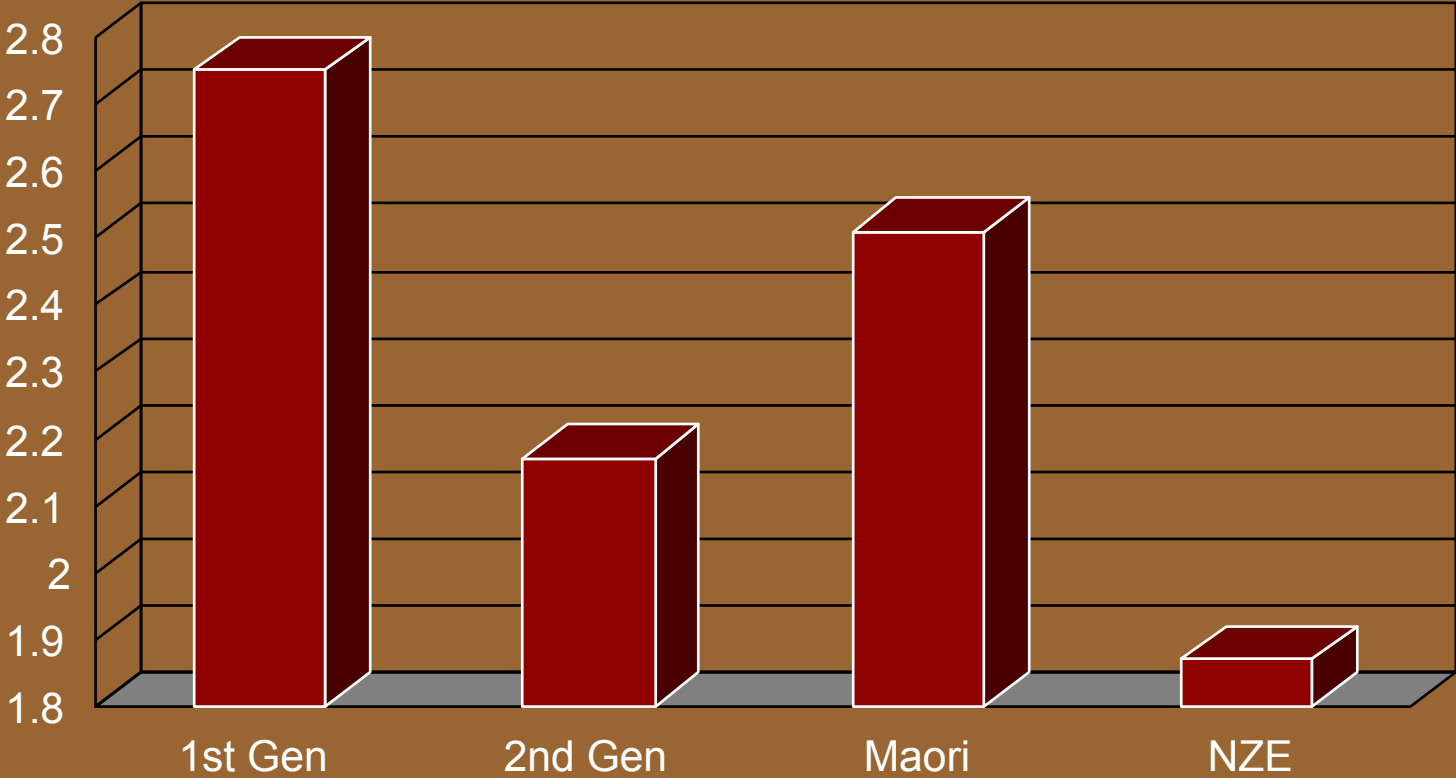
# BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS



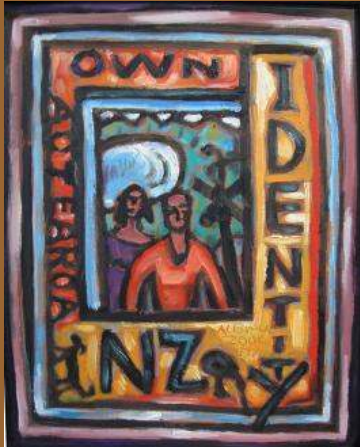
$F(3, 679) = 5.73, p < .001$



# DISCRIMINATION



$F(3, 681) = 36.28, p < .001$





# SUMMARY



- Overall, Samoan youth value cultural and language maintenance
- Samoan identity and peer contacts remain strong across generations, but language loss occurs
- NZ identity and English use and proficiency increase in second generation youth
- Overall Samoan youth adapt well and of the four acculturation profiles “Ethnic” youth tend to have the best outcomes
- Adaptation is achieved despite discrimination

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

*Promote policies and practices that encourage maintenance of traditional language and culture*



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