Asian Concept of Self and CPE supervision

Rev. Ki Do Ahn
Ph. D. Candidate at G.T.U.
ACPE supervisor at CPE of Central California
kidoahn@cpecentralca.org, or ahnkido@gmail.com
Discloser

- 1st generation Korean immigrant
- PCUSA ordained and endorsed
- Attends Korean-American church (Korean speaking worship service)
- Married with a 1st generation Korean immigrant woman
- Have a daughter and using Korean in conversation with her
CASE 1

• How can you ask me “Do you trust the group?”
Self (Kitayama, Shinobu, Sean Duffy, and Yukiko Uchida, 2010)

- The self as a social product (Cooley 1902/1922, Mead, 1934)
- The self is made possible through symbolically meditated, collaborative social interaction among many individuals in given cultural community. (Baumeister, 2005)
- The self is best conceptualized as a psychological system for behavioral regulation (Kitayama & Duffy, 2004)
Pattern of Social Relations (Kitayama, Duffy, & Uchida 2007)

Cultural Patterns of social relations

Social relations governed by instrumental goals of separated selves

Social relations providing the context for the definitions of connected selves

The central principle of action regulation

Goal-directedness

Responsive to social contingencies

Three features of the mode of being

Independent mode
  - action as influence
  - analytic cognition
  - self-centricity

Interdependent mode
  - action as adjustment
  - holistic cognition
  - other-centricity
CASE 2

• I am frustrated that a patient is answering with “We” even though I ask him “you(I)”
Korean cultural psychology (Choi, 1999)
Korean concept of self
Development of Uri-sung (We-ness) 1

a, b, c: n = personal area, d: commonness

a, b, c: n = personal area, d: commonness
e: assumed commonness
Development of Uri-sung (We-ness) 2

a, b, c: n = personal area, d: commonness

g: assumed commonness (expanding)

h: Uri-sung (deindividuation or depersonalization)
• How is your family?
Cross-cultural psychology (Roland, 1988)

Asian Culture

American Culture
Bicultural self (Roland 2011)

- Familial self
- Individualized self
- Spiritual self
- Expanding self
Three dimensions of hierarchy

1. Structural hierarchy
2. The qualitative mode of hierarchical relationships,
3. Hierarchy by quality
CASE 4

• “I am available whenever you want me to”
Case 5

• Supervising Twins
Pastoral Ministry and CPE supervision

- Respecting different culture
- Respecting different concept of self
- Using I or We
- Chaplain as an authority
- Family conference
Selected Bibliography


