### Cultural Issues in the Treatment of Depression Among Chinese

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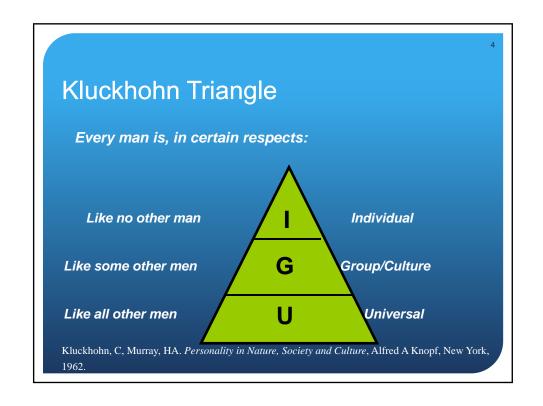
### Disclosure / Conflict of Interest

• None

### **Learning Objectives**

- 1. Describe a cultural competent framework towards the treatment of mental disorders.
- 2. Identify diagnostic challenges of mood disorders due to cultural issues.
- 3. Formulate treatment plans for mood disorders, including psychotherapeutic interventions, taking cultural issues into account.



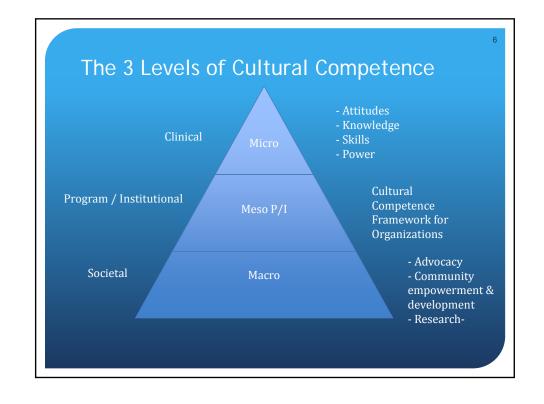


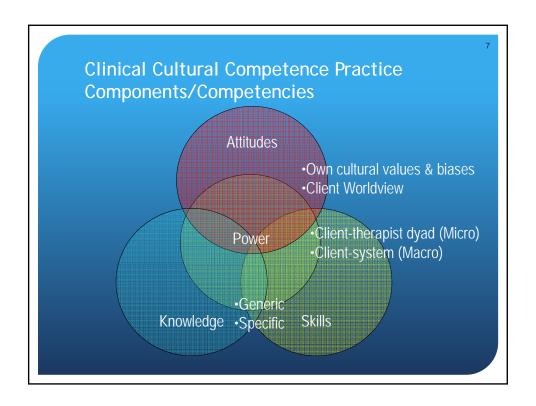
### **Cultural Competence**

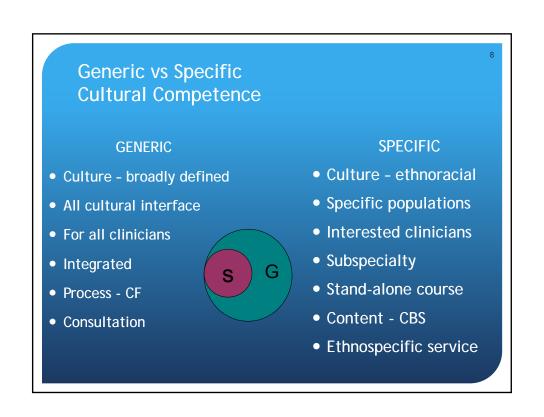
 "a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals and enable that system, agency or those professionals to work effectively in crosscultural situations"

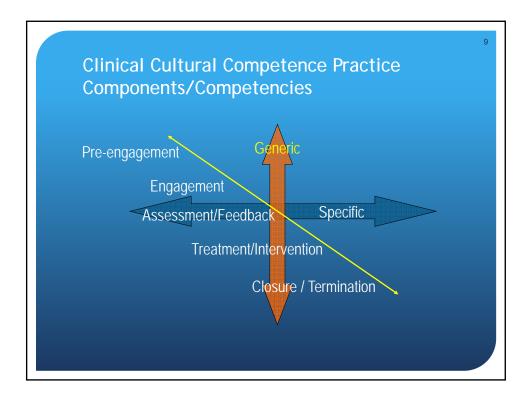


Terry Cross et al (1988)











Depressive Disorders

- Major Depressive Episode (> 2 weeks):
  - Depressed mood
  - Decreased interest
  - Weight Loss or Gain / Appetite Changes
  - Insomnia or Hypersomnia
  - Psychomotor Agitation or Retardation
  - Fatigue or Loss of energy
  - Feelings of Worthlessness / Guilt
  - Decreased concentration or Indecisiveness
  - Recurrent thoughts of death / Suicide

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### Depression

- Genetic Studies on twins show that if one of the identical twins has depression there is a 65-75% chance that the twin sibling also has depression; the incident rate among fraternal twins is 14-19%.
- Neurochemistry Depression may be related to problems with "neurotransmitters" which are chemicals that are used to pass signals from one brain cell to another brain cell.
- Psychological Self-esteem, cognitive (e.g. negative thinking).
- Psychosocial and socio-economical Stress from loss of job, poverty, relationship difficulties, inequitable opportunities in society or experience of other hardships.

## **Epidemiology of Depression**

- Prevalence:
  - Life time: 4.4 18%
  - 2:1 F:M

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## WHO Developed/World Data: DALYs 2002

Lower respiratory infections **HIV/AIDS** 84.5 Unipolar depressive disorders 67.3 Diarrhoeal diseases 62.0 58.6 Ischaemic heart disease 49.2 Cerebrovascular disease 48.5 Other unintentional injuries 46.5 Malaria 46.3 Low birth weight Childhood-cluster diseases 41.5 38.7 Road traffic accidents 34.7 **Tuberculosis** 34.4 Birth asphyxia and birth trauma 27.8 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease Other digestive disease

### Depression in the Elderly

- Community:
  - 25% some depressive symptoms
  - 1-9% MDD
- LTC:
  - 10-22%

### Risk factors for late-onset depression Hypothyroidism (50%) Myocardial infarction (45%) Macular degeneration (33%) Diabetes (8% to 28%) Cancer (24%) Coronary artery disease (20%) Medications Beta-blockers Interferon alfa Many anticancer drugs Central nervous system disease Parkinson's disease (25% to 70%) Alzheimer's disease (15% to 57%) Multiple sclerosis (27% to 54%) Stroke (26% to 54%) esp. L/F Huntington 's disease (9% to 44%) Microvascular ischemic disease of the brain (20%) Mini-Mental State Examination score <24

Depression in the Elderly

- apathy
- memory problems
- confusion
- social withdrawal
- loss of appetite
- inability to sleep
- irritability

Antidepressant trial

- Delusions and hallucinations
- severe feelings of sadness, but not acknowledged
- persistent and vague complaints and help seeking
- frequent calling and demanding behavior

Differentiating between dementia and the dementia syndrome of depression

Signs and symptoms

Depression

Dementia

Onset Abrupt, rapid decline Slow, insidious Sleep problems Early awakening No specific pattern Worse in morning Diurnal variation Sun-downing present Electroencephalogram Normal Abnormal Dexamethasone suppression test No suppression Normal Thyrotropin-releasing hormone test Blunting Normal

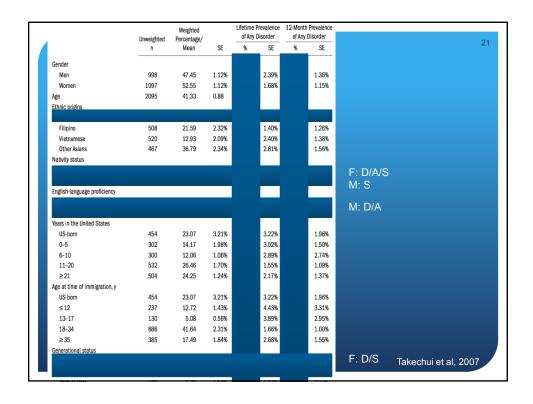
Response

No response

### Depression in the Chinese

- Existing epidemiologic studies tend to report very low rates:
  - lifetime prevalence of affective disorder = 0.08% in 7 regions of China (Zhang 98)
  - lifetime prevalence of depression: 1.5% in Taiwan (vs 2.9 19 % elsewhere) (JAMA 96)
  - Low rates of depression found in over-seas Chinese compared to local population

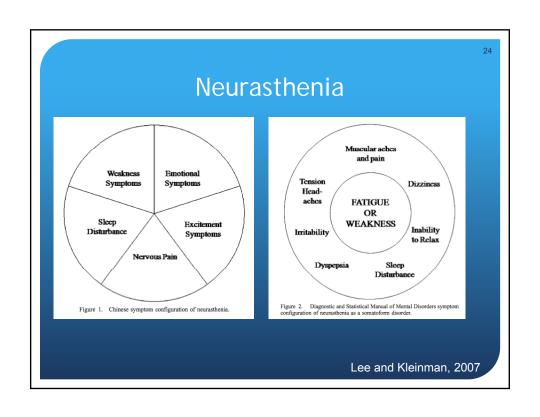
	% (95% Confidence Interval)							
Country	Anxiety	Mood	Impulse-Control	Substance	Any			
mericas Colombia	10.0 (8.4-11.7)	6.8 (6.0-7.7)	3.9 (3.2-4.7)	2.8 (2.0-3.7)	17.8 (16.1-19.5)			
Mexico	6.8 (5.6-7.9)†	4.8 (4.0-5.6)	1.3 (0.9-1.8)	2.5 (1.8-3.3)	12.2 (10.5-13.80)			
United States	18.2 (16.9-19.5)	9.6 (8.8-10.4)	6.8 (5.9-7.8)	3.8 (3.2-4.5)	26.4 (24.7-28.0)			
urope Belgium	6.9 (4.5-9.4)	6.2 (4.8-7.6)§	1.0 (0.3-1.8)	1.2 (0.6-1.9)‡‡	12.0 (9.6-14.3)			
France	12.0 (9.8-14.2)	8.5 (6.4-10.6)§	1.4 (0.7-2.0)	0.7 (0.3-1.2)##	18.4 (15.3-21.5)			
Germany	6.2 (4.7-7.6)	3.6 (2.8-4.3)§	0.3 (0.1-0.6)	1.1 (0.4-1.7)‡‡	9.1 (7.3-10.8)			
Italy	5.8 (4.5-7.1)	3.8 (3.1-4.5)§	0.3 (0.1-0.5)	0.1 (0.0-0.2)##	8.2 (6.7-9.7)			
Netherlands	8.8 (6.6-11.0)	6.9 (4.1-9.7)§	1.3 (0.4-2.2)	3.0 (0.7-5.2)##	14.9 (12.2-17.6)			
Spain	5.9 (4.5-7.3)	4.9 (4.0-5.8)§	0.5 (0.2-0.8)	0.3 (0.0-0.5)##	9.2 (7.8-10.6)			
Ukraine	7.1 (5.6-8.6)†‡	9.1 (7.3-10.9)§	3.2 (2.4-4.0)¶#**	6.4 (4.8-8.1)‡‡	20.5 (17.7-23.2)			
liddle East and Africa Lebanon	11.2 (8.9-13.5)	6.6 (4.9-8.2)	1.7 (0.8-2.6)¶**	1.3 (0.0-2.8)	16.9 (13.6-20.2)			
Nigeria	3.3 (2.4-4.2)	0.8 (0.5-1.0)	0.0 (0.0-0.1)¶#**	0.8 (0.3-1.2)	4.7 (3.6-5.8)			
sia Japan	5.3 (3.5-7.0)†	3.1 (2.2-4.1)	1.0 (0.4-1.5)¶#**††	1.7 (0.3-3.0)	8.8 (6.4-11.2)			
People's Republic of China Beijing	3.2 (1.8-4.6)†	2.5 (1.5-3.4)	2.6 (1.3-3.9)¶#**	2.6 (1.2-3.9)	9.1 (6.0-12.1)			
Shanghai	2.4 (0.9-3.9)†	1.7 (0.6-2.9)	0.7 (0.4-1.1)¶#**	0.5 (0.3-0.6)	4.3 (2.7-5.9)			
Anxiety disorders include agrorphobia, phobia. Mood disorders include bipole and reported persistence in the past 11 disorders. Substance disorders in the past 11 disorders. Substance disorders land and who continue to have any symptol made as specified in the Diagnostic are Disessive-compulsive disorder was no specific phobia was not assessed pipolar disorders were not assessed disorders were not assessed. Substance in the proper Substance in the properties of Substance The Properties of Substance Substanc	ar I and II disorders, dysthy 2 months of symptoms of 3 alcohol or drug abuse or ms are considered to have ad Statistical Manual of Me it assessed. assessed. was not assessed.	mia, and major depressive 3 child-adolescent disorder dependence. In the case of 12-month dependence ex	disorder. Impulse-control disorders (attention-deficit hyperactivity of substance dependence, respondence if they currently do not meet	ders include bullmia, intern disorder, conduct disorder, ndents who met full criteria full criteria for the disorder. thy rules were not used.	ittent explosive disorder and oppositional-defian at some time in their life			



### Lower rates in Chinese?

- Cultural protective factors
  - Stronger social support
  - Tolerance/Forbearance
  - Different belief systems, e.g. fate
- Stigma
- Diagnostic Issues
  - Neurasthenia
- Somatization

# Cultural Bound Syndromes • Koro • qi-gong psychotic reaction • Shenjing shuairuo



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### **DSM-IV** Cultural Formulation

- Cultural Identity: ethnicity, language, involvement with culture of origin and host culture
- II. Explanatory Model Cultural explanations of the illness; help seeking experiences and plans
- III. Cultural Factors in the psychosocial environment: stressors and supports
- IV. Cultural Elements of the clinician-patient relationship
- V. Overall Cultural Assessment

Bi-dimensional Model of Acculturation Maintenance of Heritage Culture & **Identity** High Low Maintenance of High Integration Assimilation Multiculturalism Mainstream Melting Pot Culture & Identity Low Separation Marginalization Exclusion Segregation Berry 2002

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### ii. Explanatory Models (Kleinman)

- 1. What do you think caused your problem?
- 2. Why do you think it started when it did?
- 3. What does your sickness do to you? How does it work?
- 4. How severe is your sickness? How long do you expect it to last?
- 5. What problems has your sickness caused you?
- 6. What do you fear about your sickness?
- 7. What kind of treatment do you think you should receive?
- 8. What are the most important results you hope to receive from this treatment?

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Table 4
Standardized coefficients (beta) from multiple regression of perceived causative categories, perceived access, age, education, and acculturation on ATSPPHS

		Chinese				
	A Hong Kong	B China	C Taiwan	D Korean	E Vietnamese	
Stress	0.262**	0.032	0.162	0.151	0.020	
Western physiological	-0.060	0.134	0.018	0.109	0.084	
Non-Western physiological	-0.065	-0.053	-0.153	-0.057	-0.175	
Supernatural	-0.268**	-0.063	-0.194*	-0.128	-0.056	
Access	0.090	0.283**	0.208**	0.220**	0.278**	
Age	-0.016	-0.049	0.023	0.056	0.013	
Education	0.093	0.056	0.061	0.079	0.074	
VIAH	0.000	-0.082	0.031	-0.093	0.074	
VIAM	0.071	-0.059	0.176*	0.193*	-0.002	

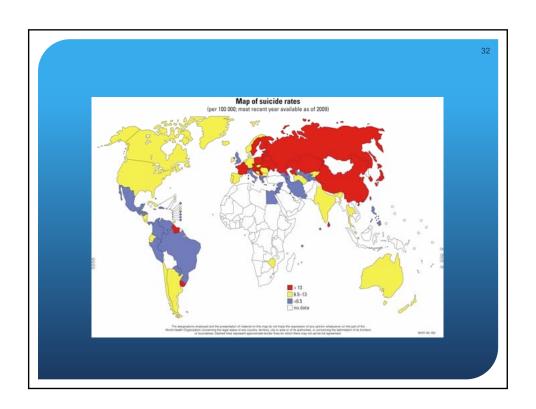
<sup>\*</sup> *p* < 0.05; \*\* *p* < 0.01

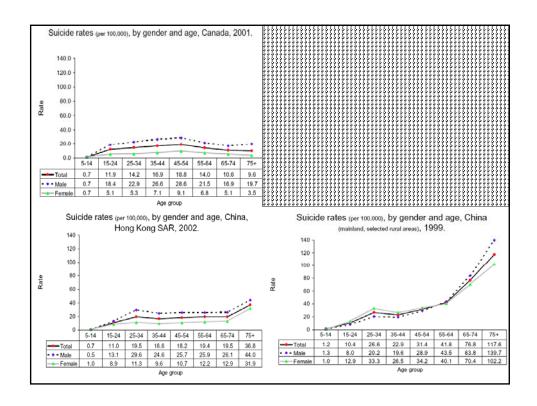
Fung et al, 2007

	Hong Kong Chinese	Mainland	Taiwan	Korean	Vietnames
	(n=100)	(n=100)	(n=101)	(n=100)	(n=100)
Stress reaction	30.0%	41.0%	47.5%	42.0%	46.0
Depression	31.0%	30.0%	19.8%	29.7%	9.99
Schizophrenia/Paranoid Schizophrenia	5.0%	4.0%	3.0%		6.99
Mania			1.0%		2.09
Anxiety	3.0%	6.0%	3.0%	1.0%	17.89
Physical 'weakness'/imbalance/illness	5.0%	2.0%	5.0%	6.9%	2.09
Mental or Emotional 'weakness'/imbalance/illness	9.0%	12.0%	9.9%	7.9%	8.99
Personality or Character problem				2.0%	1.09
Lifestyle/behavioral problem	1.0%		2.0%	4.0%	1.09
Possession or state caused by other spiritual or magical influence					
Uncontrollable fate or destiny	2.0%			2.0%	1.09
There is nothing wrong with John/Mary			1.0%		
I don't know			1.0%	2.0%	1.09
Other	15.0%	7.0%	6.9%	2.0%	2.09

		Chinese	Chinese		
	%	%	%	%	%
A typical GP (General Practitioner) of family doctor?	64.0	60.0	62.4	47.0	53.0
A typical chemist or pharmacist?	16.0	14.0	18.0	20.0	22.0
A traditional Chinese/Korean/Cambodian/Vietnamese doctor?	24.0	33.0	25.7	23.0	23.0
A counselor?	70.0	67.0	68.3	67.0	66.0
A social worker?	67.0	72.0	64.4	16.0	60.6
A telephone counseling service?	55.0	64.0	54.5	36.0	48.5
A traditional or spiritual healer?	9.0	14.1	10.2	32.0	18.0
A psychiatrist?	50.0	69.0	58.4	68.0	70.0
A specialist doctor but not a psychiatrist (e.g. surgeon)?	18.0	19.4	21.0	19.0	14.0
A Psychologist?	68.7	89.0	71.0	27.3	67.0
A family member?	81.0	85.0	80.2	65.0	52.0
A close friend?	84.0	90.0	81.0	70.0	72.0
A neighbour?	26.0	38.8	22.8	40.0	29.0
A naturopath or herbalist?	15.0	22.2	18.0	29.0	20.0
A clergy, minister, priest, monk, or religious leader?	42.0	45.0	48.5	70.0	40.0
An elder?	33.0	50.0	50.5	46.0	27.0
Self? ("Is it likely to be helpful, harmful, or neither if John/Mary tried to deal with					







	Baseline Intake	Assessments
Cultural Identity		
What cultural groups do you identify with? What does that mean to you? (language, values, beliefs, activities, practices in both heritage and mainstream culture) Spirituality (FICA): Faith – Are you religious or spiritual? Importance – How is that important to you? Community – How involved are you in your faith community? Address in Care - how would you like this addressed in your care here?	X	
Explanatory Models of Illness		
What do you or your family think caused your problems? How severe is it and how can one recover? Besides prescription medicine, what else do you use to get better?		X
Sociocultural Stressors and Levels of Functioning		
What kinds of supports do you have from your [family / friends / kin network / cultural, religious and other communities]? Do you also experience some stress from them? How well do you or your community feel you are functioning?		X
Relationship between clinician and patient		
Given some of our differences and your past experiences, how do you feel about talking with me today?	PRN	PRN





### **Recommendations for Non-response and Incomplete** Response to an Initial Antidepressant

1 <sup>st</sup> Line	Switch to an agent with evidence for superiority	<ul> <li>Duloxetine [Level 2]</li> <li>Escitalopram [Level 1]</li> <li>Milnacipran [Level 2]</li> <li>Mirtazapine [Level 1]</li> <li>Sertaline [Level 1]</li> <li>Venlafaxine [Level 1]</li> </ul>
	Add-on another agent	Aripiprazole [Level 1]     Lithium [Level 1]     Olanzapine [Level 1]

	Hong Kong Chinese (n=86)	Mainland Chinese (n=91)	Taiwan Chinese (n=86)	Korean (n=97)	Vietnamese (n=98)
Becoming more active physically	20.9%	18.7%	19.8%	28.9%	28.6%
Dealt with people with similar problems	9.3%	7.7%	9.3%	9.3%	7.1%
Getting out and about more	2.3%	2.2%	4.7%		4.1%
Talking with other people	10.5%	18.7%	16.3%	11.3%	2.0%
Attending courses on relaxation	8.1%	6.6%	9.3%		16.3%
Cutting out alcohol altogether					1.0%
Treatment from a traditional healer	2.3%	2.2%	1.2%		1.0%
Psychotherapy or counseling	23.3%	26.4%	16.3%	24.7%	7.1%
Taking a holiday	14.0%	12.1%	15.1%	22.7%	6.1%
Admitted to psychiatric hospital		1.1%	1.2%	1.0%	8.2%
Admitted to a psychiatric ward of a general hospital					1.0%
Acupuncture					1.0%
Special diet or avoiding certain foods					3.1%
Taking vitamins and minerals					2.0%
Taking psychiatric medicines	4.7%	1.1%	1.2%		4.1%
Taking some sleeping pills					1.0%
Taking pain relievers					2.0%
Other	4.7%	4.4%	5.8%	3.1%	4.1%

Table 13: Depression Vignette - the intervention considered to be the most helpful  $\!\!\!\!\!\!^\star$ 

<sup>\*</sup> some respondents chose more than one intervention as the "most helpful intervention" 
\*\* the three most popular choices of each group are bolded

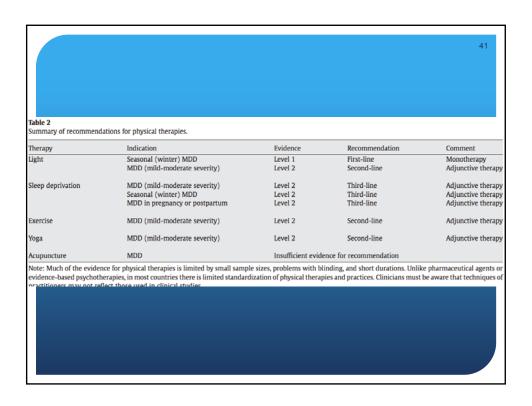
Beliefs about Western Medicine

- Nature of Western Medicine:
  - Too strong
  - Not pure or natural
  - Harmful for the body, especially long term
    - 藥有三分毒
  - Mask symptoms vs treat underlying disease
    - 治表不治本
- Self-Adjustment of Doses
- Acute vs Maintenance
- Conflicting CAM Beliefs



### **LEARN MODEL**

- **♦**L LISTEN
- ◆E EXPLAIN
- ◆A ACKNOWLEDGE
- igodarphi R RECOMMEND
- **♦N** NEGOTIATE





## Common Psychotherapies for Depression and Anxiety

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Interpersonal Psychotherapy
- Psychodynamic Psychotherapy

Culture & Psychotherapy

- ► Cultural-embedded healing practices
  - Shamanism
- ► Culture-influenced psychotherapy
  - Morita Therapy
- ► Culture-related "common" psychotherapies

Tseng 2001



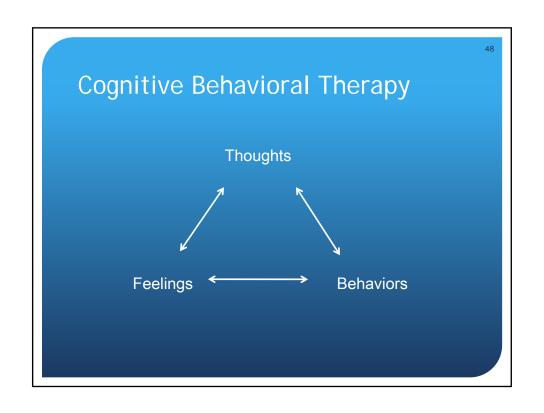
Culture as a Reference Point

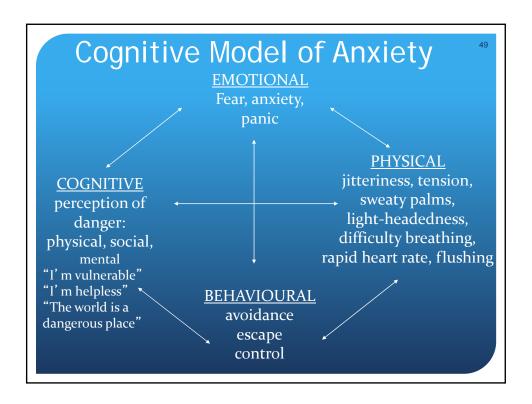
Culturally reinforcing

Culturally neutral

Counter-cultural

## Cultural Analysis Self Affect, Behaviour, Cognition Aims / goals / motivation Body (Self-) Concept Relations Treatment Lo and Fung, 2003





### **Common Cognitive Distortions**

- All-or-Nothing Thinking
- Overgeneralization
- Mental Filter
- Disqualifying the Positive
- Jumping to Conclusions
- Mind Reading
- Magnification and Minimization
- Emotional Reasoning
- Should Statements
- Labeling and Mislabeling
- Personalization



**CBT & Chinese** 

Cultural compatibility:

- More directive therapist
- Clear structure in therapy
- Spirit of self-improvement, and akin to conventional learning esp in structured groups
- Rational
- Beliefs in positive thoughts, Ah-Q (阿Q)

### Challenges:

- Accessing automatic thoughts may be difficult
- Homework can be a problem
- Collectivism: values and interdependent self
- Beliefs of Fate, Bad Luck, Yuen Fan, etc.

