

# **Ethnic Proximity and Cross-Cultural Adaptation:** A study of Asian and European Students in the U.S.

Kim, Y. S., & Kim, Y. Y. (2016).

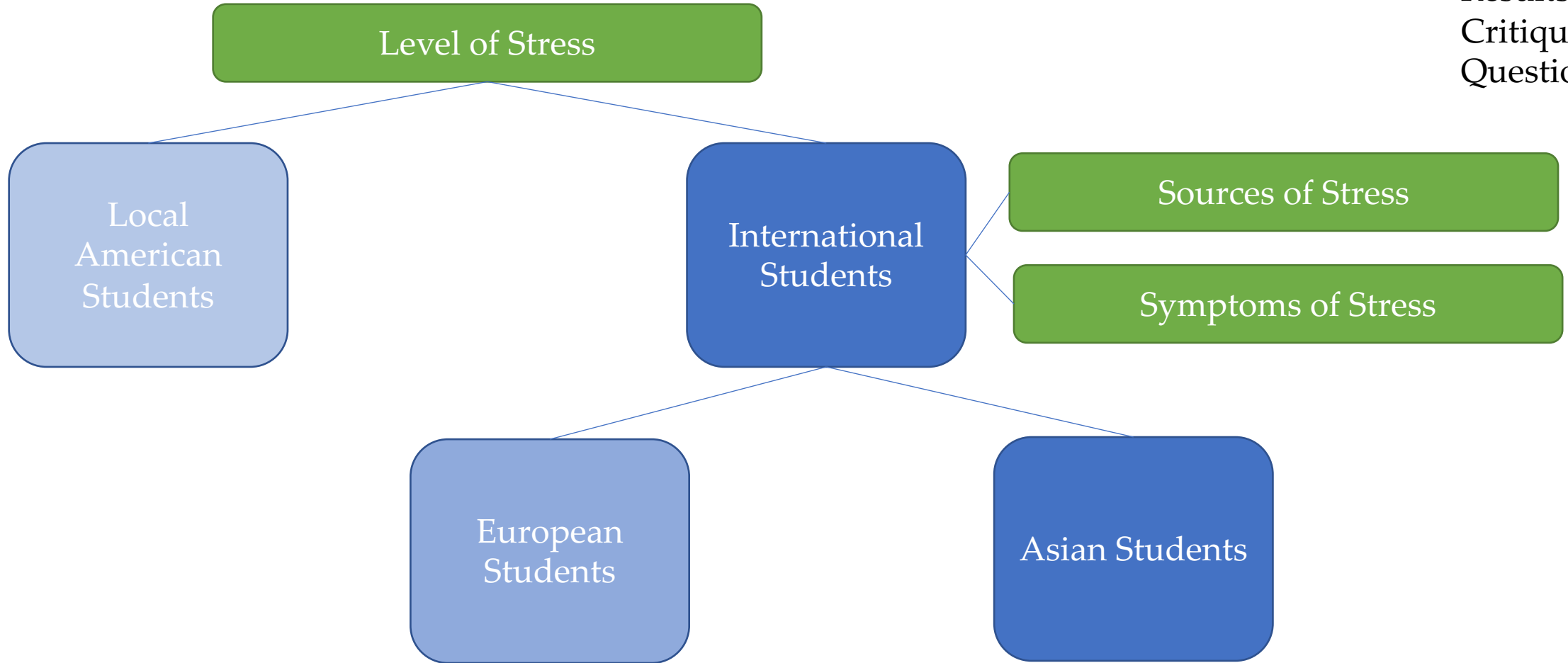
*Intercultural Communication Studies*, 25(3), 61-80.

Presented by ZHANG Wei

September 23, 2022

# Background

- ➔ Background
- Theory
- Hypotheses
- Methods
- Results
- Critiques
- Questions



Background



11/11/11

Why are the differences?  
Any systematic explanations?



# Kim & Kim (2016)

## ▶ **Research topic:**

- ▶ “the role of ethnicity in shaping the adaptation process among international students in the United States” (p.65)

## ▶ **Theory:** Integrative Theory of Cross-Cultural Adaptation

## ▶ **Hypotheses**

## ▶ **Methods:** Quantitative & Qualitative methods

## ▶ **Results:**

- ▶ the closer to the host ethnicity, the better host communication competence, the greater involvement of host interpersonal communication...

## ▶ **Critiques**

## ▶ **Further Questions**

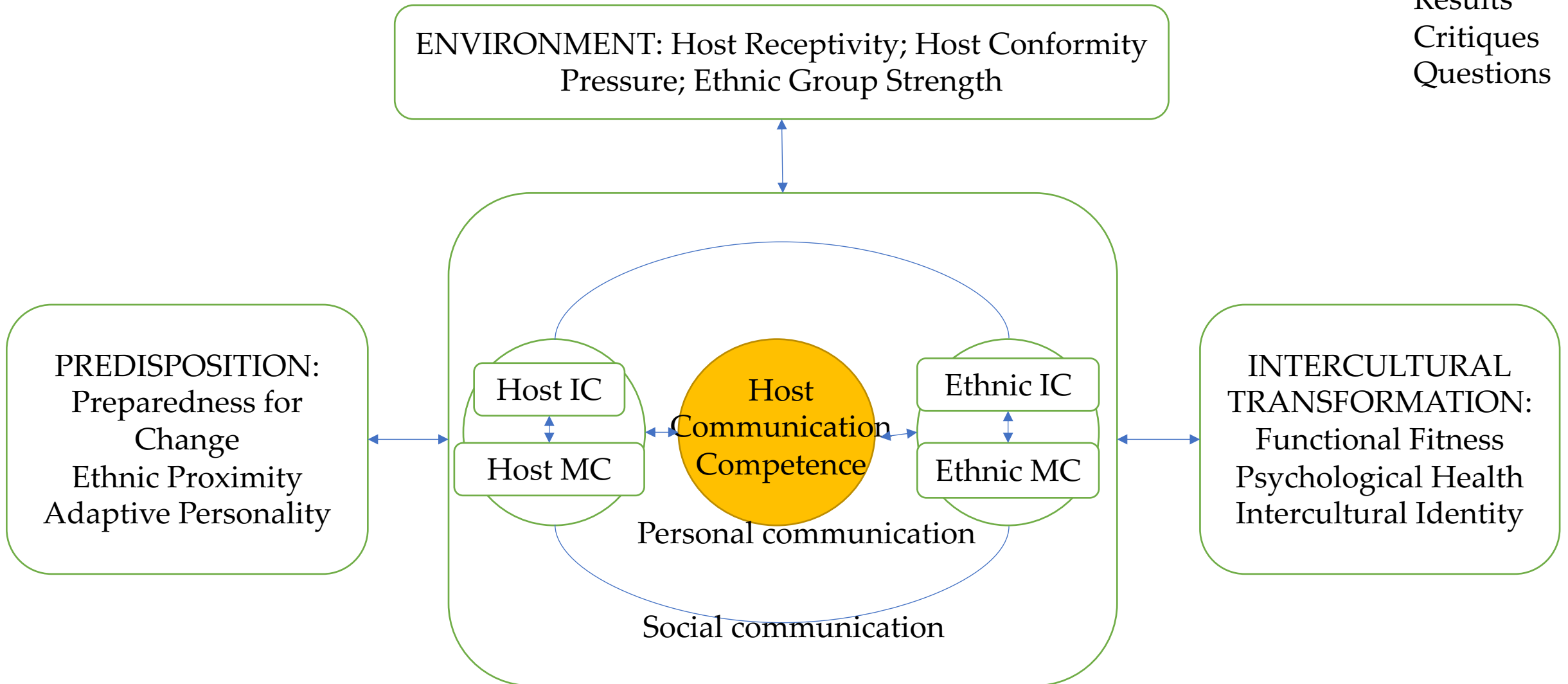
# Integrative Theory of Cross-Cultural Adaptation

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- ? What is the essential **nature of the adaptation process** individual settlers undergo over time
- ? Why are some settlers **more successful than others in attaining a level of fitness in the host environment**

# Integrative Theory of Cross-Cultural Adaptation

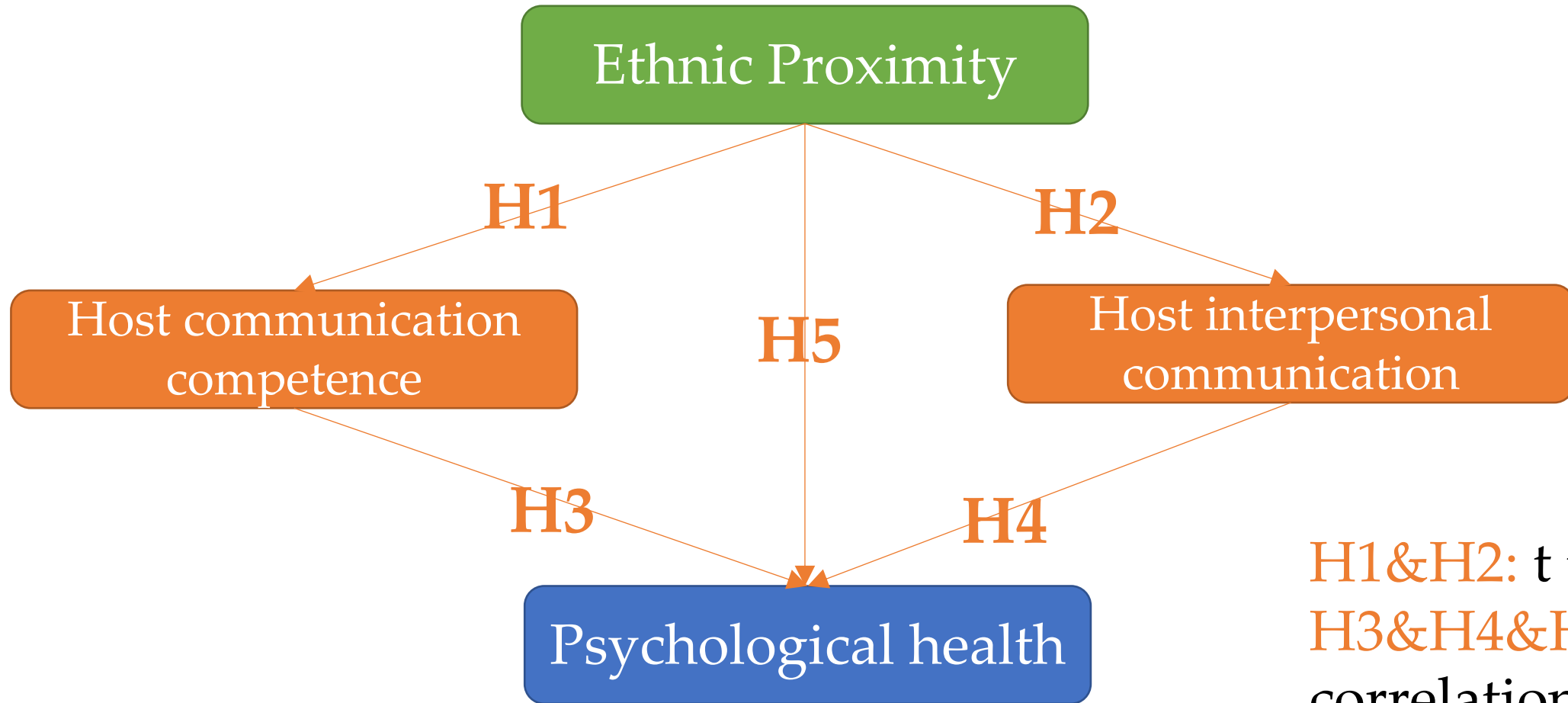
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# Hypotheses

- Background Theory
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H1&H2: t test  
H3&H4&H5:  
correlation test  
thematic analysis



# Mixed Method

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Phase 1 Questionnaire Survey  
Phase 2 In-depth Interview

# Phase 1: Questionnaire Survey

- ◆ **Sampling:** convenience sampling and snowball sampling
- ◆ **Participants:** European and Asian students of five universities in American central-south region
- ◆ 150(sent)-50(did not return)-7(incomplete)=**93 questionnaires**
- ◆  $N(\text{sample}) = \frac{1}{2} N(\text{population})$

# Phase 1: Participants

- Background
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<b>Nationality</b>	<b>59% Asian</b>		<b>41% European</b>	
<b>Age</b>	From 18 to 52 (Mean = 26.85, SD=9.82)			
<b>Gender</b>	45.2% male		54.8% female	
<b>Degree</b>	34.4% undergraduates	31.1% master	22% doctoral	12.5% non-degree programs
<b>Lengths of residence</b>	From 4 month to 13 years and 9 months (Mean=2.5 year, SD=2.6)			

# Phase 1: Operationalization

- Items adapted from previous studies
- Seven-point Likert-type scale
- Cronbach's Alpha
  
- **Host communication competence**
- Host interpersonal communication (level of intimacy)
- Ethnic proximity (extrinsic; intrinsic)
- Psychological health (satisfaction; alienation)

➤ Host communication competence

➤ Cognitive

➤ Host language ability

➤ Q1

➤ ...

➤ Q9

➤ Knowledge of host culture

➤ Q1

➤ ...

➤ Q5

➤ Affective - Adaptation motive

➤ Q1

➤ ...

➤ Q5

➤ Operational - Behavioral competence scale

➤ Q1

➤ ...

➤ Q8

1	not at all
2	
3	
4	fairly
5	
6	
7	completely

# Phase 2: In-depth Interview

- ◆ **Sampling:** quota sampling (age and lengths of residence)
- ◆ **Participants:** 12 Europeans and 12 Asians
- ◆ **Location:** library conference room/cafeteria/by phone
- ◆ **Duration:** 40 min to 1 hour
- ◆ **Details:**
  1. Questions delve into the four constructs
  2. Follow up questions to explore details
  3. Thematic analysis of the transcripts
  4. Two coders

# Results: Descriptive Analysis

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Variables	Asians		Europeans	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
<b>Host Communication Competence</b>				
-Host language	5.28	1.17	6.20	.72
-Cultural Knowledge	4.57	1.06	5.2	.86
-Adaptive motivation	5.41	1.01	6.04	.90
-Behavioral competence	4.42	.96	5.19	1.08
<b>Host Interpersonal Communication</b>				
-Casual American Acquaintances	35.73	22.49	61.56	24.34
-Casual American Friends	26.27	19.92	55.81	28.80
-Close American Friends	17.92	20.71	46.06	37.25
<b>Ethnic Interpersonal Communication</b>				
-Causal Co-ethnic Acquaintances	43.45	24.52	8.44	8.89
-Casual Co-ethnic Friends	51.27	28.79	12.31	16.54
-Close Co-ethnic Friends	64.13	28.21	31.81	32.85

E > A

# Results: Hypotheses Testing

Table 1. *T*-Tests on Research Variables Comparing Asian (n = 55) and European Students (n = 38)

Variables	Asians		Europeans		T-Test	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>t</i>
<b>Host Communication Competence</b>						
-Host language	5.28	1.17	6.20	.72	91	-3.024**
-Cultural Knowledge	4.57	1.06	5.2	.86	91	-2.205*
-Adaptive motivation				.0	91	-2.275*
-Behavioral competence				.8	91	-2.780**
<b>Host Interpersonal Communication</b>						
-Casual American Acquaintances	35.73	22.49	61.56	24.34	91	-4.043***
-Casual American Friends	26.27	19.92	55.81	28.80	91	-4.826***
-Close American Friends	17.92	20.71	46.06	37.25	91	-4.066***

H1  H2 



# Results: Hypotheses Testing

Table 2. Simple Correlation Coefficients (r) between Research Variables

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>HOST COMMUNICATION COMPETENCE</b>													
1. Host Language Competence	1.00												
2. Cultural Knowledge	.57**	1.00											
3. Adaptive Motivation	.13	.22*	1.00										
4. Behavioral competence	.48**	.53**	.25**	1.00									
<b>HOST INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION</b>													
5. Casual American acquaintance	.24*	.25**	.30**	.41**	1.00								
6. Casual American friends	.31**	.32**	.33**	.48**	.83**	1.00							
7. Close American friends	.24**	.33**	.36**	.33**	.70**	.77**	1.00						
<b>ETHNIC INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION</b>													
8. Casual Co-ethnic acquaintance	-.28**	-.24*	-.26**	-.37**	-.69**	-.60**	-.51**	1.00					
9. Casual Co-ethnic friends	-.20*	-.21*	-.27**	-.37**	-.54**	-.63**	-.53**	.89**	1.00				
10. Close Co-ethnic friends	-.17*	-.21*	-.27**	-.30**	-.45**	-.48**	-.67**	.76**	.85**	1.00			
<b>ETHNIC PROXIMITY</b>													
11. Ethnic Proximity	.23*	.24*	.09	.19*	.06	.18*	.24**	-.28**	-.34**	-.34**	1.00		
<b>PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH</b>													
12. Satisfaction	.32**	.52**	.43**	.62**	.32**	.46**	.43**	-.24*	-.28**	-.27**	.22*	1.00	
13. Alienation	-.22*	-.45**	-.36**	-.49**	-.09	-.24*	-.15	.05	.07	.06	-.20*	-.70**	1.00

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (1-tailed).

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed).

**COMMUNICATION**

5. Casual American acquaintance

.24\* .25\*\* .30\*\* .41\*\* 1.00

6. Casual American friends

.31\*\* .32\*\* .33\*\* .48\*\* .83\*\* 1.00

7. Close American friends

**ETHNIC INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION**

8. Casual Co-ethnic acquaintance

-.28\*\* -.24\* -.26\*\* -.37\*\* -.69\*\* -.60\*\* -.51\*\* 1.00

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-.20\* -.21\* -.27\*\* -.37\*\* -.54\*\* -.63\*\* -.53\*\* .89\*\* 1.00

10. Close Co-ethnic friends

-.17\* -.21\* -.27\*\* -.30\*\* -.45\*\* -.48\*\* -.67\*\* .76\*\* .85\*\* 1.00

**ETHNIC PROXIMITY**

11. Ethnic Proximity

.23\* .24\* .09 .19\* .06 .18\* .24\*\* -.28\*\* -.34\*\* -.34

**PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH**

12. Satisfaction

.32\*\* .52\*\* .43\*\* .62\*\* .32\*\* .46\*\* .43\*\* -.24\* -.28\*\* -.27

13. Alienation

-.22\* -.45\*\* -.36\*\* -.49\*\* -.09 -.24\* -.15 .05 .07 .06

H3  H4  H5 

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# Interview Results

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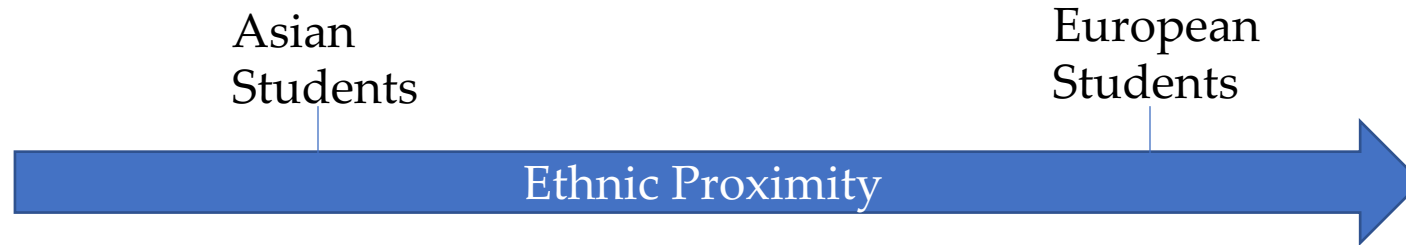
Ethnic proximity



Host communication competence

“Sometimes they do not want to listen to you. They don’t have the patience to listen what you are talking...they just stay silent...sometimes they are laughing. That’s very uncomfortable.” She has been in America two years and six months. She is in her second year of her Master’s program in Mass Communication. Before coming to the United States, she had traveled around Europe. She was having a hard time understanding the American sense of humor. The interviewee would very much like to stay in America and continue her education, but does not believe her visa will be renewed.

# Critiques



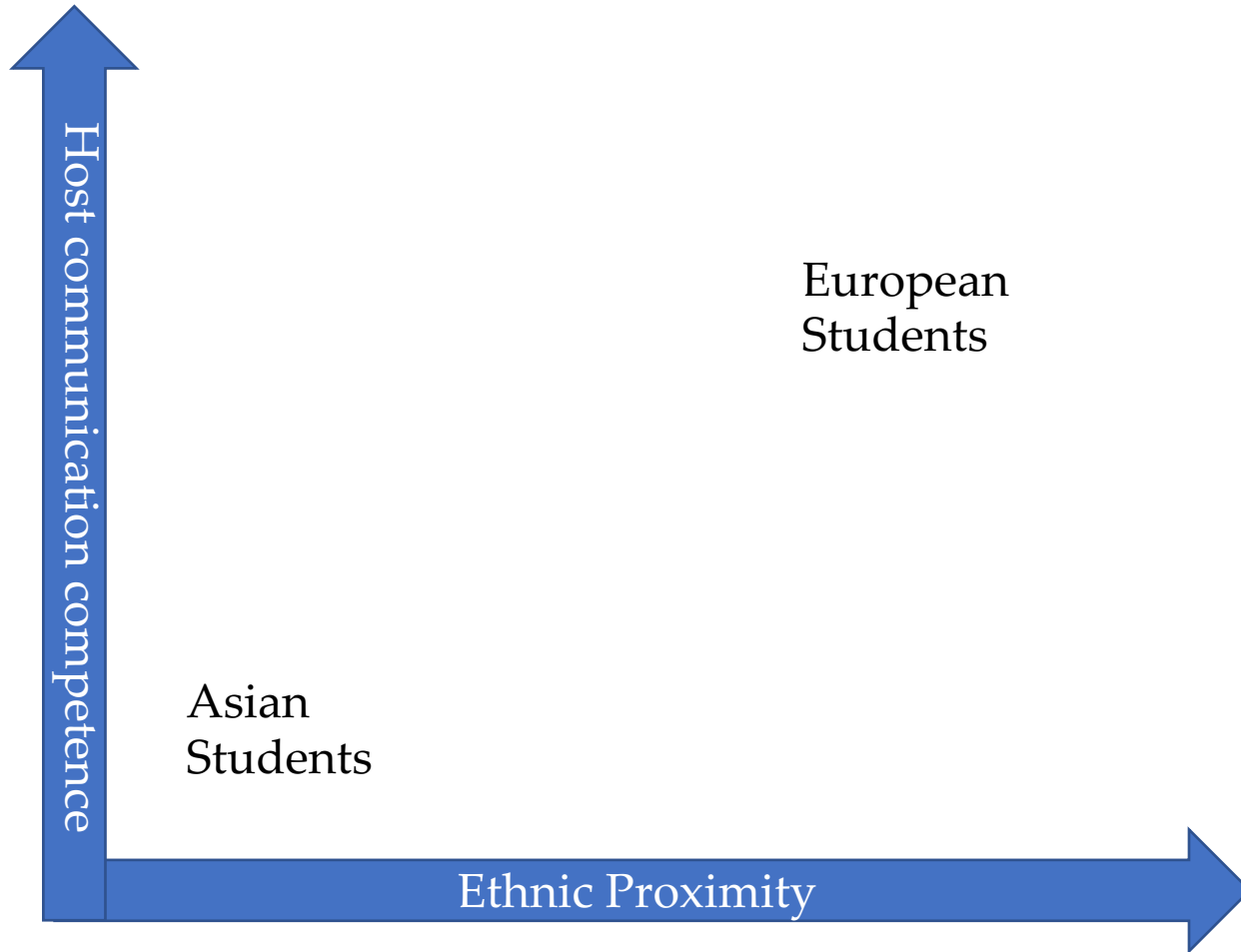
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## Merits

## Demerits

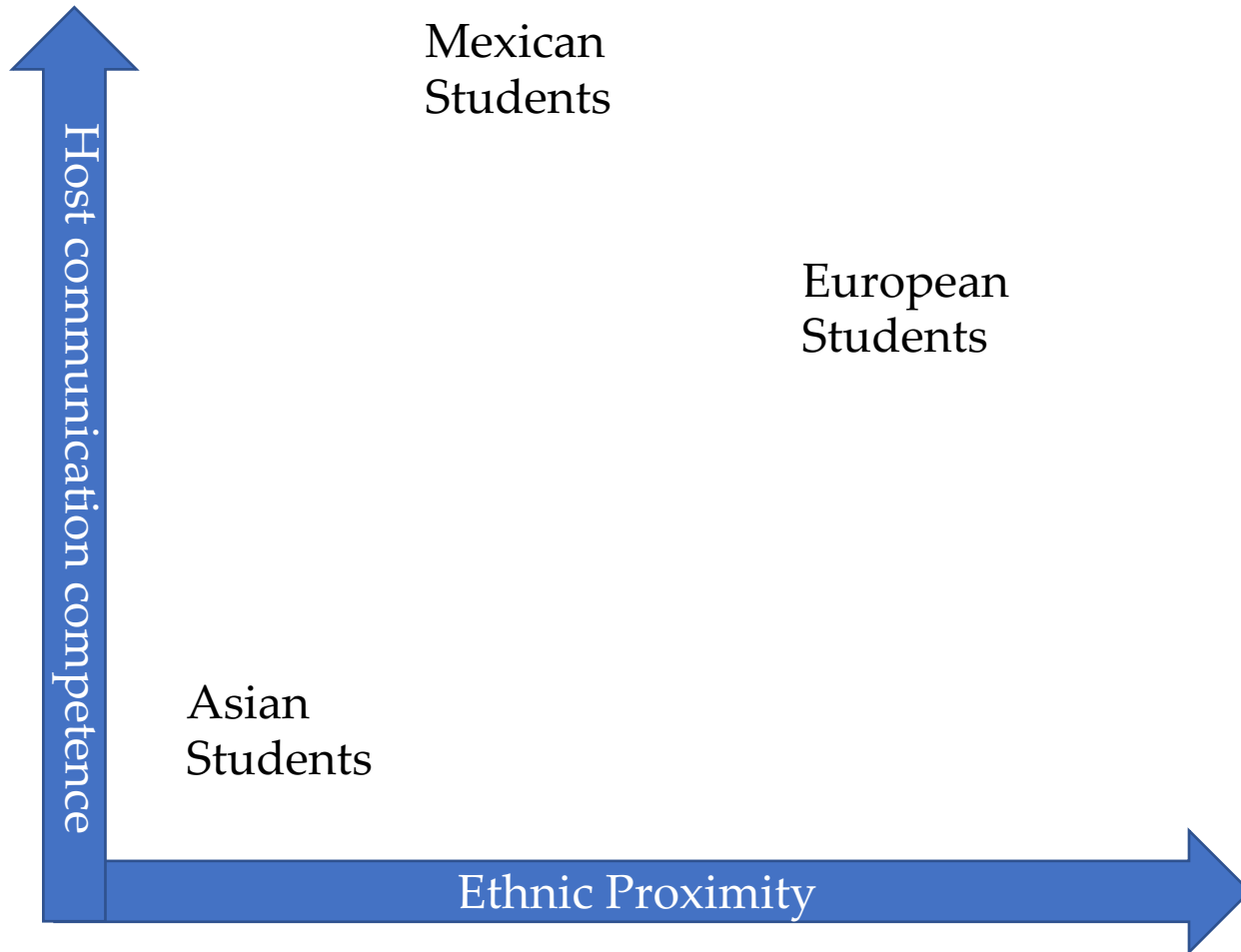
1. A t-test of two groups is insufficient to establish a relationship between two variable;
2. Correlation Coefficient 11-3 is insignificant, which negates their H1;
3. The variable - interpersonal communication – is not properly operationalized.

# Critiques



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# Critiques



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# Critiques

<b>ETHNIC PROXIMITY</b>				
11. Ethnic Proximity	.23*	.24*	.09	.19*

## Merits

## Demerits

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challenging. Cronbach's reliability test has yielded the Cronbach's alpha of .88.

*Host and ethnic interpersonal communication* was measured by the participant's interpersonal ties according to group categories and intimacy levels. Adapted from the measure of interpersonal communication in the study of interethnic communication (Kim, Kim, Duty & Yoshitake, 2002), the participants were asked to indicate the percentages of people with whom they had relationships in each group (Americans, co-ethnics, and others) and the corresponding levels of closeness (casual acquaintances, casual friends, close friends).

# Questions

1. Which factors are easier to change so as to help the migrants?
2. What measures can be taken to change these factors?
3. Are there any other factors missing?
4. What role do home and host culture play in migrants' adaptation process?
5. Do social networks hinder one's adaptation to the host environment or facilitate it?
6. How to think of the way of **dividing host C and ethnic C into two different poles?**

# THANKS FOR LISTENING

Kim, Y. S., & Kim, Y. Y. (2016). Ethnic Proximity and Cross-Cultural Adaptation: A study of Asian and European Students in the United States. *Intercultural Communication Studies*, 25(3), 61-80.

Salkind, N. J. (2014). *Statistics for People Who Think They Hate Statistics*. SAGE Publications, Inc.

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