

## Cultural Competency Issues and the API Community (02/05/2011)

Dave Wagner ([dave.wagner@live.com](mailto:dave.wagner@live.com)), 408-927-7292

### Relevant Biography

Substance Abuse Counselor at Asian American Recovery Services (AARS), Santa Clara County; Region 4 Vice President for California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC); Associate Dean of Psychology and Addiction Counseling Programs at Aspen University; Currently enrolled: Conversational Vietnamese; Favorite Pet Project: Cognitive Dissonance Research Institute.

### Session Notes

“Cultural competency is in the eyes of the client; if you offer the service / access basics of language, transportation, affordability, and scheduling, clients often ignore mistakes about the rest of what they need / expect, until it affects what they need from treatment... the burden is on agencies to always adapt to the client.”

“A culturally competent helping professional is one who actively attempts to understand the worldview of his/her culturally different client” (Sue and Sue, 1999, p. 224).

Unit of Analysis Errors Leading to Cultural Incompetency – Exception Fallacy: data about an individual is used to make conclusions about a group; Ecological Fallacy: data about a group used to make conclusions about an individual.

“Understanding how the invisibility of ethnocentric monoculturalism has affected race, gender, and sexual orientation relationships is vital to successful multicultural competence” (Sue and Sue, 1999, p. 31).

<b>Western Culture Orientation</b>	<b>Asian American/Pacific Islander Orientation</b>
Individualism	Collectivism, Unity
Nuclear Family Structure	Extended Family Structure
Relationships-Collateral, Egalitarian or Individual Autonomy	Relationships-Hierarchical
Expressiveness	Self-Control
Assertiveness	Deference
Rights	Duty
Competition	Interdependence
Doing (Activity)	Being (Existence)
Monochronic Time Orientation	Polychronic Time Orientation
Religion-Fragmented Psychology, Religion, and Medicine	Spirituality-Continuous Psychology, Religion, and Medicine
Scientific Model (Fragmentation)	Holistic, Intuitive
Communication-Verbal; Low-Context	Communication-Nonverbal; High-Context
Trusting in Social Interaction	Suspicious in Social Interaction (influence of racism)

Adapted from Rokutani (2001).

### Resources

Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence. <http://www.apiahf.org/index.php/programs/domestic-violence.html>

Rokutani, L. (2001). Chemical Dependency and the Asian / Pacific Islander. DLCAS.com.

Sue, D. W., and Sue, D. (1999). Counseling the culturally different: Theory and practice (3rd ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Straussner, S.L.A. (2003). *Ethnocultural Factors in Substance Abuse Treatment*. New York: Guilford Publications.