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Reporting Accurate and Objective Information Based on Facts, not Agenda-Setting Theories

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Cross Cultural Differences

Communication

Part 1

According to the media we have just witnessed ***the trial of the century***, but how many viewers realized it was a syndicate of multi-cultural personalities that represented America? An [African-American](#) judge presided at a trial that had a fusion of various cultures. How ironic that, a [British-American](#) Private Investigator named Dominic Anthony Casey, who has a “Letter of Engagement” with one who has a similar name (Casey Anthony.) Her parents of [Greek](#) and [Romanian](#) ancestry and a New York-born defense attorney of [Puerto Rican](#) descent revealed the [American](#) mosaic of culture diversification.

Cultural differences often present communication challenges. To have effective intercultural communication, one must have information and knowledge. What is acceptable in one culture can be offensive to another. [Intercultural communication](#) requires empathy and an effort to subjugate problems. Behavior modification is deemed necessary when communication becomes ineffective.

What is culture? [Culture is defined](#) by the ***values, lifestyle, speech, ideas and thoughts of society***. It is also defined by the ***boundaries of how individuals and society 'should' behave***. Art, music and theater represent the materialism of various cultures. The words to the 1970's song "[Melting Pot](#)" spoke of our ever changing Cultural world. Multi-cultural is stimulating and teaches us new things.

There are numerous inaccuracies in the portrayal of global cultures, thus the proliferation of stereotypes. [William Sinunu](#) referred to the lack of cultural awareness as one of the big detriments in the USA, and unlike Europe, we are geographically isolated. Environment plays a key role in one's mental, emotional and physical development.

Author [James A. Russell](#) reviewed the cross-cultural studies report ***Is There Universal Recognition of Emotion from Facial Expressions*** copyrighted by The American Psychological Association, Inc., 1994.

This [40 page report](#) involved the study of seven emotions (happiness, sadness, surprise, fear, anger, contempt and disgust) and discussed whether the recognizable facial expressions were identifiable independent of nationality.

Culture does not always portray reality and the repetitive stereotyping can be damaging to our personal identities. Queen Elizabeth II said, [“Stereotypes wither when human contact flourishes.”](#)

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Suggested Additional Reading:

Cross-Cultural Communications by [Michelle LeBaron](#)

Cross-Cultural Communications, A Latino Perspective by [Dr. Luis A. Rosado](#)