

Perceived Cultural Distance of different ethnocultural groups in Greece: A pilot study

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Perceived Cultural distance is considered to be a significant correlate of sociocultural adaptation of immigrants, given that perceived high differences between two cultures may provoke greater challenges to acculturation (Ward, Bochner, & Furnham, 2001. Demes & Geeraert, 2013). We present the results of a pilot study conducted as part of a PhD dissertation. The aim of this preliminary research was to study perceived cultural distance of different ethnocultural groups by Greek natives. The selection of the ethnocultural groups was based on the results of the 2011 Population Census concerning migration (Hellenic Statistical Authority, 2013). The sample consisted of 127 Greek students ($M_{age}=21,05$ years, 66,1% female) and the study investigated perceived emotional proximity, perceived cultural difference and perceived integration in the Greek cultural context concerning 16 different ethnocultural groups. The results highlight the need of including perceived cultural distance as an important variable in the study of intercultural relations and acculturation of different ethnocultural groups residing in a host country.

Keywords: perceived cultural distance, ethnocultural groups, immigration