Acculturation and Metaphors of Diversity
La Fromboise, Coleman, & Gerton 1993

Acculturation:
• Changes that groups and individuals undergo when they come into contact with new cultures.
• Acculturation Stress can result from this process.
• Five Patterns
  Assimilation
  Acculturation
  Fusion (melting Pot)
  Alternation (Biculturalism)
  Multicultural Model (Patchwork Quilt)

• Assimilation: Give up old culture and adapt to new
  - transition creates stress, anxiety, isolation, and alienation.
  - may lead to negative outcomes like academic failure or drug abuse.
  - Stress is result of inability to elicit support from old culture and lack of skills for eliciting support from new.
  - Potential for rejection from old and new culture.

Acculturation: Give up old culture and adapt to new, but never fully accepted by new.
- Similar to Assimilation
  a. focus on developing competence in new cult.
  b. dominance of new culture over old
- Even once cultural competence is developed, will still be viewed as minority group member (2nd class status).
- Individual may resign self to 2nd class status or retreat into separatism.

Fusion Model = The Melting Pot.
Shared geography, political institutions, and economic institutions will lead to integration of multiple cultures into new culture.
- Differs from Assimilation and Acculturation because there is no hierarchical relationship between cultures.
- Preferred by Euro/Ams., Afr-Ams., Asian Ams., and Latino/a Ams.
- Few successful example of this = Assimilation and Acculturation are more likely

Alternation Model / Bicultural Competence
- Develop cultural competencies in new culture and maintain competencies in old culture.
- Behavior is altered based on context.
- Differs from Assimilation and Acculturation
  a. bidirectional and independent relationship btw 2 cults.
  b. no hierarchical relationship between 2 cultures.
- Focuses on the affective and cognitive processes that buffer against acculturative stress.
  e.g., maintain support networks in old culture while expanding support network in new culture
- May be difficult to Maintain (not all cultures are equally valued by dominant society)
**Multicultural Model = The Patchwork Quilt / The Tossed Salad**
- cultural pluralism
- cultures can exist side by side.
- exploration of another culture and engaging in institutional sharing.
- Encourages groups to:
  a. maintain & develop group identity
  b. develop acceptance and tolerance of other groups
  c. engage in intergroup contact
  d. learn each other’s language
- Questionable as to whether multicultural society can be maintained.
  - basic group processes dictate either separation and withdrawal or integration into new culture.