DOES ACCULTURATION AFFECT PREDICTORS OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE?
EVIDENCE FROM BRAZILIAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE UK

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Brazilian diaspora in the UK

- Estimation: around 250,000 Brazilian people (Brazilian Embassy in the UK)

- Brazilian-born residents increased by almost 700% between 1991 and 2009 (ONS, 2011)

- Evans et al (2011) London's survey:
    - generally young community (age mean of 35 years old)
    - majority come from middle and lower classes in Brazil
    - 80% did not have children
    - Main reasons: economic, study and work opportunities, and cultural enrichment

Substance misuse in members of minority ethnic groups

- The real prevalence is sparse (Erens et al., 2001; Beddoes et al., 2010)

- UK Drug Policy Commission's report (2010)
  - indications that in some areas and within some communities, drug use was perceived as increasing and as prevalent as within the white English population

- Reasons: peer-pressure, social exclusion (housing deprivation, educational disadvantage and discrimination in the UK's labour force)

Substance misuse and acculturation

Two main approaches:

ASSIMILATION APROACH: Immigrant's substance use patterns converge with the host culture as they become more integrated into the new social environment.

STRESS APROACH: process of acculturation is stressful and substance use is a copy mechanism

Methods

- Cross-national study

- 164 Brazilian immigrants in the UK. Age mean: 28.75 (SD=5.90)

- Control group: 161 Brazilian residents in Brazil. Age mean: 26.93 (SD=5.65).

- Variables: demographic, personality traits (SURPS), resilience (RS-14), positive and negative affect (PANAS), drinking motives (DM), acculturative strategies (AHIMSA), acculturative stress (MASS)

- Outcomes variables include measures of alcohol and substance use in the last month

Frequency in which participants consumed alcohol or other substance in the last month

		Number of participants (% of sample)		
		Never	Once per week or less	More than once a week
Alcohol	UK	25 (15.2)	75 (45.7)	64 (39.0)
	Brazil	28 (17.4)	77 (47.8)	56 (34.8)
Smoking	UK	117 (71.3)	13 (7.9)	34 (20.7)
	Brazil	124 (77.0)	11 (6.8)	27 (16.1)
Cannabis	UK	129 (78.7)	20 (12.2)	15 (9.2)
	Brazil	124 (77.0)	19 (11.8)	18 (11.2)
Cocaine	UK	154 (93.9)	8 (4.9)	2 (1.26)
	Brazil	157 (97.5)	3 (1.9)	1 (0.6)
Recreational	UK	134 (81.7)	23 (14.0)	4 (2.4)
	Brazil	156 (96.9)	3 (1.9)	2 (1.2)
Hallucinogens	UK	157 (95.7)	3 (1.8)	-
	Brazil	156 (96.9)	4 (2.5)	-
Sedatives	UK	149 (90.9)	14 (8.5)	1 (0.6)
	Brazil	147 (91.3)	9 (5.6)	5 (3.1)
Other drug	UK	159 (97.0)	2 (1.2)	3 (1.8)
	Brazil	155 (96.4)	3 (1.8)	3 (1.8)

Note: Recreational includes MDMA, ecstasy, amphetamines, inhalants, and BZP.

Significant differences

- Binge drinking, poly-substance use, and regular drinking and other drug use: higher in the UK sample

- Associations
  ⬆Integration: hopelessness and social DM⬇, positive affect ⬆
  ⬆Separation: Sensation seeking and positive affect ⬇
  ⬆Marginalization: Anxiety and enhancing DM ⬆

  ⬆Discrimination: hopelessness, impulsivity and conformity DM⬆
  ⬆Threat to cultural ID: anxiety and DM conformity, social,
  enhancing ⬆
  ⬆Lack of opportunity: hopelessness and social DM ⬆
  positive affect⬇
  ⬆Language: anxiety and negative affect⬆,positive affect ⬇

Impact on patterns of substance use

- **UK**

  - Males at high risk for use of drugs

  - Social motives for binge drinking

  - Enhancing motives for drinking

  - Hopelessness and anxiety sensitiveness predicts use of drugs

  - Threat to cultural identity use of drugs

- **Brazil**

  - Males at high risk for use of drugs

  - social motives for regular drinking and binge drinking

  - Sensation seeking
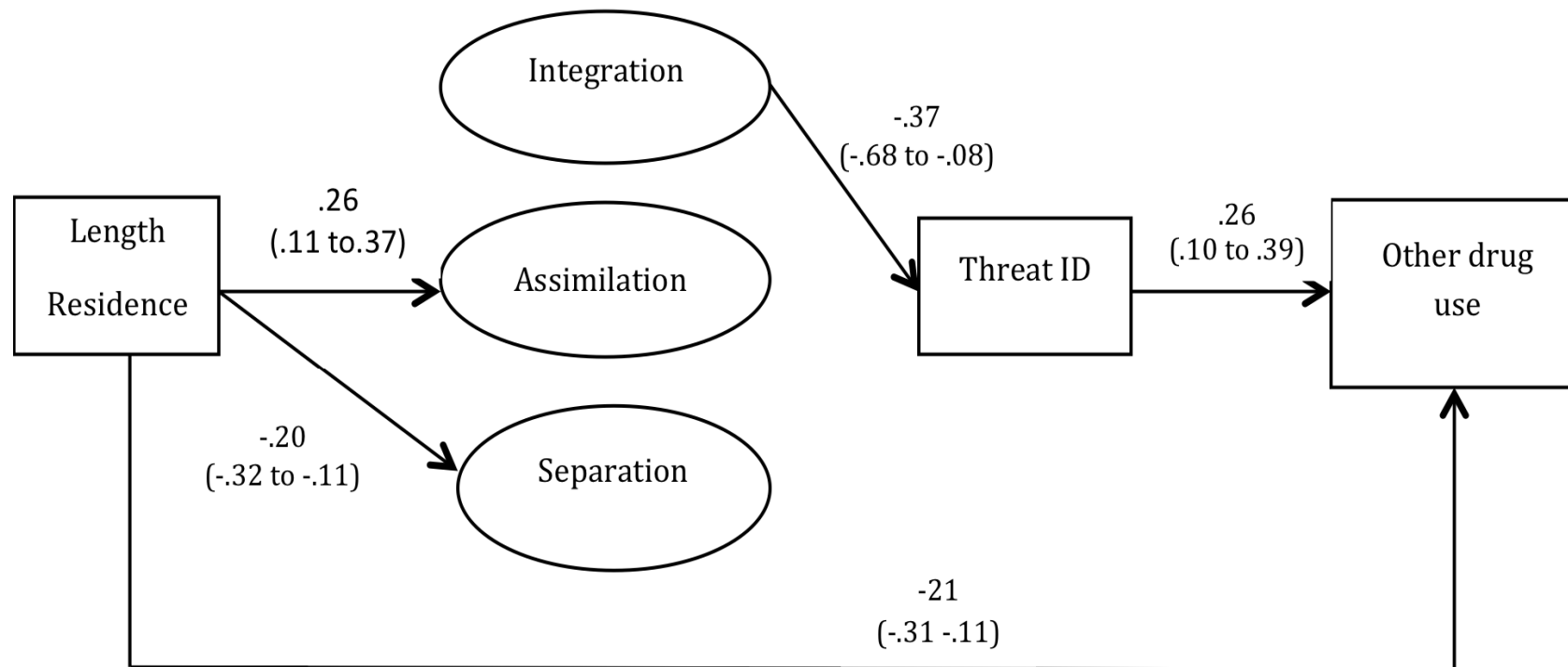
An acculturative model for substance use

Figure: Acculturative structure model for other drug use, coefficient estimator. Numbers represent structural path coefficients, bootstrapping BCa 90% confidence intervals are in parentheses.

Conclusion

- UK sample: binge drinking, recreational drugs, multiple substance use

- Acculturative variables show to affect some psychological predictors.

- Integration is related to most positive psychological outcomes

- Threat to cultural identity predicts the use of drugs and is a mediator between integration and drug use

- Length of residence does not have an affect in integration

- Immigrants newer in the country are at risk for drug use

OBRIGADA! GRACIAS! THANK YOU!

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