

INTEGRATING CHANGE

UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS OF CHANGE

Plenary 1 – Ruth E. Van Reken

Euro TCK

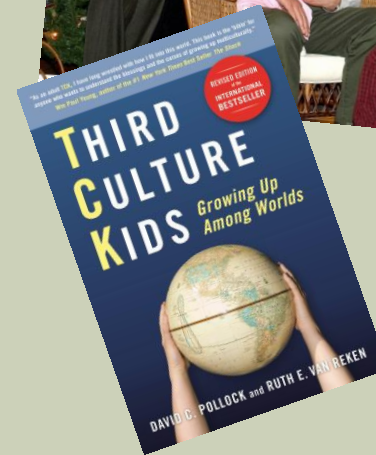
April 25, 2013

Friolzheim, Germany

PUTTING ME IN CONTEXT...



FROM THEN UNTIL NOW...



OVERVIEW

- My assignment for conference
 - What can change bring or mean for an MK/TCK (at any stage!)
- **Who** are we talking about?
- **What** are we talking about?
- **Why** are we talking about this?
- **Where** do we go from here?



WHO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

- “MKs” = Missionary kids
 - Children of missionaries
- How do you define missionaries?
 - “Foreign”?
 - “Home”?
 - European?
 - Non-European?
 - Western?
 - Non-Western?



WHO WE ARE WE TALKING ABOUT

MOST MKs ARE ALSO TCKs

- Who are Third Culture Kids (TCKs)?

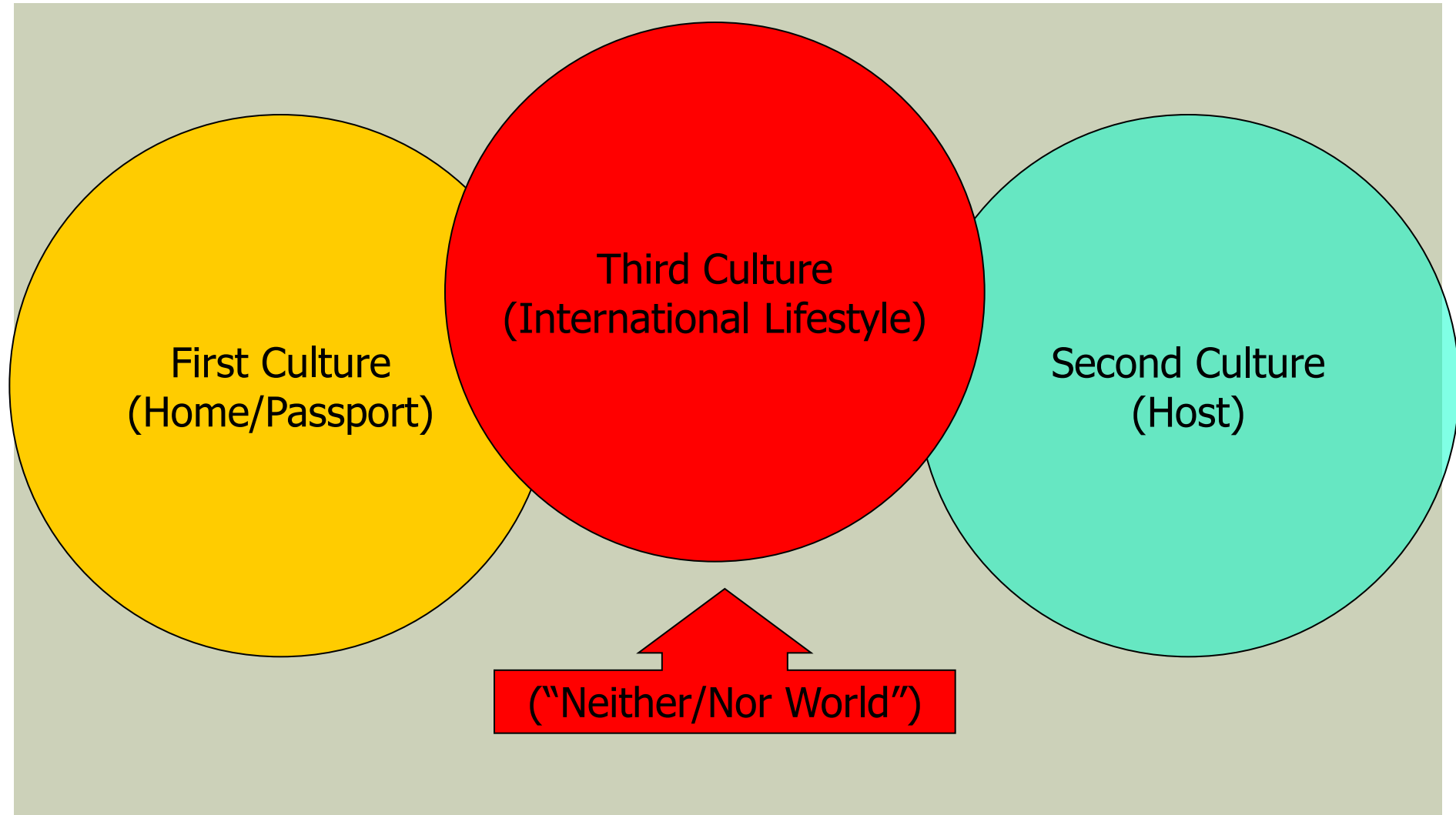
- “Children who accompany their parents into another culture.”

[usually for a parent’s career choice].

—Dr. Ruth Hill Useem, Sociologist,
Professor Emeritus at Michigan State University,
Originator of the term



ORIGIN OF THE TERM “THIRD CULTURE”



THE TRADITIONAL “THIRD CULTURE” MODEL





DAVE POLLOCK'S TCK DEFINITION

“A person who has spent a
significant part of his or her
developmental years outside
the parents' culture(s)...



WHAT THE THIRD **CULTURE** IS NOT

Colors

By

Whitni Thomas (1991)

CLARIFICATION: **INDIVIDUALS** CAN FEEL “GREEN” BUT THAT IS NOT THE THIRD CULTURE

-Although elements from each culture are assimilated into *the TCK's life experience*....
- the sense of belonging is in relationship to others of similar background. ”

—David C. Pollock, developer of the TCK Profile



MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF SHARED THIRD CULTURE BACKGROUND

- Cross-cultural lifestyle
- High mobility
- Expected repatriation
- Often a “system identity”



THIRD CULTURE COMMUNITIES INCLUDE...

(WHAT'S YOUR STORY?)



- **Third Culture Adults (TCAs)** - Those who make their first long-term international cross-cultural move as adults.
- **Third Culture Kids (TCKs)** - “Children who accompany their parents into another culture.”
 - -Ruth Useem’s definition
- **Adult Third Culture Kids (ATCKs)** - Those who grew up as TCKs
- **Third Culture Locals (TCL?)** - citizens of the host country who interact and work with expats

WHO WE ARE WE TALKING ABOUT

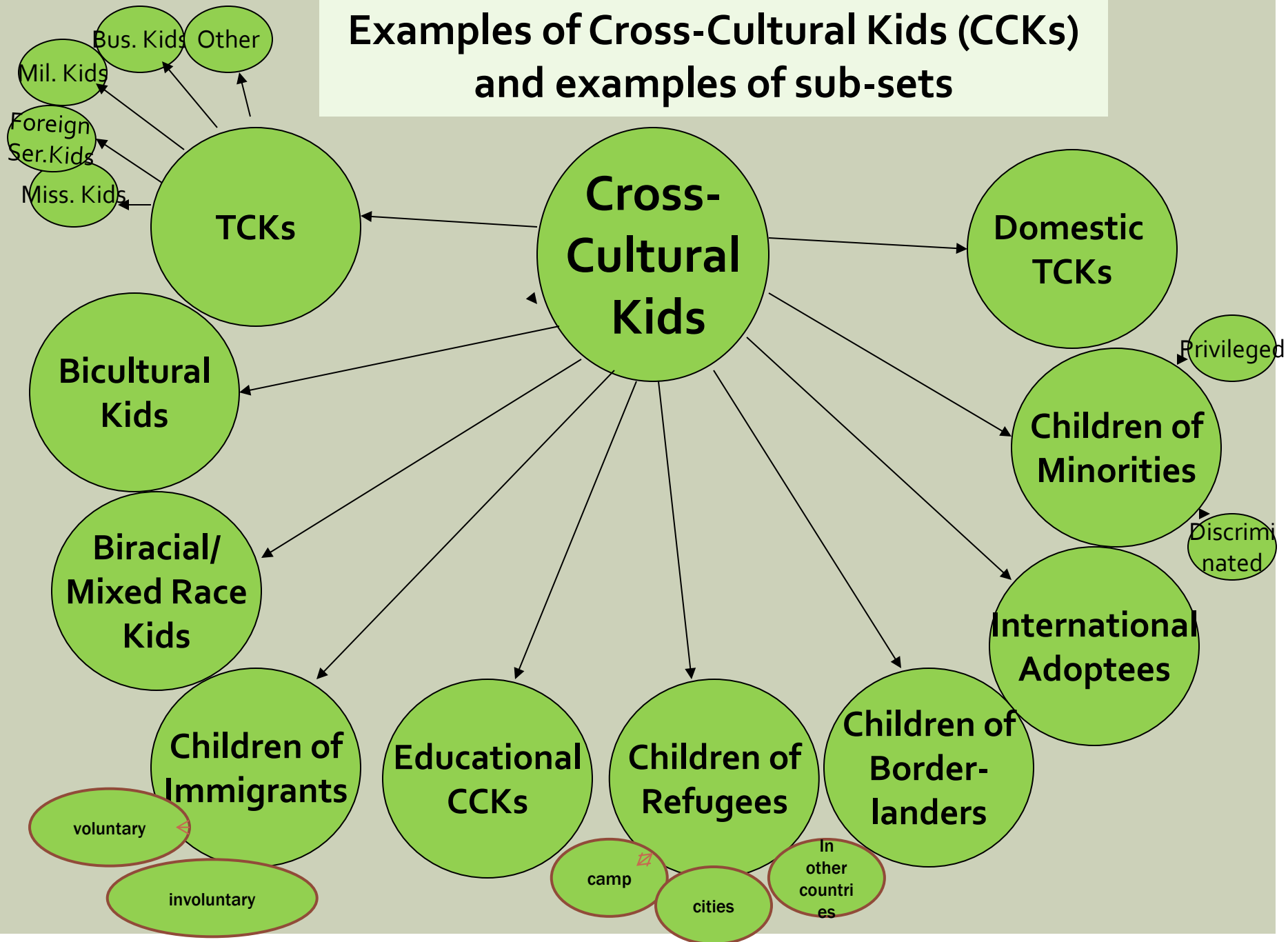
MOST MKs/TCKs ARE ALSO CCKs

- ▶ **A Cross-Cultural Kid (CCK)** is a person who is living in—or meaningfully interacting with—two or more cultural environments for a significant period of time during developmental years of childhood (first 18 years of life).
 - **A Cross-Cultural Adult (CCA)** is one who made first significant cross-cultural interaction as an adult
 - **Adult Cross-Cultural Kid (ACCK)** is someone who grew up as a CCK.

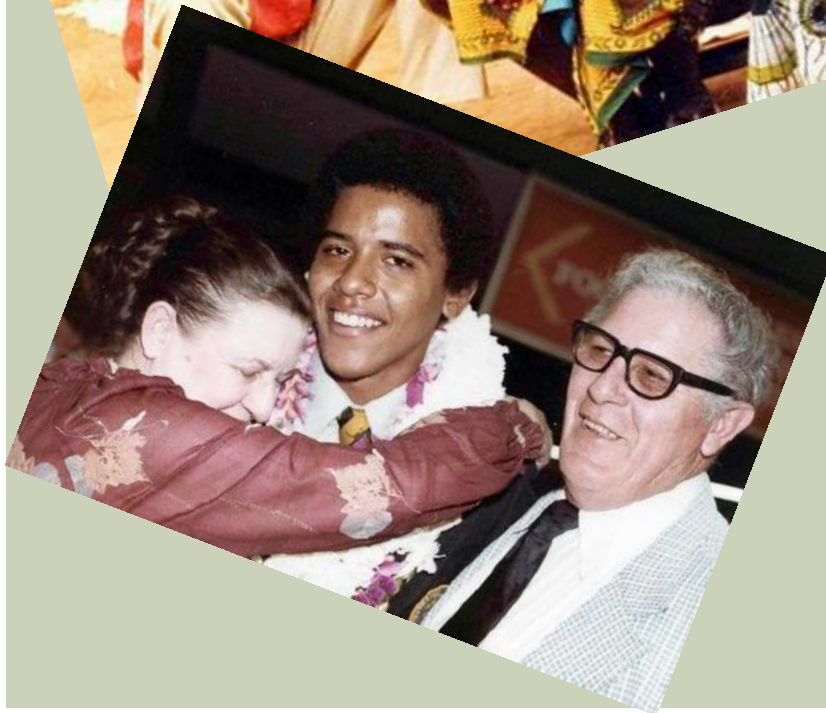
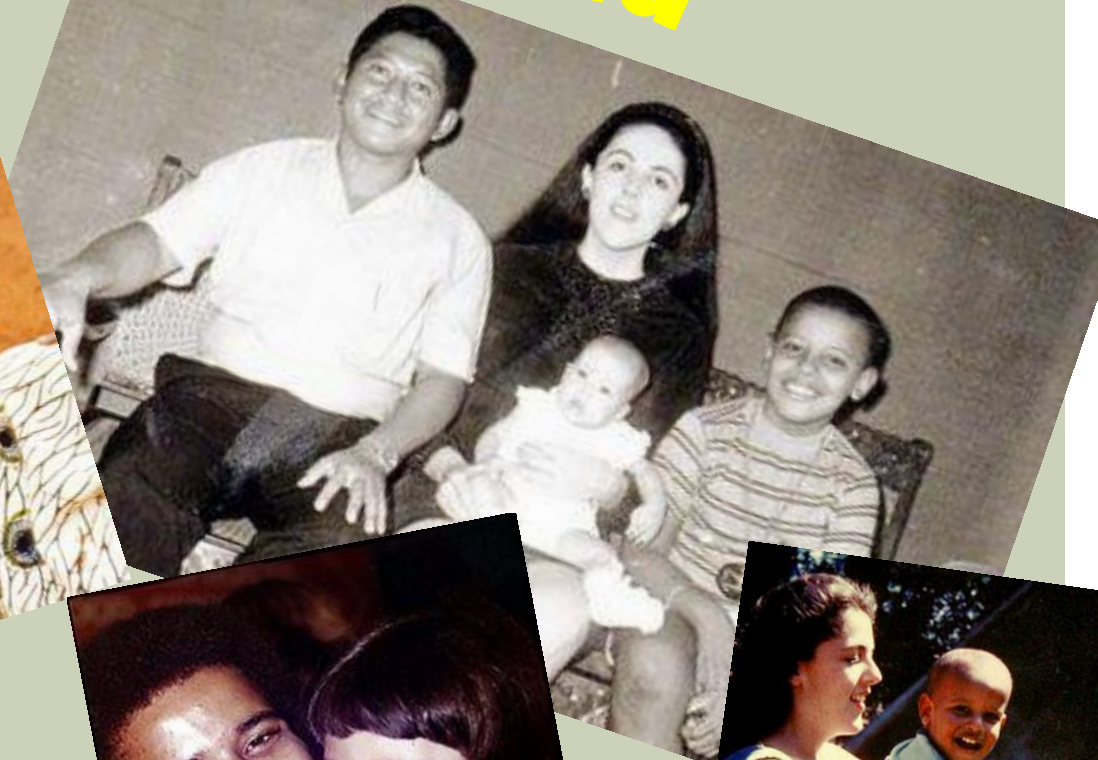
- Ruth E. Van Reken, co-author, *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds*, rev. 2009



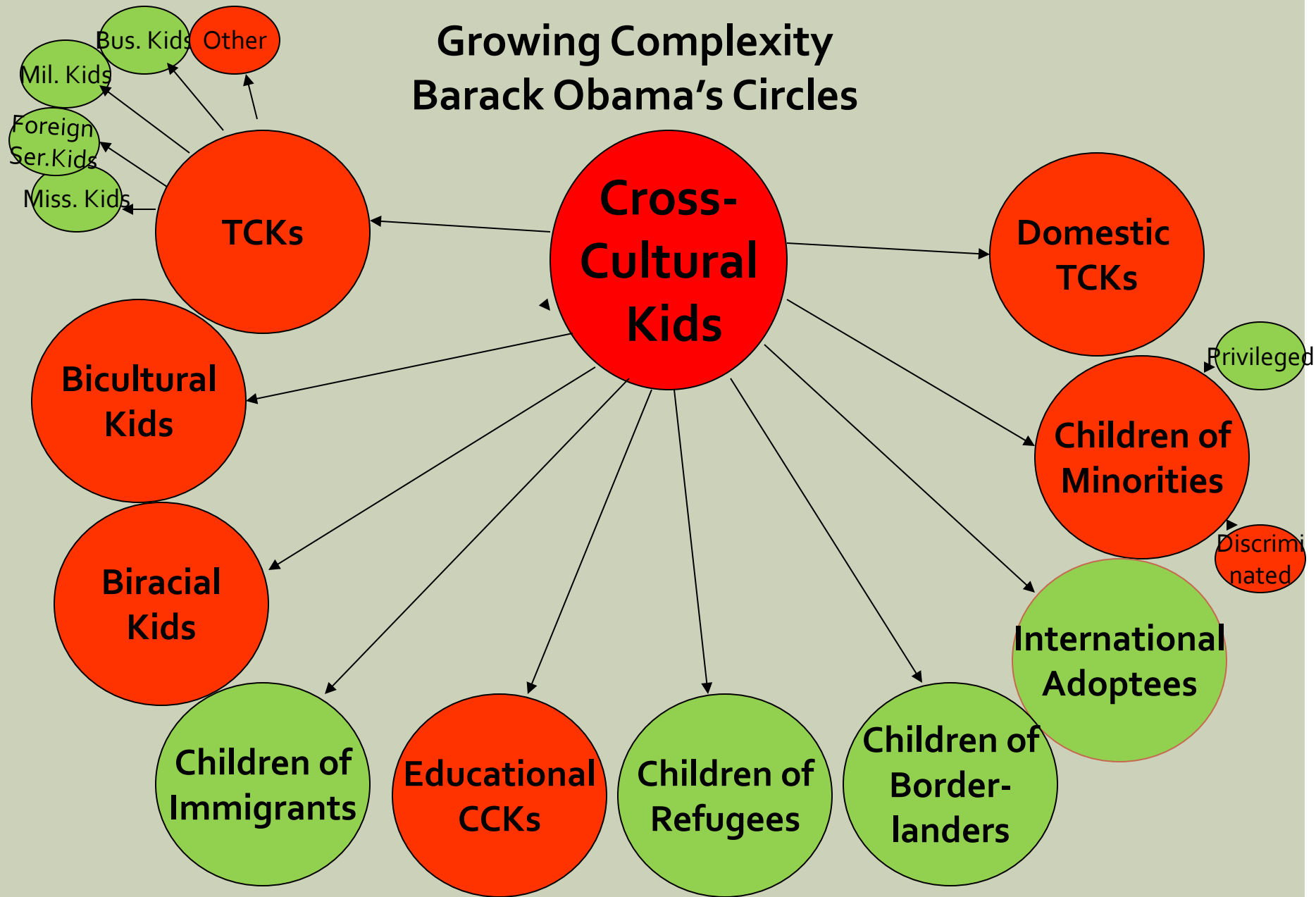
Examples of Cross-Cultural Kids (CCKs) and examples of sub-sets



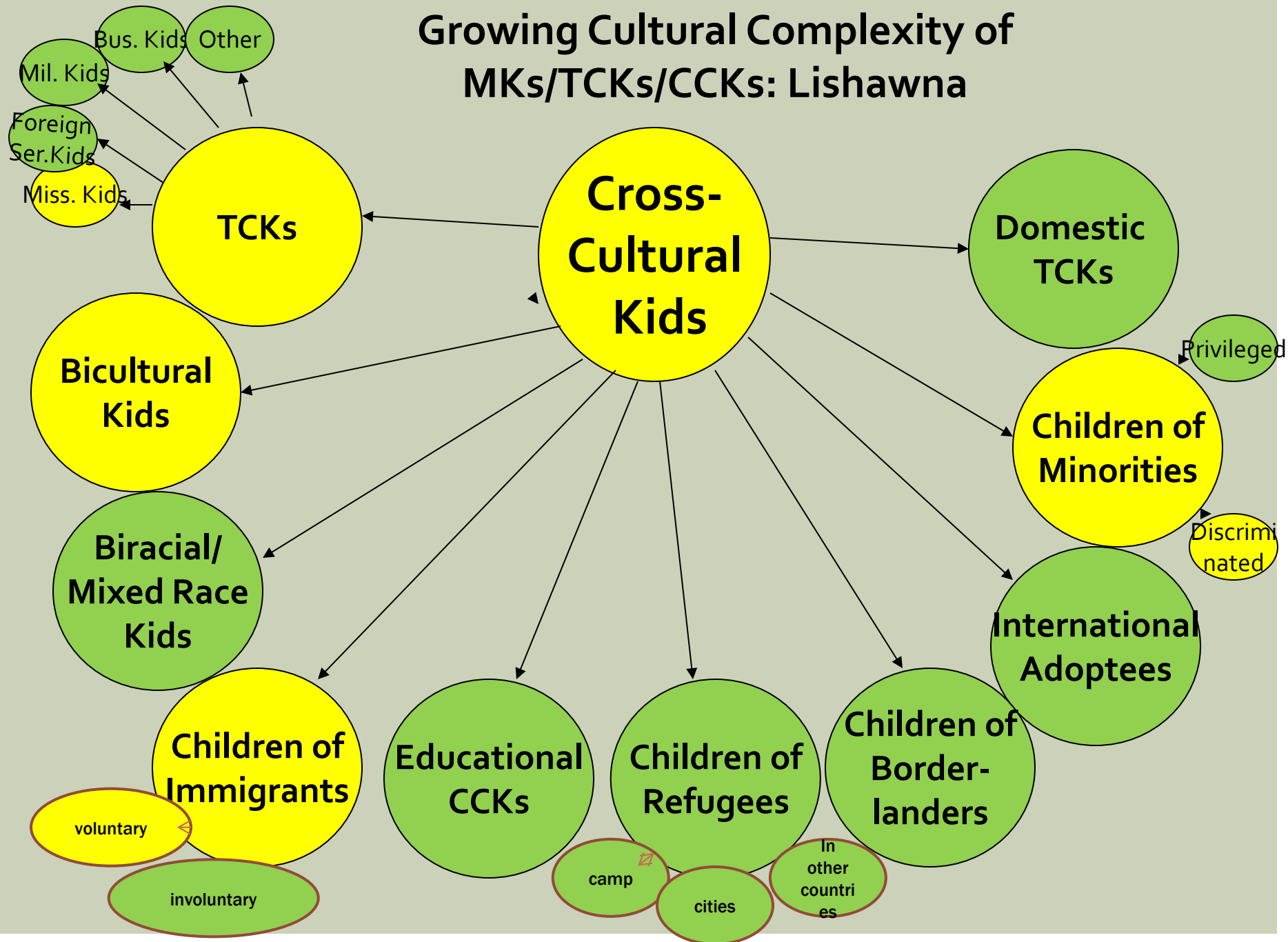
CCK Poster Child



Growing Complexity Barack Obama's Circles



Growing Cultural Complexity of MKs/TCKs/CCKs: Lishawna



WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT: CHANGE



- What is change?

- Both verb and noun

- Verb

- To alter; to make different: to cause to pass from one state to another

- Noun:

- A transformation or **transition** from one state, condition, or phase to another

CHANGE/TRANSITION CAN BE POSITIVE

■ First changes

- Creation – from “without form and void” to the world we have
 - God saw that it was good
- Change from bachelorhood to married state - Adam



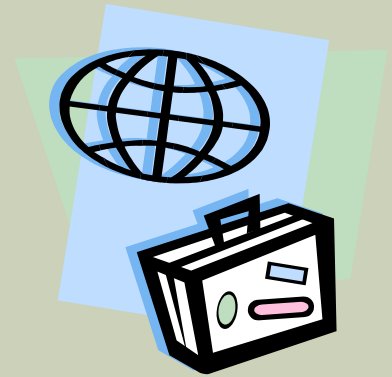
CHANGE CAN BE HARD

FIRST TRANSITION DUE TO PHYSICAL RELOCATION



COMMON REASONS CHANGE/TRANSITION HAPPEN FOR EVERYONE, INCLUDING MKS

- Physical moves
- Life stages
- Catastrophic events
 - Unexpected, sudden changes
- Other?



EXERCISE

- Think about a “pre-change” place you once lived or a life stage you were in – write it down
- Write down all the roles, relationships, or whatever else you had or enjoyed in that place or in that stage
- Now think about when you left that place or that stage - what changed?
- Cross out all the roles or relationships or other things you had or enjoyed that you lost in the change
- Write down any new roles, relationships, or new things you enjoy(ed) in the next place or stage of life



WHAT TRANSITION/CHANGE DOES

ACCORDING TO DOUG OTA

Transition/Change inter

rupts the story

**ANYTHING DIFFERENT
FOR**

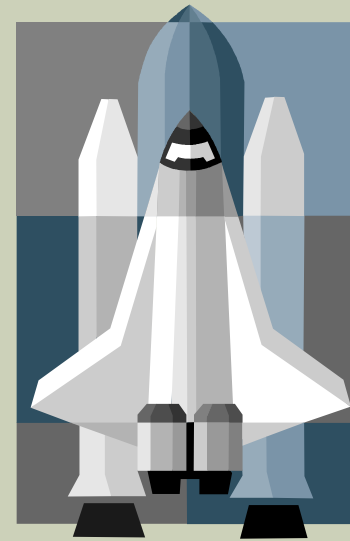
MKs/TCKs?

MKs\TCKs?

EOB

FREQUENCY AND CHRONICITY OF CHANGE

- Cycles of mobility
- Frequency of mobility
- Community of mobility



WHAT HAPPENS WITH EACH TRANSITION OR CHANGE?

- Each transition involves loss as well as potential gain



WHAT HAPPENS WITH EACH TRANSITION OR CHANGE?



- The loss of something you love leads to grief
- Grief will always be expressed, either consciously or unconsciously

WHY?

BECAUSE ALL *OF US*

ARE PEOPLE

MADE IN THE *IMAGE*

OF GOD

OF GOD

SHARON WILLMER'S QUOTE...

- “There are two common elements I see lacking in the MKs I counsel. The first is a loss of comfort.
- The second is the loss of a sense of personhood, particularly **what it means to be a person made in the image of God.**”

■ Written in 1984



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PERSON MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD?

- Relational
- Emotional
- Intellectual
- Creative
- Volitional



- Unified
- Valuable
- Spiritual
- Physical



WHAT DO ALL HUMANS – INCLUDING MKs – NEED BECAUSE THEY ARE PERSONS MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE?

- Relational
- Emotional
- Intellectual
- Creative
- Volitional



- Unified
- Valuable
- Spiritual
- Physical

UNIQUENESS ALSO KEY



- We may be alike, but no one is “the same”!!

BECAUSE OF BEING UNIQUE, EVERY PERSON – INCLUDING TCKS – NEEDS...

- A way to develop personal strengths and gifts
- A place it is safe to express basic personality traits – no cookie cutter mold (not even TCK Profile!)



YOUR ASSIGNMENT TO CONSIDER

How does change make it more difficult to meet these needs?

- Relational
- Emotional
- Intellectual
- Creative
- Volitional



How does change offer extra opportunities to meet these needs?

- Unified
- Valuable
- Spiritual
- Physical

YOUR ASSIGNMENT TO CONSIDER

LOOK AT YOUR STORY – YOUR OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES OF
GROWING IN EACH OF THESE AREAS YOURSELF

- Relational
- Emotional
- Intellectual
- Creative
- Volitional

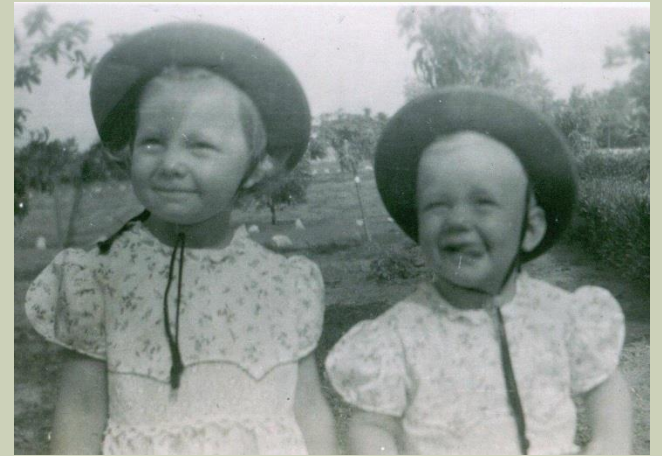


- Unified
- Valuable
- Spiritual
- Physical



BOTTOM LINE, WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT....

**How God uses
everything – including
change – as part of His
workmanship in our
lives**



Sisters Mae Beth and Ruth Ellen

