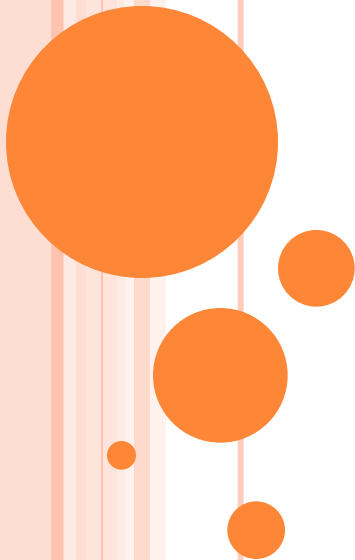


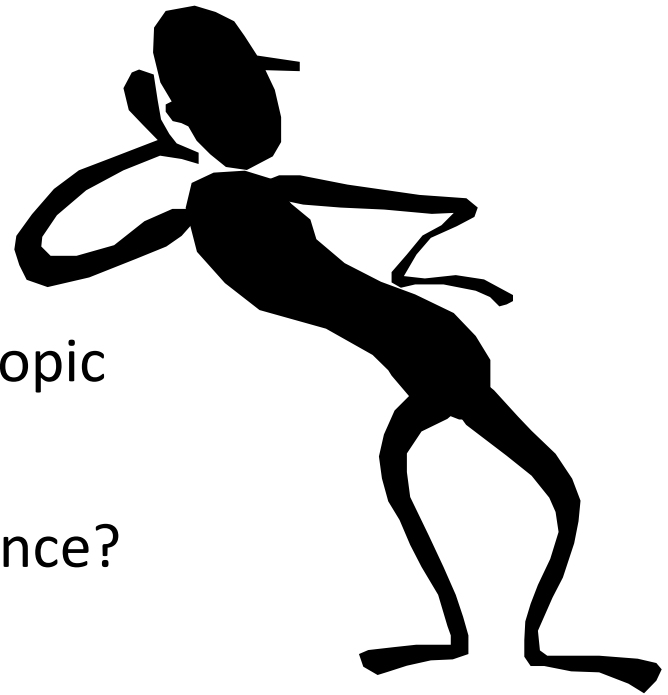
UNDERSTANDING THE EXPERIENCE OF GROWING UP AMONG MANY DIFFERENT WORLDS

Led by Ruth E. Van Reken



OVERVIEW

- Who/what are we talking about?
- Interviewing a few experts on the topic
- What are some gifts of this experience?
- What are some challenges?
- How can deal with the challenges so you can use your gifts well?



FIRST QUESTION...

- Who/what are we talking about?



YOU KNOW YOU'VE GROWN UP CROSS-CULTURALLY IF...

- You flew before you could walk.
- You have friends in many countries and continents.
- Some of your best friends live thousands of miles away.



YOU KNOW YOU'VE GROWN UP CROSS-CULTURALLY IF...

- You watch an English language movie and read the foreign language subtitles.
- You watch a “foreign” language movie and ignore the English subtitles.



YOU KNOW YOU'VE GROWN UP CROSS-CULTURALLY IF...

- You have stopped in the middle of a conversation to find the translation of a word you want to use.



- If you communicate in different languages on Facebook



YOU KNOW YOU'VE GROWN UP CROSS-
CULTURALLY IF...

- You pause when people ask, “Where are you from?”

▪



YOUR ANSWER?

Germany

Um, er, well, uh... Venezuela

America

Korea

Canada

lot's of places

Liberia

South America

Well, I was born in...



YOU KNOW YOU'VE GROWN UP CROSS-CULTURALLY IF...

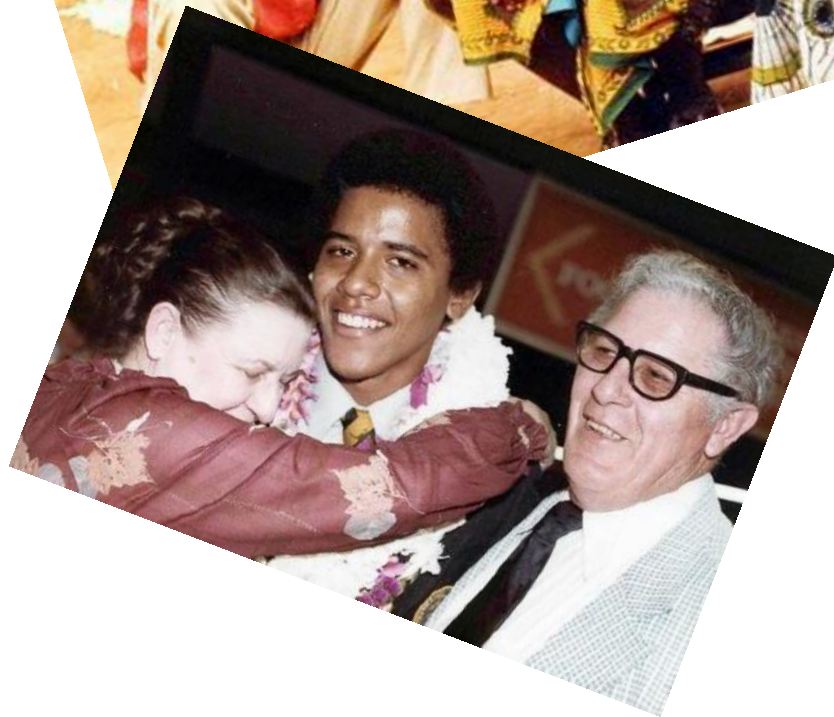
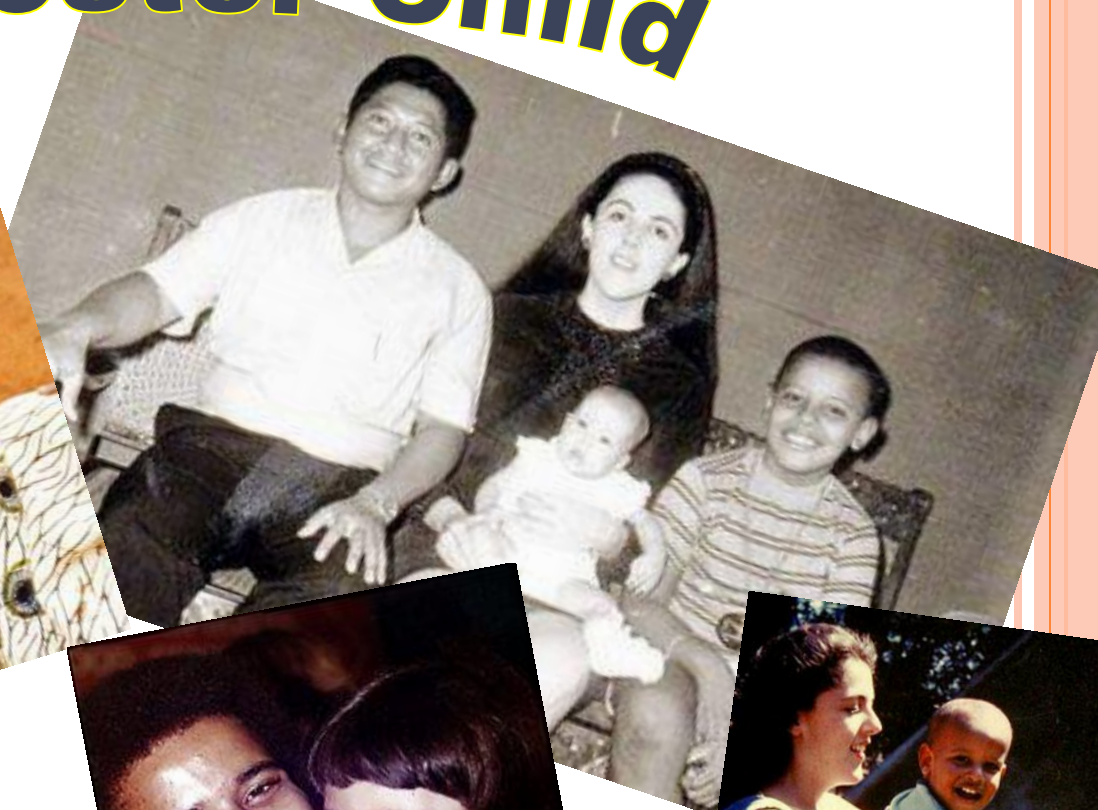
- The phrase, “going home,” means one thing to your parents, and a different thing to you.



So what's the big deal?

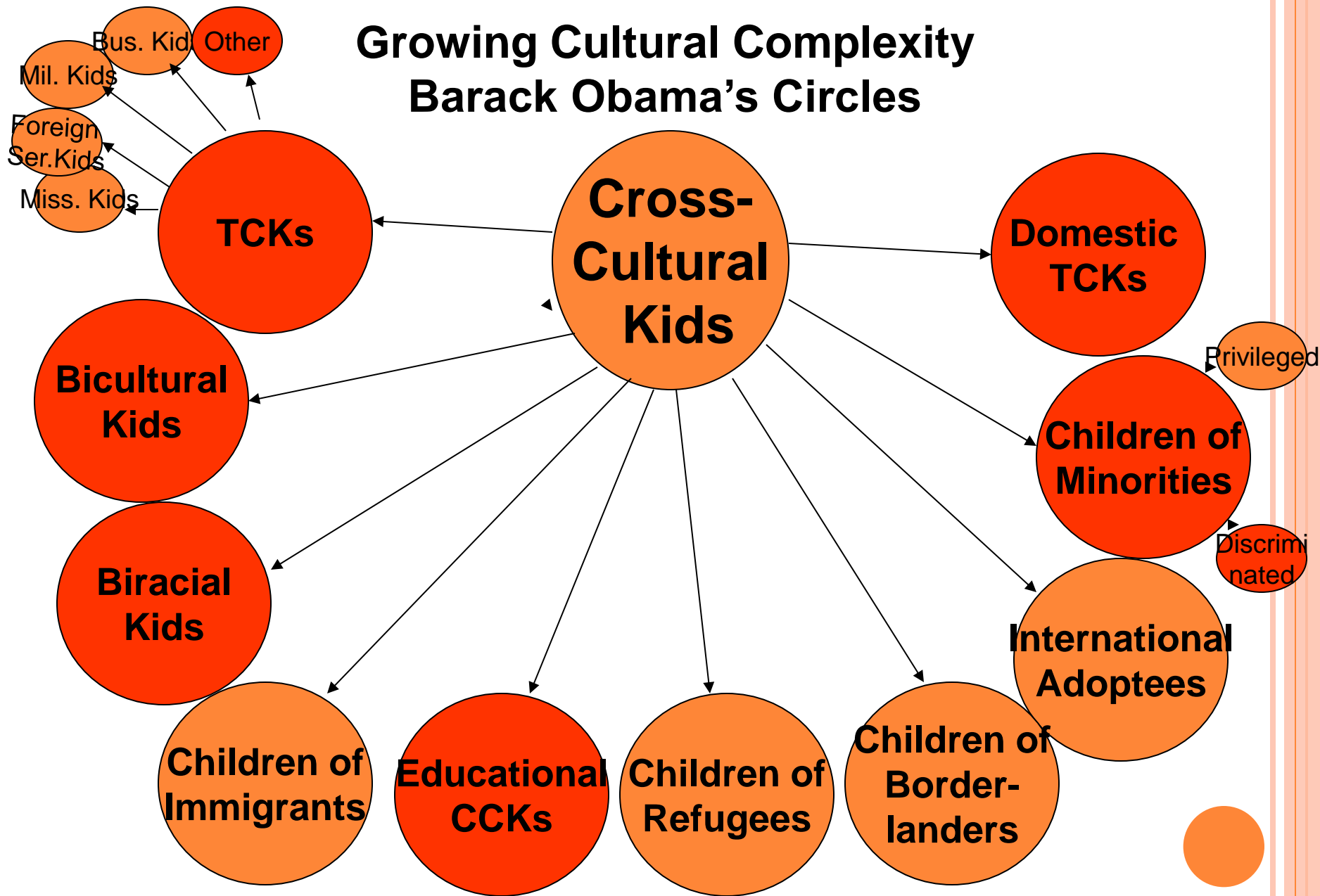


CCK Poster Child



Growing Cultural Complexity

Barack Obama's Circles



Expert Panel

Sahil, Mikey, Puck, Eric and Aninna



QUESTIONS FOR EXPERT PANELISTS

- Please give your name and grade
- Where were you born?
- What is your passport country (or countries)?
- Which countries have you lived in for more than a short vacation period?
- What languages do you speak?
- How many schools have you attended?



QUESTIONS FOR EXPERT PANELISTS



- When people ask you “Where are you from?” what do you say?
- When people ask you “Where is home?” what do you say? Why?



QUESTIONS FOR EXPERT PANELISTS



- What do you like best about growing up among many cultural worlds?
- What do you think is hardest?



WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER GIFTS AND CHALLENGES OF THIS LIFESTYLE?

- Large world view vs. ignorance of passport culture
- Linguistic skills vs. linguistic confusion
- Cultural chameleon: adaptability vs. lack of true cultural balance
- Arrogance: real vs. perceived
- Belonging “everywhere and nowhere”
- Great opportunity to travel/see the world
- Independence vs. isolation
- Guardedness in forming close relationships



PRACTICAL SKILLS OFTEN ACQUIRED

- Can be effective cultural bridge
- Language skills
- Observational skills
 - Thinking “outside the box”
- Adaptability
- Confidence
 - To start something new
 - To move and start again



THE “CHANGING MIRROR” OF TCKs’ AND OTHER CCKs’ CULTURAL IDENTITY IN RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDING DOMINANT CULTURE

Foreigner	Hidden Immigrant
Look Different Think Different	Look Alike Think Different
Adopted	Mirror
Look Different Think Alike	Look Alike Think Alike

PolVan Cultural Identity Model @1996



COMMON REACTIONS AS TCKs/CCKs TRY TO SORT OUT IDENTITY ISSUES...



- **“Chameleon”**—tries to find “same as” identity
- **“Screamer”**—tries to find “different from” identity
- **“Wallflower”**—tries to find “non-identity” (be invisible)



IN THE END, EVEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN THE SAME FAMILY MAY NOT NECESSARILY SHARE...

- A common sense of national identity
- A similar sense of “Where is home?”



WHAT WE CAN DO...

- Know who you are no matter where you are
 - Your values
 - Your gifts
 - Your interests
 - Your personality



WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IDENTITY...

- Remember you can be “all of the above” rather than “one of the above”
 - “My life is like Windows. I know all the screens are open in the background but I have to work in the one that’s on the screen right now.”

- --Dirk, German ATCK



FOR MOBILITY...WHAT CAN WE DO?

— LEAVE WELL!



- What we can do when leaving
 - Build a **RAFT**
 - **R**econciliation
 - **A**ffirmation
 - **F**arewells
 - To people
 - To places
 - To pets
 - To possessions
 - **T**hink Destination



WHAT ELSE WE CAN DO – ENTER WELL!



- “Unpack your bags and plant your trees”
- Remember you can’t lose your past
 - Stay in touch
 - Recognize the gifts you have received from it



WHAT ELSE WE CAN DO — LIVE WELL IN EACH PLACE

- Intentionally explore and learn about new environment
- Approach the new and “unusual” with a sense of interest rather than disdain — including your passport culture!



ONE LAST WORD...

- When you don't know how to do everything, do what you can...





ENJOY THE JOURNEY!

