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# Relational Self Versus Collective Self: A Cross-Cultural Study in Interdependent Self-Construal Between Han and Uyghur in China

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## Abstract

Although differences between independent and interdependent self-construals have been extensively investigated, few studies have considered intra-cultural variability in self-construal in China. In the present research, we aimed at exploring ethnic group differences in interdependent self-construal. We first compared self-reported importance of the private self, relational self, and collective self between the Uyghur and the Han—two ethnic groups in China. The results show that the Han viewed the collective self to be less important than the private self and the relational self, while the Uyghur exhibited a different pattern, rating the collective self as more important than the private self and the relational self (Study 1). Three follow-up self-referential memory experiments provided further support for the difference in interdependent self-construal between the Han and the Uyghur. Specifically, only the Han participants exhibited significantly better memories of mother-referenced information than famous-person-referenced information (Study 2). In contrast, only the Uyghur participants exhibited significantly better memories of group-referenced information (Studies 3 and 4). These marked ethnic differences in interdependent self-construal suggest that the Han privilege the relational self and the Uyghur the collective self, thus highlighting the intra-cultural variability of interdependent self-construal in Chinese populations.

## Keywords

relational self, collective self, Han, Uyghur

( & , 1 1).  
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### Current Studies

(2001) ... 1, ... H ... H ... 2 ... 4, ... ( ) ( , , & , 1 ). ... ( ) ( , ). ... & , 1 ). ... ( R ) ( , K , 1 ). (2002) ... ( ), ... / (R/K) 2, 3, 4, ... H ... H ... ( ) ... H ...

### Study I

#### Method

#### Participants.

(1 ) ... 24 (18 ) H ... ( SD) ... H ... 21.42 1.61 1.58 0. ,

#### Procedure.

( ... ), ... 1 ,

### Results and Discussion

1 ; ,

.86, .81, , , H .83, .84, .84, .80, -

**Table 2.** Means (Standard Deviation) of Rate of Recognition and R/K Judgment as a Function of Ethnic Category and Reference.

	Self		Other		Mother		Father		False alarm	
	Han	Uyghur	Han	Uyghur	Han	Uyghur	Han	Uyghur	Han	Uyghur
Recognition	0.81 (0.13)	0.79 (0.14)	0.65 (0.20)	0.74 (0.15)	0.73 (0.15)	0.75 (0.15)	0.71 (0.17)	0.78 (0.15)	0.09 (0.04)	0.38 (0.20)
R	0.56 (0.21)	0.60 (0.19)	0.41 (0.19)	0.49 (0.20)	0.50 (0.19)	0.57 (0.19)	0.51 (0.21)	0.57 (0.20)	0.03 (0.03)	0.22 (0.17)
K	0.25 (0.22)	0.19 (0.11)	0.24 (0.17)	0.25 (0.15)	0.23 (0.20)	0.18 (0.13)	0.20 (0.19)	0.21 (0.15)	0.06 (0.04)	0.17 (0.10)

Note. Recognition = the number of words participants reported have seen/number of total words in each reference condition; false alarm = the number of words participants reported have seen/number of new words, and calculations are the same in the following studies.

5- , 1 *not fitting at all* 5 *extremely fitting*.

*Study phase.*

30 ( . . , 30 ) . 5,000 500- 1,000 2,000 500- 120

*Test phase.*

15- 120 120 240 ( . . , & , 1 )

**Results and Discussion**

4 2 20 H 20 2. *corrected recognition score* ( ), , F(1, 36) 33.31, p .001,  $\eta^2$  .4 F(3, 36) 8.44, p .001,  $\eta^2$  .18 , F(3, 36) 2.5 , p .056,  $\eta^2$  .06,

$R^2 = .22$ ,  $F(3, 36) = 10.51, p < .001$ ,  $d = 0.63$ ,  $t(1) = 2.2, p < .05$ ,  $d = 0.5$ ,  $t(1) = 3.3, p < .05$ ,  $t(1) = 2.1, p < .05$ ,  $d = 0.50$ .

$H_1$  ( $M = 0.2, SD = 0.14$ ) ( $M = 0.56, SD = 0.20$ ),  $F(3, 1) = 31, p < .001$ ,  $t(1) = 2.2, p < .05$ ,  $d = 0.5$ ,  $t(1) = 3.3, p < .05$ ,  $t(1) = 2.1, p < .05$ ,  $d = 0.50$ .

( & , 2002 & , 2002 , 200 ).

$R^2 = .22$ ,  $F(3, 36) = 10.51, p < .001$ ,  $d = 0.63$ ,  $t(1) = 2.2, p < .05$ ,  $d = 0.5$ ,  $t(1) = 3.3, p < .05$ ,  $t(1) = 2.1, p < .05$ ,  $d = 0.50$ .

### Study 3

#### Method

**Participants.** 20 (10 )  $H$   $H$  21.25  
 (  $SD$  )  
 1.68 21.8 2.52,

**Procedure.** 2 4  $H$   $H$  /  $H$  )  
 ( /  $H$  ),  $H$

#### Results and Discussion

2, 20  $H$  20 3.  
 4 2 *corrected recognition score*,  
 $p < .05$ ,  $F(3, 36) = 26.86, p < .001$ ,  $d = .41$ ,  $H$ ,  $F(1, 36) = 12.2$ ,  
 $F(3, 36) = 13.61, p < .001$ ,  $d = .26$ ,  $F(3, 36) = 24.03, p < .001$ ,  $d = .66$ ,





**Table 4.** Means (Standard Deviation) of Rate of Recognition and R/K Judgment as a Function of Ethnic Category and Reference.

	Self		Other		In-group		Out-group		False alarm	
	Han	Uyghur	Han	Uyghur	Han	Uyghur	Han	Uyghur	Han	Uyghur
Recognition	0.74 (0.13)	0.79 (0.17)	0.53 (0.16)	0.68 (0.17)	0.64 (0.18)	0.71 (0.18)	0.60 (0.15)	0.62 (0.20)	0.13 (0.08)	0.24 (0.12)
R	0.59 (0.15)	0.65 (0.24)	0.37 (0.17)	0.53 (0.20)	0.47 (0.19)	0.56 (0.22)	0.44 (0.18)	0.46 (0.23)	0.07 (0.05)	0.15 (0.09)
K	0.15 (0.09)	0.13 (0.13)	0.15 (0.08)	0.15 (0.13)	0.17 (0.12)	0.15 (0.14)	0.15 (0.07)	0.16 (0.12)	0.06 (0.05)	0.09 (0.08)

**Study 4**

*Method*

*Participants.*

(10  
)  
20 (10 ) H  
( SD ) H 21.  
1.1 21.65 1.6 ,

*Procedure.*

2 4 H  
( ) H  
2 3,

**Results and Discussion**

20 H 20 4 2 4.  
score R , corrected recognition

Recognition:  $F(3, 36) = 24.61, p = .001, \eta^2 = .3$   
 $F(3, 36) = 3.56, p = .02, \eta^2 = .0$  R:  $F(3, 36) = 26.03, p = .001, \eta^2 = .41$   $F(3, 36) = 3.23, p = .025, \eta^2 = .08$

( , , , , )  
H  
corrected recognition score R Recognition  
 $t(1) = 16.83, p = .001, d = .4$  R:  $F(3, 1) = 16.44, p = .001, \eta^2 = .4$   
 (Recognition:  $M = 0.61, SD = 0.14$  R:  $M = 0.52, SD = 0.15$ )  
 (Recognition:  $M = 0.40, SD = 0.13$  R:  $M = 0.30, SD = 0.16$ )  
 (Recognition:  $M = 0.50, SD = 0.16$  R:  $M = 0.40, SD = 0.16$ )  
 (M = 0.46, SD = 0.12) Recognition:  $t(1) = .0, p = .001, d = 3.25$   $t(1) = 3.41, p = .003, d = 0.3$   
 $t(1) = 4.3, p = .001, d = 2.01$  R:  $t(1) = .6, p = .001, d = 1.42$   
 $t(1) = 5.31, p = .001, d = 0.3$   $t(1) = 4.5, p = .001, d = 0.$



(H & H, 2000 & H, 2000). (200 ),

H ,

( , 2010).

H ,<sup>3</sup>

( H , 2001). H ( , 2010 , 200 ).

2. R , 3 4 .

( & , 1 5 , 1 ) . H , K

( , 200 ) R/K .

( , 2004) R/K .

R/K

( , H , , & , 2010 , 200 ).

H

**Acknowledgments**

**Declaration of Conflicting Interests**

**Funding**

**Notes**

1. 2, 3 4.
2. K 2, 3 4.
3. H  
R 2, 3, 4 2  $t(36) = 6.36, p = .001, d = 2.06$   
 $t(36) = 4.0, p = .001, d = 1.55$  3  $t(36) = 3.36, p = .002, d = 1.10$   $t(36) = 3.61,$   
 $p = .001, d = 1.1$  4  $t(36) = 3.46, p = .001, d = 1.13$   $t(36) = 3.15, p = .003,$   
 $d = 1.02.$

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