



Name: Leong, Fred
Designation: Professor of Psychology & Director, Centre for Multicultural Psychology Research (CMPR)
Organization: Centre for Multicultural Psychology Research (CMPR)
Contact Information: Department of Psychology, Psychology Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1116, USA.
email: fleong@msu.edu
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About the Presenter:

Professor Frederick Leong, Ph.D. is Professor of Psychology and Director, Consortium for Multicultural Psychology Research (CMPR), Department of Psychology at Michigan State University. Professor Leong has made significant contributions to the psychology of ethnic minorities, multicultural psychology and career counselling. He is the President of Division 12 Section VI (2009); Clinical Psychology of Ethnic Minorities of the American Psychological Society, Founder and Past President, Division of Counselling Psychology of International Association of Applied Psychology (2006-2010) and Director, APA Advanced Training Institute on Research Methods with Diverse Racial and Ethnic Groups (2008, 2009). He is widely published and is the Founding and Incoming Editor of Asian American Journal of Psychology (2009-2014), editor of the Book Series on Cultural, Racial and Ethnic Psychology, APA Division 45: Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues and Editor-in-Chief, APA Handbook of Multicultural Psychology (2008-2011). He was the recipient of the 2007 APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology.

Title of Paper: **Desiderata: Towards Indigenous Models of Career Development and Vocational Psychology**

Abstract:

In a keynote address at the 1999 National Career Development Association convention, the author had used Lewin's concept of a force-field analysis to present a model for examining the challenges of providing career counselling in Asia in terms of prevailing and countervailing forces (Leong, 2002). The model also suggested a need to avoid a simple importation of Western models of career counselling which may not be an optimal fit for the Asian cultural context. Instead, the cultural accommodation approach was offered as a viable alternative. In this presentation, the author will present a brief overview of the cultural accommodation model and then the second part of this evolving model which recommends the development of indigenous models of career development and vocational psychology. Based on Leong and Brown's (1995) formulation of the multicultural vocational psychology



literature as falling into either cultural validity studies or cultural specificity studies, the current paper will shift to the cultural specificity dimension. Specifically, beginning with review of the development of indigenous psychologies, the author will discuss how that movement can aid in the development of indigenous models of career development and vocational psychology in order to provide the much needed theoretical developments within our field. Recommendations and examples will be presented on how indigenous constructs can be used to enrich our career theories and practice.