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“Emotional Fabric of Society: Emotional Environments, Congruence, and Discrepancies from a Macro Perspective”

This dissertation is based on large-scale studies with participants from around the world and demonstrates how individuals’ emotional experiences, societally accumulated emotional experiences, and socio-cultural expectations and norms concerning emotions interact in shaping well-being. Overall, the dissertation is well written, and the candidate has made a valuable contribution to the literature.

The dissertation consists of four papers, three of which have already been published. While the correspondence between the chapters and the individual papers should be clarified, the dissertation would also benefit from stronger integration of the four studies into a coherent whole. For example, in Chapter 2, pages 26 and 27 should be omitted. In addition, it would be advisable to avoid combining the four papers too explicitly within the main text. (If this style is common practice in the candidate’s country, this comment may be disregarded.)

Although the work is of high quality, there is room for improvement in the General Introduction section. The following points should be addressed:

1. Page 15, third paragraph: The meaning of “beliefs about emotions” is unclear. The explanation that follows appears to refer to “evaluations” rather than “beliefs.” The subsequent sentence, “These beliefs may take multiple forms...,” also creates ambiguity. It is not clear whether “these beliefs” include ideal emotions, socially expected emotions, or emotional identity.
2. Page 15, fourth paragraph: Additional findings from Zerwas et al. (2024) should be included. It also remains unclear why and how valuing happiness affects individuals’ understanding of their affective states, or what “emotional identity” (mentioned in the previous paragraph) refers to.
3. Page 16, third paragraph: A description of the weaker cultural differences in actual affect compared to ideal affect, as demonstrated by Tsai and colleagues, would strengthen the discussion.
4. Page 16, fourth paragraph: Emotion expression is introduced without sufficient rationale, particularly given that other emotion regulation strategies (e.g., reappraisal, suppression) could also have been examined. Greater justification for this choice is needed. Furthermore, this section is difficult to follow, as it is immediately followed by a discussion of cognitive-affective dissonance between emotional experiences and normative beliefs. The relationship between emotion expression and the reduction or occurrence of dissonance should be clarified.
5. Page 19, third paragraph: The phrase “contributions by Greenaway and colleagues Greenaway et al. (2018)” should be corrected to “contributions by Greenaway et al. (2018).”

6. Page 20, second paragraph: The discussion of emotional fit does not sufficiently acknowledge prior work by Mesquita, De Leersnyder, and others on emotional acculturation. The candidate should refer to this literature (see Kim and Mesquita, 2025, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, for a recent review) and clarify what is novel in the present research. This clarification would better justify the significance of the four research questions.

Specific comments on later chapters

7. Previous findings by Kitayama, Park, and colleagues demonstrate interactions between culture and SES in shaping anger expression, and between culture and anger expression in predicting physical health (Kitayama et al., 2015, *Psychological Science*; Park et al., 2014, *Emotion*). These studies should be considered to provide stronger rationale for the hypotheses in Chapter 2.

8. Page 44: It is necessary to test whether each of the simple main effects (i.e., the slopes at each level of PSEE and NSEE [high, average, low]) is significant. This test is required to substantiate the discussion of the results.

9. Page 46: The discussion of Latin America appears abrupt. Further explanation is required regarding the rationale for this focus and the causes of the unique pattern observed in Latin American samples.

10. Page 53, Emotion Expressiveness and Societal Development section: It would be helpful to cite research by Henrich and colleagues demonstrating a positive association between fairness and societal market integration.

11. Page 73: It is unclear why individual-level measures (e.g., SES) were not included or controlled for in this study.

12. Page 84: More explanation should be provided for the decision to focus only on NSEE and not PSEE.

13. Page 110: The rationale for considering measurement invariance in this study, but not in the others included in the dissertation, should be clarified.

This dissertation represents a substantial contribution to the literature on culture, emotion, and well-being. The studies are rigorous and the findings are significant. The doctoral dissertation meets the conditions specified in art. 187 of the Act of 20 July 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 478, 619, 1630).



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