



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

DIPARTIMENTO  
DI PSICOLOGIA  
"RENZO CANESTRARI"

## PhD Program in Psychology

### Seminar "Culturally Sensitive Research Practices"

**Prof. Theo A. Klimstra**

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Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

26/05/2025, 9:30 – 12:30

Aula E - Piazza Aldo Moro, Cesena

#### Abstract

Whether we like it or not, we all (including the instructor of this workshop) have biases. Those aren't necessarily all bad, as they provide us with predictions on what may happen in the situations we encounter. However, biases obviously become more problematic if they are applied to groups of people or entire cultures. Therefore, it is important to examine our biases and think about how they might affect the way we see the world, and through that the way we do our research and interpret our findings. In the first part of this workshop, the meaning of "culture" will be examined, and the concepts of master narratives and cultural lens will be introduced. We will discuss how these master narratives may relate to how different researchers may define "good" science. Finally, several widely used approaches to research within and across cultures will be introduced and critically reviewed. Participants are asked to think about the origins of the research approaches they use, whether they share the same cultural lens as those they (intend) to study, and related issues, to examine what can do make their research as culturally sensitive as possible.

**Reading:** Klimstra, T. A., & McLean, K. C. (in press). Reconsidering normative interpretations in personality research. *European Journal of Personality*.