

# Cultural Differences and Traffic Safety.

Useless knowledge or the key to the solution  
?

Michael H. Cale'  
CogniTo Ltd. 2011





PSYCHOLOGY (cats)

®

Insert stupid joke about psychologists here



# What cultural characteristics really influences safe driving behavior ?

**Risk perception**

**Experience**

**Religion**

**Socio-economic level**

**Social norms**

**Quality of police enforcement**

**Need for sensation**

**Terror / war**



Drivers in all countries overestimate their own driving skills



In Japan, aggressive behaviour seems to be manifested through tailgating with 70% of respondents declaring that they have been aggressively pursued whereas in Argentina, verbal abuse is the most common form of aggression, being personally experienced by seven in ten respondents.

Economic situation and societal and cultural factors partly explain the differences between countries in traffic safety



Traffic safety records are much worse in Southern Europe and the Middle East than in Northern and Western Europe. Drivers from “dangerous” Southern European countries and Iran scored higher on aggressive violations and errors than did drivers from “safe” Northern European countries.



The factorial agreement for driver behaviour (i.e., aggressive driving) and performance (i.e., safety skills) was unsatisfactory in Greece, Iran, and Turkey, where the lack of social tolerance and interpersonal aggressive violations seem to be important characteristics of driving



Israeli drivers cause less road traffic accidents and drive more safely during wars and intifadas.



In China age or quality of driving training are not correlated with risky driving behavior but driving experience is with the peak risk at six to eight years

Novice drivers in Finland do not overestimated their level of confidence compared to objective driving behavior but Swedes do . Males do not show more overconfidence than females..



In Australian and Finish samples you can see that the safer people think they drive the less fewer citations and accidents appear in their records

and A country with corrupt, inefficient ineffective institutions is also a country with a high RTA fatality rate.

Male drivers using hand held mobile phones [ in Qatar] had a significantly higher rate than females, which is similar to earlier reported studies. Illiterate drivers use hand held mobile phones more often while driving than the educated drivers

Chinese and Arabic speaking parents or caregivers perceived the road environments as significantly less hazardous for their 4–12 year old children as pedestrians when compared with Vietnamese and English speaking parents.



*Left-handers were found to commit more accidents in India but not in Japan. Reanalysis of data in terms of left-, mixed-, and right-handedness indicated that mixed handers committed more accidents than extreme left or right handers in Japan but not in India*

*Rates of risk behavior were higher for American adolescents in the areas of automobile driving (high-speed and drunk driving) and minor criminal behaviour (shoplifting and vandalism), whereas Danish adolescents were higher in their rates of driving a bicycle or moped while intoxicated..*

Social causes at the macro level – such as cultural differences – might account for the attitudes and behaviors of drivers and their relationship to road accidents on the micro-level

Spanish drivers reported (perceiving) the highest risk, German drivers perceived medium levels while U.S.drivers reported the lowest risk



West German subjects attempted fewer crossings, had a higher probability of success, and had greater safety margins than American or Spanish ones .

Probability of attempted crossings was greater for males and younger subjects than for females and older subjects



Young people in Brazil report to commit more violations and errors than adults. Men commit more violations than women. Contemplating these data specific strategies for the different groups are suggested focusing the responsibility of the pedestrians for their behaviors in traffic.

The recognition that traffic safety is a suggests fundamentally cultural issue the utility of deriving lessons from other culturally defined problems in order to inform and provide an analytical reference point for traffic safety cultural change approaches



Casualty rates amongst residents from areas classified as relatively deprived were significantly higher than those from relatively affluent areas.



In comparison to white, non Hispanic drivers, higher rates of driving while impaired (DWI) arrests and alcohol-related crashes were found among Mexican Americans, This came together with less knowledge about the legal level of BAC permitted and less ability to assess, how many drinks are necessary to significantly impair ones driving



African Americans are more sensitive than Whites to the enforcement of primary laws regarding use of seat belts. In secondary cities African Americans were less likely than Whites or Hispanics to be belted, among populations both with and without college degrees



Traffic accidents are significantly more dreaded in Japan than in the US. Unlike American drivers, Japanese overestimate the risk of accidents and see themselves as more likely to be at fault than not. Japanese drivers take insurance in order to be able to protect others whilst US drivers want to protect themselves from law suits



Accident rates of foreign drivers in Finland (mainly Russian ) are higher than rates of domestic drivers



Motor vehicle occupants identified as Black had significantly lower safety belt use than those occupants identified as White or Other.



We found no differences between African-American, White, and Hispanic drivers regarding red light running. Drinking and driving was the most important factor for red light running. Some Hispanic subgroups may be more vulnerable to red light running e.g. Hispanics who have no valid driver license and no record of previous driver license suspension..



In 66% of the cars driven by Hispanic farm workers (42% of whom learned to drive between the ages of eight and fourteen) in California where a single child was carried and where two children were carried, no car seats were used. In all of these cases there were other passengers and drivers who were not belted



Inner city youth reported lower rates of parental seat belt use and less often being told by parents to use their seat belts, results parental modeling and indicate that less encouragement of seat belt use was an important cause of inner city youth's lower rates of seat belt use.



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Low GNP countries report less accident fatalities than mid income countries do. Examination of countries which have significantly more, or significantly fewer fatalities than predicted for their numbers of vehicles and GNP per capita, will be extremely informative

Seat belt use among American Indians, Alaska Natives and Non Hispanic Whites varied significantly by region and urban–rural residency in 2002. Primary seat belt laws appear to help reduce regional and racial disparities in seat belt non-use



About 15% of all accidents are traffic-related among either permanent residents or Greek tourists, but they represent 40% among tourists of foreign nationalities

In China the safety belt use ratio is about 64%, running light use is nearly zero during rainy and snowy weather, headlights use after sunset is substantially delayed, and only about 40% of drivers use turn signals..



Foreign drivers in Greece are at increased risk at being involved in accidents . Moreover, foreign nationalities corresponding to permanent residents (i.e. Greeks and Albanians) appear to be at lower fault risk compared to foreign nationalities corresponding to tourists and visitors .It was also shown that roadway features do not affect accident fault risk

Cross-border regions were found not to be particularly likely to have similar road mortality risk levels where they shared a common national border. National borders have no specific effect on the distribution of road mortality across Europe.



Black and Hispanic adults travel less in motor vehicles than whites but may be at greater risk when they do travel. Reported belt use rates were lower among black men and women, even after controlling for SES, whereas Hispanic men and women had belt use rates similar to those of whites.



Amongst the Arab population in Israel 17% of the drivers buckled up according to the law ( the national level is over 80% ), and only 25% of the children were transported according to the law. 70% of the participants reported that they don't use safety car seats for their children.



77% of respondents in Australia have been subject to aggressive or obscene gestures in contrast to only 9% in Japan

There are differences among nationalities regarding target risk-level of performance





Stimulus

# Attention and Concentration



Functioning under stress conditions



perception



STM



interpretation



Belief systems



Prepare a number of options



אפשרויות

Choose one option based on...

Self esteem



personality



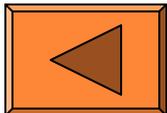
Gains and losses



Temporary variables



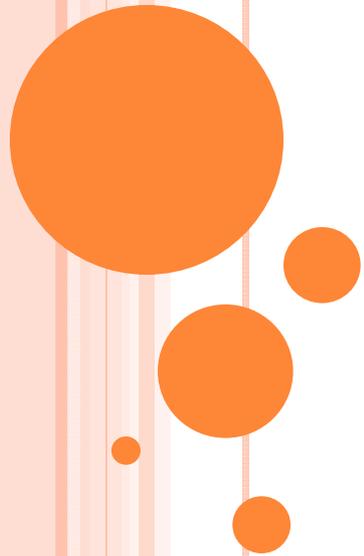
Social pressure



Choose option and act



**To speed or not to speed, that is the question**



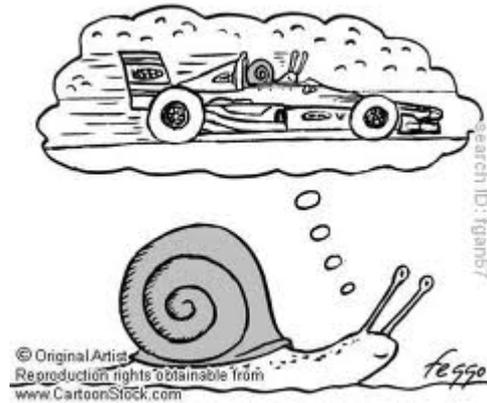
Be punctual



# Make a good impression



# Guarantee a positive self esteem



# Social Pressure



Speeding is really fun



# Influence of Cultural Factor(s)

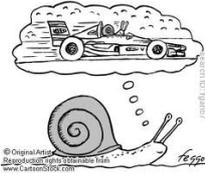




Being punctual



Making a good impression



Guarantee a positive self-esteem



Social Pressure



Fun



Influence of cultural factors





X



+



X



+



X



+



X



+



X



+



X



=

**Sum total of positive expectancies from dangerous behavior**



# Being cited or punished



# Experiencing unpleasant risk



You might be injured or even  
killed



If you are caught and have your license evoked  
you will definitely look like an idiot



If you are caught and have your license evoked  
you will definitely look like an idiot



# Influence of Cultural Characteristic





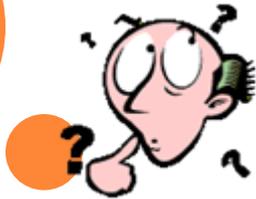
Possible punishment



Risk of injury or fatality



Unpleasant risk experience



Social punishment



Influence of cultural factors





X



+



X



+



X



+



X



+



X

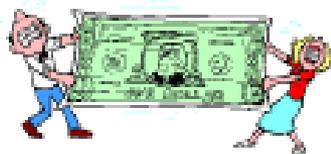
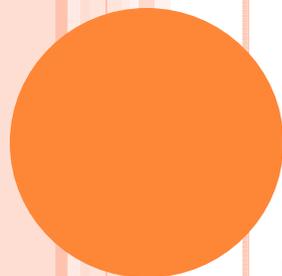
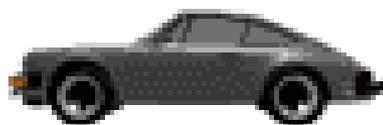


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Sum total of negative expectancies from dangerous behavior

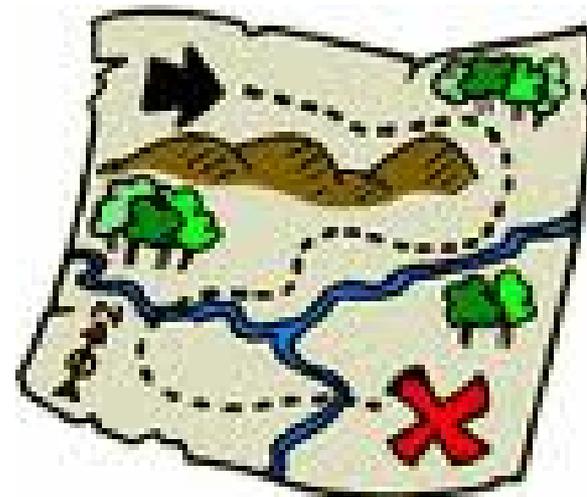


# Values and Needs





$$D = \sum [(P \text{ 😊 } * V \text{ 😊}) - \sum (P \text{ 😞 } * V \text{ 😞})]$$



# **Comprehending and exploiting cultural differences permit :**

**Planning effective programs to improve traffic safety**

**Responsible use of funds**

**Out of the box solutions for local problems**

**Adapting efforts to changing reality**

**Possibility to plan and perform preemptive interventions**

**Evaluation of effectiveness of local, national or global efforts**





**PSYCHOLOGY** (cats)



**Refrain from inserting a stupid joke about psychologists here**

**They have got the message !**



# Understanding Cultural Differences and Traffic Safety.

The map and the key to the real treasure of  
saving lives

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