

groups were predictors of functioning, these findings highlight the importance of better understanding socioeconomic factors across the lifespan and all levels of cognition.

**Categories:** Cross Cultural Neuropsychology/  
Clinical Cultural Neuroscience

**Keyword 1:** activities of daily living

**Keyword 2:** mild cognitive impairment

**Keyword 3:** aging (normal)

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## 22 How Cultural Factors Affect CVLT Performance in Individuals from the Former Soviet Union

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**Objective:** Neuropsychological test norms are developed as a reference point for assessing normal and abnormal test performance (Manly & Echemendia, 2007; Mitrushina et al., 2005). However, these norms are often created without considering the cultural experiences that influence neuropsychological test performance in ethnically diverse individuals. Since the Soviet Union's collapse, approximately 2.66 million people migrated to different countries, with one of the most popular destinations being the United States (Tishkov, Zayinchkovskaya, & Vitkovskaya, 2005). The objective of this study was to examine whether specific cultural factors can significantly influence Former Soviet Union's neuropsychological test performance on the California Verbal Learning Test-Second Edition Short Form (CVLT-II-SF).

**Participants and Methods:** A total of 66 fluent, English-speaking first- or second-generation healthy immigrants from the Former Soviet Union participants were recruited from the greater Los Angeles area for this study. Participants ranged in age from 18 to 75 years old. Participants were administered the CVLT-II-SF as part of a larger battery. This shorter version of the CVLT-II requires participants to learn 9 words that fall into 3 different categories over 4 learning trials. This is followed by distractor task, free recall of the 9 items and free

recall of the items again after 10 minutes, followed by recall with cuing of the categories. A questionnaire designed to assess the participants' various cultural experiences was given and include the amount of education that was obtained outside of the U.S. as well as the percentage of time they spoke English growing up. Finally, all participants completed an acculturation measure.

**Results:** Correlation analysis was performed in order to assess which cultural factors significantly correlated with the CVLT-II-SF variables. The results revealed that two of the cultural factors (percentage of education that was obtained outside of the U.S. and the acculturation score) are significantly correlated with several neuropsychological variables. Stepwise regression analysis was then used to further examine the best cultural predictors of CVLT-II-SF variables. This analysis revealed that the percent of education obtained outside of the U.S. significantly predicted the total learning trial scores, the long free recall trial, and the long-cued recall trials, while the acculturation scores significantly predicted the short free recall trial.

**Conclusions:** The results of this study indicate that specific cultural factors should be taken into account when interpreting the test results of immigrants of former Soviet Union individuals. More specifically, acculturation and the amount of education obtained outside of the U.S. are important factors to consider.

**Categories:** Cross Cultural Neuropsychology/  
Clinical Cultural Neuroscience

**Keyword 1:** neuropsychological assessment

**Keyword 2:** cross-cultural issues

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## 23 Subjective Cognition in African American and White Older Adults: Interactions with Psychosocial Factors

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