IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

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This class aims to provide a working definition of cultural appropriation (sometimes referred to as 'mis-appropriation'), explain the differences between appropriative and non-appropriative cultural engagement, and foster a group discussion on strategies we can take to avoid appropriative behavior in our SCA personas.

Current working definition of cultural appropriation:

"Cultural appropriation occurs when members of a dominant culture take elements from a minority culture that has been systematically oppressed by that dominant group for profit, whether social or financial, or to the detriment of the minority culture."

Cultural appropriation may look like, but is not...

CULTURAL EXCHANGE OR APPRECIATION	- when a participant is invited into a culture and humbly and respectfully participates within the given framework. -may involve study or research rather than portrayal -respectful, honest engagement with culture
CULTURAL ASSIMILATION	- minorities taking on (or giving up) cultural characteristics out of survival or necessity -marginalized groups may not have the luxury of continuing to participate only in their own culture to the same result.

A respectful, honest engagement with another culture, no matter your personal position, is a necessity for a non-appropriative effort.

Note: This handout was designed to be used in conjunction with the class and not as a standalone resource!

Resources Used and Further Reading

https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2015/10/the-dos-and-donts-of-cultural-appropriation/411292/
https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/08/31/childhood-friends-called-my-food-chinese-grossness-how-did-it-become-americas-hottest-food-trend/?utm_term=.5cc1b7d3cd7f
https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/06/cultural-appropriation-wrong/
https://www.smh.com.au/opinion/our-cultures-are-not-your-costumes-20141114-11myp4.html
http://aistm.org/fr.usccr.htm
https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/05/cultural-appropriation/559802/
https://www.thedailybeast.com/you-cant-steal-a-culture-in-defense-of-cultural-appropriation
https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2017/05/25/canadas-war-over-cultural-appropriation

Notes

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