

**ATTACHMENT: VAN IJZENDOORN
CROSS CULTURAL STUDY**

Aim: to investigate the types of attachment across cultures and to see how the three main attachment types applied. They were also keen to explore *intra-cultural* differences. They were also concerned that previous research had applied the strange situation paradigm incorrectly

Procedures:

- ❑ This is a *meta-analysis* which means that the investigators reviewed findings from a variety of studies
- ❑ They examined over 2000 strange situation classifications from 32 studies conducted in 8 different countries

Findings:

- ❑ Differences between cultures were small with secure attachment being the most common classification in every country.
- ❑ Insecure/avoidant attachment was the next most common in every county except Israel and Japan
- ❑ Variation within cultures was 1.5 times greater than the variation between cultures

Conclusions:

- ❑ The global pattern across cultures seems to be similar to that found in the USA. Secure attachment appears to be the "norm". This supports the idea that secure attachment is best
- ❑ In Germany, independence in children is valued which would account for the high percentage of insecure avoidant children
- ❑ In Israel children are raised in Kibbutzims and have little contact with strangers which would account for high percentage of insecure resistant children
- ❑ In Japan children never leave their mother's side until they are a few years old which accounts for high level of insecure resistant children

Criticisms:

- ❑ The strange situation may not be a valid measure of attachment in all cultures
- ❑ Different countries are not the same as different cultures