

Robert J Sternberg is a professor of human development at Cornell University and a respected psychologist in America. In his book “What Universities Can Be”, the chapter titled “Diversity” specifically, Sternberg writes about the importance of having diverse environments in a university atmosphere. He claims that students thrive and learn better when they are exposed to people and cultures that are different from them, because different cultures learn in different ways and it would be positive to expose university students to this. Further into the chapter he explores counter arguments to diversity, using the “politically correct” excuse that often comes up. His answer for this is a simple one- even if diversity ends up being politically correct, it’s still important and necessary. He warns of diversity stamping itself out however, when people that are worried about holding on to their jobs instead of doing the right thing, which is something that I’ve come across a lot in studying diversity.

The uses of this chapter are many: first and foremost, this was the first time I was introduced to the concept that he introduces in here (implicit theories of knowledge) which I wanted to key in on while studying diversity and inclusion. His cultural studies of two different ethnic groups (One in Kenya and the other in the Yukon) and how their skills and knowledge differ from that of Western society children and how they might perform on standardized exams and in the classroom was very interesting to me. As a future teacher, it’s impossible not to be interested in the debate of how implicit biases affect teachers and how they treat their students.

Link to Chapter: <http://www.jstor.com/stable/10.7591/j.ctt20d890h.8>