WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES AMONG THE 1.0, 1.25 AND 1.5 GENERATION IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS? AN ANALYSIS OF CROSS-CULTURAL CAPABILITIES APPROACH (SUMMARY)

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Principal Topic
A significant factor in adaptation to a new culture for the possession of cross-cultural capabilities (CCCs), which are composed of psychological adaptation and sociocultural adaptation. The age of arrival in the host country has been found to influence the first generation immigrants’ CCCs (Johnson & Newport, 1989). Sociologists refer to the “1.5 generation,” which denotes people who immigrate to a new country at age 6 to 12 and are often bilingual. For them, it is easier to assimilate into the host culture than people who migrated in adulthood. Those who arrived in their adolescent years from age 13 to 17 are called “1.25 generation” and tend to adapt to the host country similarly to the “1.0 generation” (arrive after 18) (Rumbaut, 1997, Rumbaut, 2004, Zhou, 1997). This paper examines the differences among these three entrepreneurs to address the research question “how does it differentiate among three groups of first generation immigrant entrepreneurs in terms of their CCCs?”

Method
Our study use a qualitative approach. It utilizes a cross-sectional dataset through semi-structured in-depth interviews with 30 Chinese immigrant entrepreneurs (two are 1.5 generation; eight are 1.25 generation and twenty are 1.0 generation) in Australia.

Results and Implications
We found that the age of arrival affects CCCs, especially to their capabilities of sociocultural adaptation. 1.5 generation is found competent as bilingual in a prior study (Rumbaut, 2004), however, in our study they are less confident than 1.25 generation in their home language, particularly in writing. Our research suggests that the 1.5 generation is easier to fit into the host country than their home country and their CCCs are more adaptive to the host country. 1.25 generation is the most competent group in bilingual ability as they are able to switch with ease between their mother-tongue and their second language. The 1.0 generation’ CCCs is more adaptive to home country rather than host country, but they have outstanding bicultural flexibility. One similarity among these three generational cohorts is cultural learning capability, they all deem it is important.

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