

# **The Impact of Culture on Therapeutic Contact**

## **Outline of Research**

This qualitative, phenomenological study explores issues thrown up in transcultural, therapeutic contact, with a particular focus on Erskine's constructs of attunement and involvement. There is a discussion of the nature of culture, a exploration of the universal and cultural in contact, and an examination of the universality of important psychological concepts such as the self. It is shown that some difficulties of transcultural contact are examples of known psychological processes, while others arise out of a lack of cultural knowledge. Issues of cultural identity are shown to be germane to this area, especially when contact is poor. Attunement and involvement are discovered to be appropriate in transcultural therapy, but cultural sensitivity is an added necessary dimension.