



Driver Licensing Experience of Korean Australians

Jae Won Oh, Narelle Haworth & Mark King

Centre for Accident Research & Road Safety - Queensland

CARRS-Q is a joint venture initiative of the
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Multicultural environment

- Over ¼ of Australians were born overseas & 20% more had at least one parent born overseas.
- 52,760 were born in Korea (Department of Immigration and Citizenship, 2008).
- Drivers from various nationalities with different knowledge of regulations are driving on Australian roads



Road safety implications of multicultural society



- Driving style is influenced by driver's personality, sense of themselves and driving experience. Lajunen, et al. (1998)
- Socio-economic status and differences between culture & ethnicity also contribute to mortality & morbidity rates
- Drivers born overseas had equal or lower rates of death/hospitalisation compared to Australian drivers. Dobson et al. (2004)
- Other studies show higher risk for driving on other side of the road

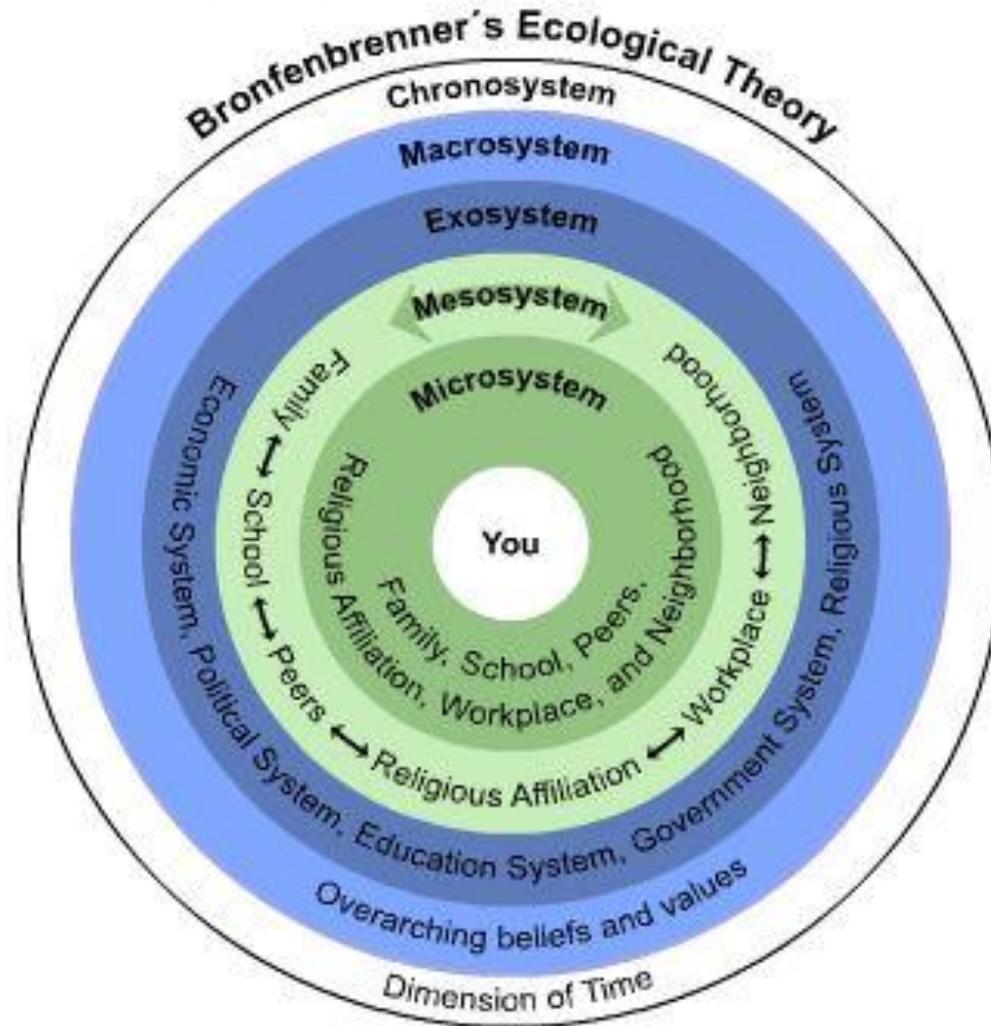
Graduated licensing system & foreign born drivers

- GDL provides experience in less risky driving situations
- Introduction of GDL in QLD (2007) fatalities were lowered by 31.5% (Department of Transport and Main Roads, 2012).
- However, foreign residents in QLD have learnt to drive in various different jurisdictions
- It is likely they will experience difficulties due to different regulations, language barrier and from different socio-economic backgrounds



Korean driving track examination

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Model (1979)



Research methodology

- **Aim:** To understand the factors influencing the driver licensing experience of Korean Australians (KA)
- Focus group sessions of approximately 90 minutes
- Group 1:
 - young KA novice drivers with a minimum of Learner's licence
 - 8 females and 6 males, mean age 21.4 years (range 17-25 yrs)
- Group 2:
 - parents of young KA drivers
 - 5 females and 3 males, mean age 49.8 years (range 48-53 yrs)

Research outcome

Obtaining the learner's licence

- Both parents and young drivers reported poor public transportation was the main reason for licensure
- Younger drivers also reported it was a social obligation to be licensed
 - *“It's a social obligation. My friends drive around so I don't want to fall behind.”* (Long term resident, female, Open driver)

Logbook entries

- Many young drivers reported falsifying logbook entries
- They believed 100 hours were too long to fulfill
- However, parents all believed 100 hours were necessary and some even reported the longer the better

Research outcome

Practical driving

- Overseas students reported difficulty in receiving supervision and participants with busy parents also reported the same issue
 - *“It was a problem for me to have supervision...the cost is too high and having to live here by myself, it was hard to get the hours up.”* (Long term resident, male, Open driver)

Perceptions of GDL system

- Both parents and young novice drivers reported positive features of Australian GDL system.
- They reported the system was structured and comprehensive
- The gradual process was a method to provide enough supervision to increase confidence and skills to the newly licensed drivers

Research outcome

Differences between AU and KA drivers and road conditions

- Some reported AU drivers may have greater driving skills when faced with unexpected situation due to the GDL system
- The majority believed on average KA drivers were safer
- This may be due to the Korean culture being interdependent and high compliance to parents and rules of the society
- However, minority of KA drivers (for those on working holiday visa) do have potential to drive in a risky manner.

Perceptions of KA drivers

- There was lack of understanding in the importance of supervised driving from the participants
- The perception of GDL system may differ between KA and AU parental group of young drivers
 - The view towards the necessity of supervision driving is different
- Discrepancies present between young KA drivers and parents in regards to the view to 100 hours of supervision
- However, majority reported the advantages of the Australian system and had a positive view towards the system
- Furthermore, there is a need to increase compliance to the requirements for overseas-born drivers

Future research

- Methods need to be developed to assist in young drivers that lack access to vehicles and supervision
- Applying the ecological model
- Limitations were present as it was a focus group discussion with only KA participants
- Future studies would need to study reasons behind low compliance
- The association between social and cultural status needs to be studied to understand the experience of the GDL system



Any questions?

jae.oh@qut.edu.au