

Community Adaptation To Earthquake Hazards: A Cross-cultural Comparison of Japan And New Zealand

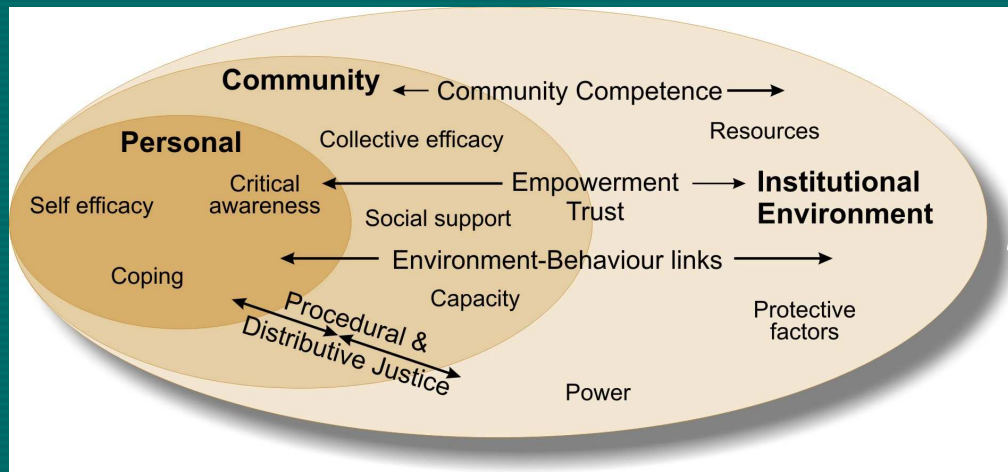
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Identified set
of predictors
of preparing...

Resilience/adaptive capacity

- safeguard family/home/contents
- self-reliant & able to meet immediate needs for 3-5 days +
- ability to work with others to deal with emergent problems
 - neighbours/community members
 - emergency mgmt. agencies
 - relief agencies

Paton (2000)

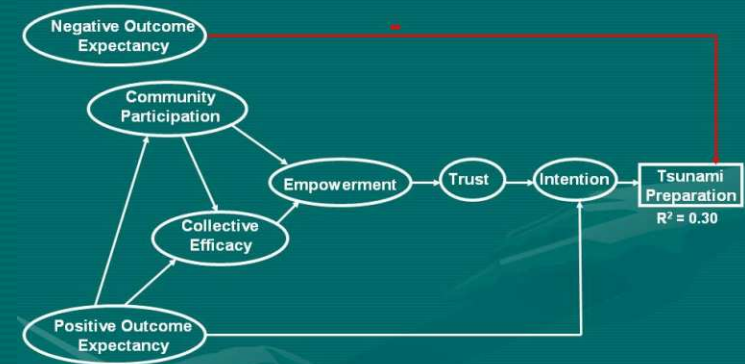
Paton (2006)

Paton et al. 2009

Cultural issues & adaptive capacity

Individualistic culture

- individual & community factors
- independent, act consistently across situations & pursue personal outcomes



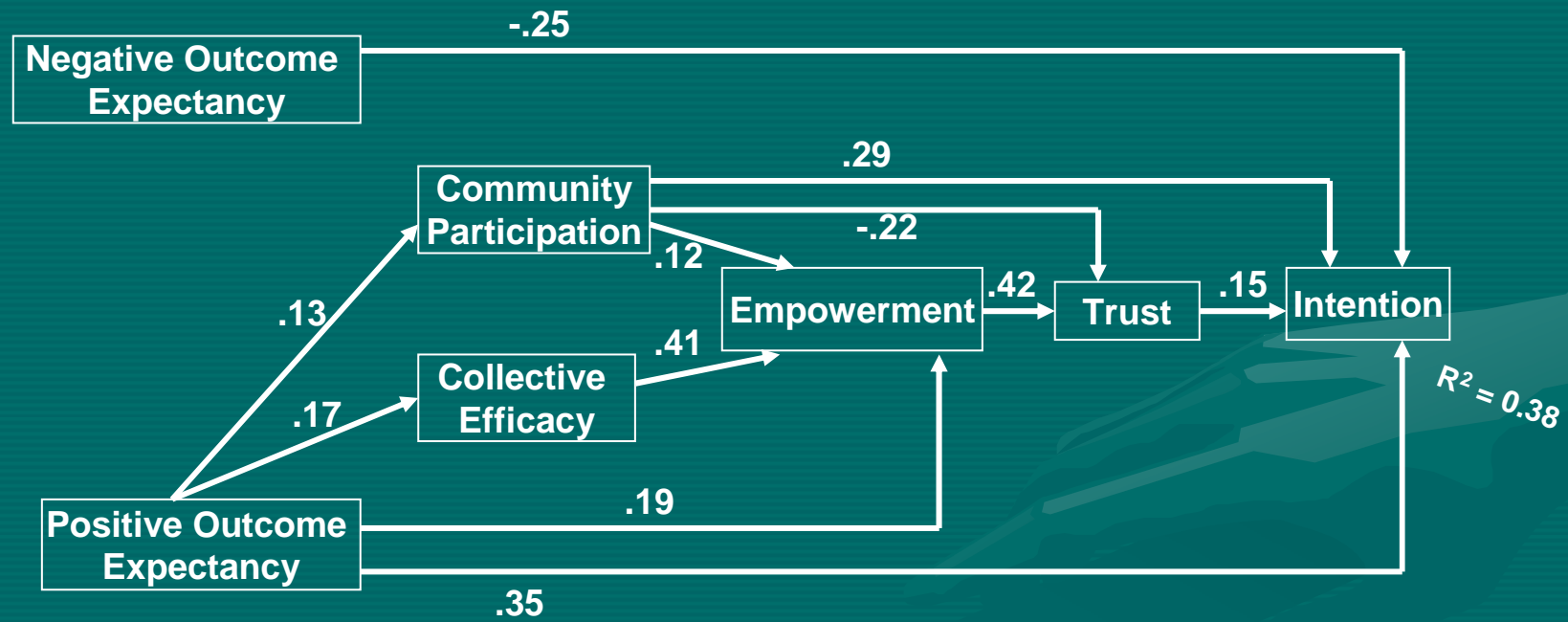
Collectivist culture

- align with social norms, pursue collective goals, & assess well-being in terms of relationships

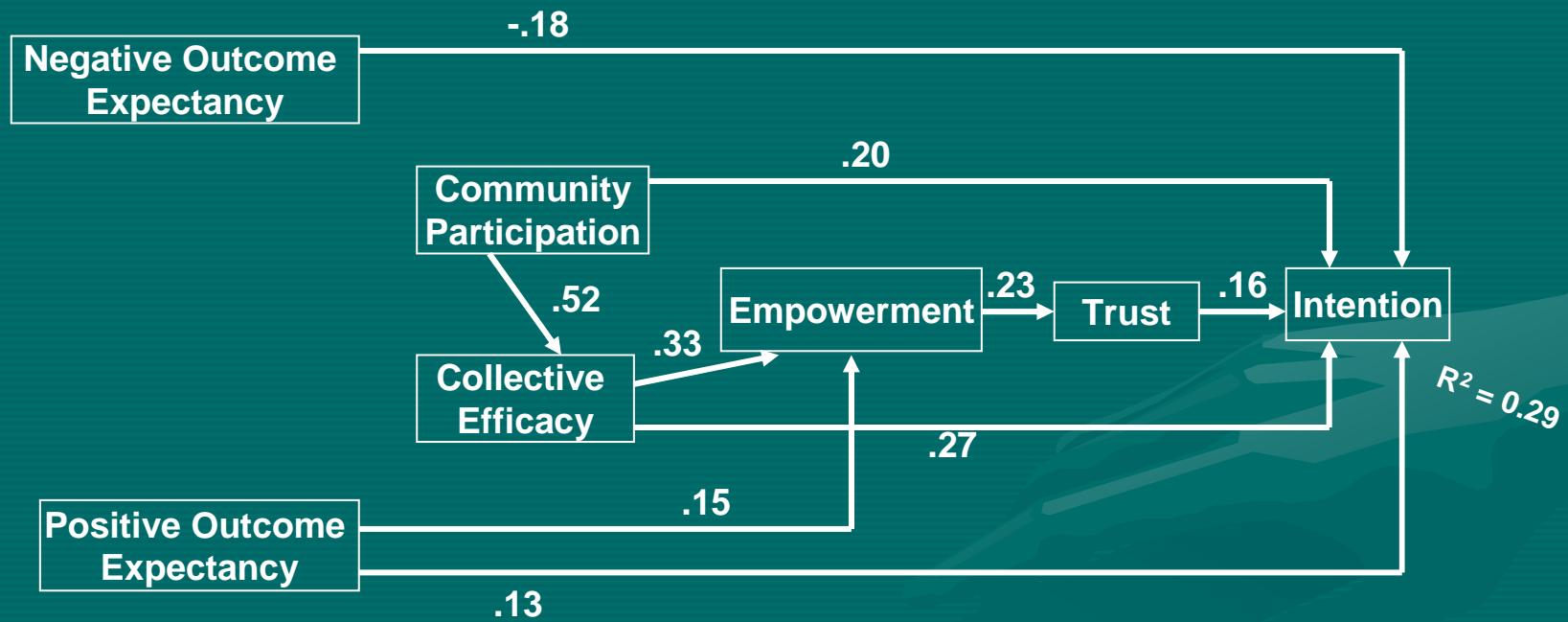
Can the model apply across cultures?



**Study
Areas**



New Zealand - Earthquake Preparedness (Napier)



Japan - Earthquake Preparedness (Kyoto)

Similarities

- all components represented in model
- some support for universal (cross-cultural) structure



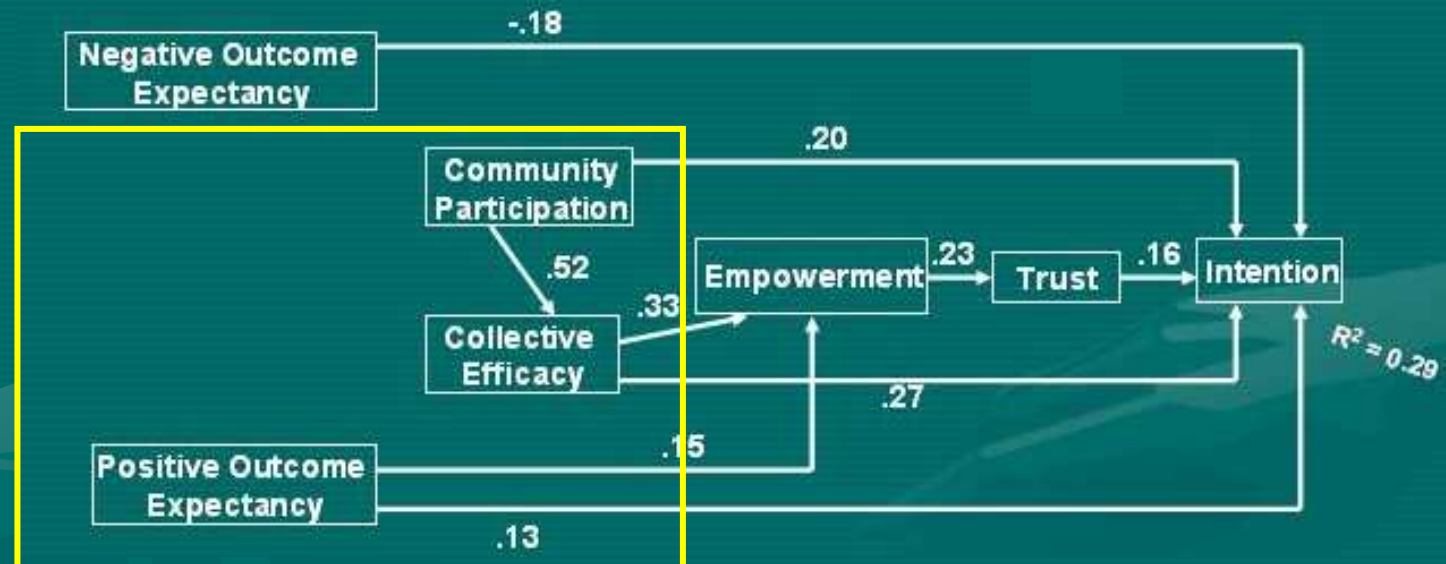
However, several differences noted...

- consistent with role of cultural characteristics in each country

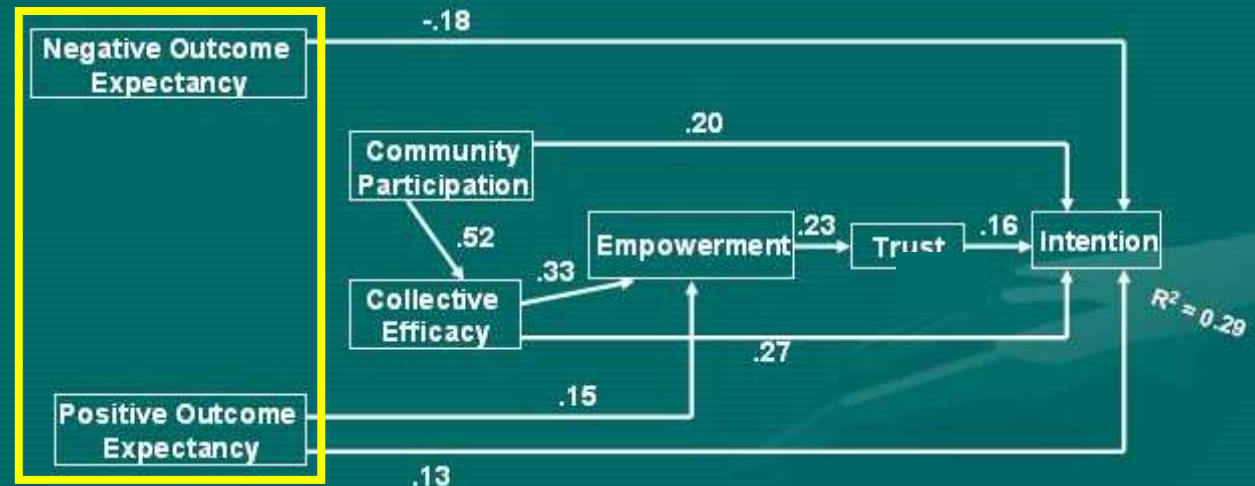
Differences

Paths missing in Japan

- link between POE and community factors



But



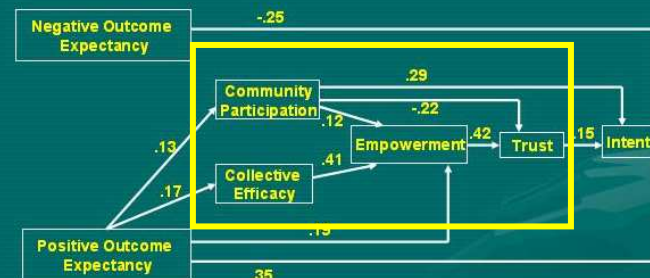
- evidence for individual beliefs influencing actions
 - they do not (as yet) influence collective choices
- emerging role for NOE (similar to NZ)
Why?
Recent experience (e.g., Kobe)

Childs (2008)

Japan

Community Participation-Trust relationship is not present

NZ - greater distinction between people, community & agency



NZ

Japan - more integrated community-agency relationships (e.g., Chonaiikai, Jishubo)



Japan

Implications for public education/risk management

In Japan



- cannot assume that community mechanisms represent the only route to preparedness
- consider how people interpret their circumstances individually and collectively

In New Zealand

- need to target individual, community & civic factors collectively



In both countries, risk management strategies should include:

- **information provision**
 - new approaches required in both countries
- **community relationships & competencies**
- **community empowerment & engagement**
 - delivered in ways consistent with prevailing cultural practices (e.g., Jishubo in Japan)
 - new approaches required in NZ

NZ & Japan

- data reflects day-to-day experiences of confronting community issues...that
- influence prevailing levels of:
 - community participation
 - problem solving/collective efficacy
 - empowerment

Differences in underlying cultural processes influence degree to which:

- resilience mechanisms are implicit within a culture
- mechanisms have to be developed/sustained

Emphasises importance of

- integrating risk management and community development

Strategies based on community capacity building

- immediate benefits,
- sustained potential,
- utilise implicit cultural competencies
- accommodate community diversity



Collaborative research will provide valuable insights into how culture enhances a capacity to co-exist with a hazardous environment

- important contribution to understanding resilience in western populations
 - insights into the components of resilience
 - identify cultural mechanisms & structures

