

# Editorial: culture, self, and autonomy

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## Editorial on the Research Topic

### Culture, Self, and Autonomy

In our special topic *Culture, Self and Autonomy* we have examined the complex issues relating to how self and autonomy are explored, construed, and experienced by different subjects and across cultural contexts. The notion of the self stands at the center of the discussion on psychological autonomy, defined as a system of processes, including self-determination, self-regulation, and self-direction (e. g., [Beck, 1997](#) ; [Beck and Beck-Gernsheim, 2002](#) ; [Ryan and Deci, 2017](#) ). Culture plays a key role in determining the basis of potentiality for autonomy, as it sets boundaries for the appropriate level of autonomy for individuals within a society ( [Chirkov, 2017](#) ). One of the primary dimensions of this topic was the development of the autonomous self in children and cultural differences in this developmental dynamic. Another important dimension has been the conditions for autonomy functioning in adolescents and young adults. The third dimension reflected in the submitted articles was an analysis of the macro-contexts and broad existential concerns as the background for autonomous functioning. The submissions to our special topic have been clustered along these three primary dimensions of our inquiry.

### **Developmental Aspects of the Self and Autonomy Advancement**

The work of Corapci et al. has contributed to such an understanding, linking young, educated Turkish mothers' self-construals to sensitive parenting. Their work has examined the role of autonomous-relational self-construal ( [Kagitçibaşı, 2007](#) ) in these mothers' parenting practice, highlighting how

social change and the ensuing impact of education and changing socioeconomic status of the mothers have resulted in their self-views as well as how they have reared their children. These Turkish mothers have continued to value relatedness of the self while emphasizing the importance of autonomy. Such research evidence suggests that the cultural context continues to shape how one perceives the self and autonomy.

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