

The Importance of Wedding Rituals in Human Societies

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H0: There is no cross-cultural value in wedding dresses selected by today's brides

H1: Each culture has its own traditions about the wedding dress to be worn by brides

H2: Modern brides have a globalized model of what a bride should have as their wedding dress according to popular culture

H3: Modern brides incorporate a mixture of culturally traditional and modern global styles when selecting a wedding dress

Hypothesis Three (Symbolic Interaction) is the best explanation as to why, despite regional differences, modern style wedding dresses have similarities between cultures.

Women of the world acknowledge and respect the traditional styles of their ancestors and try to incorporate some hint of tradition into their weddings.

However, due to popular culture and style trends many of the wedding dresses from around the world use symbolism and detail to achieve the perfect balance between modern and time-honored.

Africa is the cradle of civilization and African wedding gowns are as lively and unique as the women from this region. Custom made dresses are the norm for these brides.

Asian brides used to always wear a kimono style dressed called an Ao Dai, but now they are influenced by the West with more contemporary styles.

American wedding rituals are big business. There are magazines and TV shows dedicated to finding the right gown. However, wedding dresses here began with more humble beginnings.

Symbolic Interactionism is the idea that symbols are culturally derived and maintained in social interaction. Through language and communication, symbols provide the means by which reality is constructed.

If countries, or regions of the world, were in constant contact and interaction with each other, then there would be certain symbols that would be accepted or utilized in some way by all the cultures affected.

Brides, their dresses, and their ceremonies are then all connected by the symbolic domain of marriage.

