

## Cultural Values Influencing Ideas about Friendship

### Dominant US Values

### Other

#### \*Individuality-Interdependence

Individualism.  
individual is very distinct from  
the group  
individual strives for  
individuality

Interdependence  
individual closely tied  
to groups, i.e. family  
interdependence is  
desirable

#### \*Gender

Equality of sexes  
relationships based on equality

Male superiority  
relationships based on  
hierarchy

#### \*Positional role behavior

open role behavior  
may have very similar  
relationships with both males  
and females

specific role behavior  
relationships between  
genders is very  
different from  
same-gender friendships

#### \*Mobility

high mobility  
may be friends because we're close  
to individuals, lose the friendship  
when we move

low mobility  
people move less  
relationships less tied  
to proximity

#### \*Social Reciprocity

independence  
goal in reciprocity is not to be  
to be indebted, to "pay people  
back"  
desirable

complementary-  
obligatory  
being obliged to  
someone socially is

#### \*Group memberships

Belong to many groups  
brief identification  
subordination of group  
to individual

belong to few groups  
prolonged  
identification  
subordination of  
member to group

#### \*Formality

informal  
get to know people quickly

formal  
get to know people slowly

**source: framework from Jack Condon and Fathi Yousef (1975) in *An Introduction to Intercultural Communication*. Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill**