Cultural appropriation

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"Some General Observations on the Problems of Cultural Colonialism” Kenneth Coutts-Smith
Definition

• Cultural appropriation is the adoption of an element or elements of one culture or identity by members of another culture or identity.

• Cultural appropriation is the unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs, practices, ideas, etc. of one people or society by members of another and typically more dominant people or society.
Harmful effects

• Not rewarding the creators
Harmful effects

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• Not rewarding the creators
• Promoting stereotypes
Harmful effects

• Not rewarding the creators
• Promoting stereotypes
• Penalising marginalised groups while rewarding privileged ones
Avoiding appropriation

• Consider the context
  • Does it feel respectful or is it promoting stereotypes?
  • Does the culture have a history of discrimination?
  • What is the cultural significance of this practice or item?

• Explore your motivations
  • Are you exploring a culture or following a trend?
  • Will you benefit in some way?

• Give credit

• Support businesses run by people from that culture
Discussion time
Further reading

• There is no such thing as 'harmless' cultural appropriation, and we must call it out if we hope to fight systemic oppression

• What’s Wrong with Cultural Appropriation? These 9 Answers Reveal Its Harm

• What Is Cultural Appropriation?

• A Guide to Understanding and Avoiding Cultural Appropriation

• Understanding the Harmful Impact of Cultural Appropriation