**Part 1 Thinking and Reflecting**

**Chapter 2. Theoretical thinking: Four Perspectives in Studying Psychology in Sociocultural Contexts**

**Additional questions for discussions and evaluation**

1. Ask students to compare the theoretical perspectives presented by Van Langenhove (1995) and D’Andrade (1986).
2. What are the historical roots of the *Homo Mechanicus* theoretical perspective?
3. Compare the *Homo Mechanicus* approach to culture with the understanding of culture within cross-cultural psychology described in Chapter 1.
4. What is culture reification? Provide examples and articulate the dangers of this type of thinking about cultures.
5. How is causality treated within *Homo Mechanicus* perspective?
6. Ask students to reflect on the methodology of this perspective and compare it with the variable-based design presented in Chapter 7.
7. How do the ideas of evolution and natural selection enter into the thinking of the *Homo Bios* perspective?
8. Eckensberger noted that “this [*Homo Bios*] theoretical perspective . . . is considered to represent a real paradigm shift [in comparison to the *Mechanicus* perspective] because it took a totally new look at the adaptive processes of organisms in their environment” (pp. 419–420). What new ideas are presented by the *Bios* perspective in comparison to the *Mechanicus* one?
9. What is the Standard Social Science Model? How does this model correspond to the modern understanding of human cognitive development? Is the human mind a “general-purpose computer” or a “computer with a set of domain-specific mechanisms and modules”?
10. How do the *Bios* and *Socius* perspectives differ in their understandings of culture?
11. Why do psychological anthropologists criticize the *Socius* understanding of culture? How does the theory of cultural models address this criticism?