

LIKE A FISH *IN WATER*:

INTRODUCING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCIES

11th Day of Teaching and Learning - St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences

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WELCOME!

Introductions

- Your (first) name
- Where you are from
- What you do
- Why you are at this workshop

INTERNATIONALIZATION & FUTURE SKILLS

- Globalized world - internationalization
- Importance of culture and inter- (or trans-)cultural competence
- The first step to developing a competence is to become aware of one's lack of skill or knowledge. Students, faculty, and others at universities encounter that what they have considered to be “normal” and skilled, is indeed not sufficient.



We have to become aware of our own biases...

...and the fact that our brains are hardwired to prefer simplicity and neat categories.

“The ability to categorize objects allows us to store an incredible amount of information in our brains.” – BUT – “Our propensity to categorize can extend beyond objects to the categorization of people, which might potentially lead to prejudice.” (LoBue, 2022)

ACTIVITY I (Adjectives & Individuals)



So, what is culture?

There have been uncountable definitions of culture and its meanings over time. However, there has long been agreement among well-known scholars that culture goes far beyond its outer or most superficial layers (i.e. clothing, customs, foods). “The essence of culture is not what is visible on the surface. It is the shared ways groups of people understand and interpret the world” (Trompenaars and Hampden-Turner in 2020).

Our cultures remain the lenses through which we understand and interpret the world. In addition, we understand that culture is dynamic, constructed and reconstructed. Last, as Wahyudi (2013) described, our view of culture and interculturality must be critical.

ACTIVITY 2 (Using the Dilemmas)



Once we understand how deeply intertwined the aspects of our lives are with our cultures, the need for intercultural competence becomes clear.

Still, students do not immediately become aware of their “cultural lense,” that others inevitably see the world in different ways, and shed all their prejudices.

What to do then? One idea is...

ACTIVITY 3 (Mind Journey)



Never forget to highlight the benefits!

Internationalization, international / intercultural collaboration,
better performance of diverse teams, increased creativity,
future skills needed anywhere, include people, be respectful, be
professional ... others?



THANK YOU!

Sources

- LoBue, V. (2022). Psychology Today. Referencing Kelly, D. J., Quinn, P. C., Slater, A. M., Lee, K., Ge, L., & Pascalis, O. (2007). The other-race effect develops during infancy: Evidence of perceptual narrowing. *Psychological science*, 18(12), 1084-1089.
- Trompenaars, F. & Hampden-Turner, C. (2020). *Riding the Waves of Culture: Understanding Diversity in Global Business*, 4th ed. Boston: Nicholas Brealey Publishing.
- Wahyudi, R. (2016). Intercultural Competence: Multi-dynamic, Intersubjective, Critical and Interdisciplinary Approaches. In: Dervin, F., Gross, Z. (ed.): *Intercultural Competence in Education*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.