GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN IN PUBLICA COMMODA SEIT 1737

Intercultural
Interkulturelles LernLabor IKL
LearningLab ICL

Building Intercultural Competence Culture & Exchange

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Welcome event for international students

September 23, 2025 // online

Getting to know each other

Please type the following into the chat:

- My name is…

- My pronouns are… (optional)

- I am logging in from…

- Fill in the blank:

  „If I had unlimited creativity and support, I would…"

  (Question available at *Cards for Connection*

  https://www.gamesforhumanity.com)

Agenda

- 16:00 – 17:00 online

- Getting to know each other

- Culture and intercultural communication

- Exchange in Breakout rooms

- Debriefing and reflection

- Projects and courses

Housekeeping notes

- Participate as fully as possible.

- When in the plenary, you do not have to turn on your camera. However, when in your small groups on the breakout rooms, we ask you to turn it on, if possible.

- Stay muted when in the plenary, and raise your hand for questions or comments.

- When in breakout rooms we will check in with you, and there will be someone available for questions or help, in the main room.

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Intercultural Competence

Aspects for intercultural learning (process model)

- Attitudes: Entry for cultural learning, e. g. openness, curiosity, non-judgmental approach.

- Knowledge acquisition: Cultural knowledge, self-awareness, communication skills (listening, observing, analyzing, interpreting) that can influence a person´s motivation for intercultural learning.

- Shift of internal frames of reference

- Achieving desired external outcomes, e.g. appropriate, effective intercultural communication.

Deardorff 2006; Spitzberg & Changnon 2009

Culture

- Fuzzy set of basic assumptions and values,

  orientations to life, beliefs, policies, procedures and behavioural conventions

  that are shared by a group of people, and

  that influence (but do not determine) each member´s behaviour and

  interpretations of the „meaning" of other people´s behaviour.

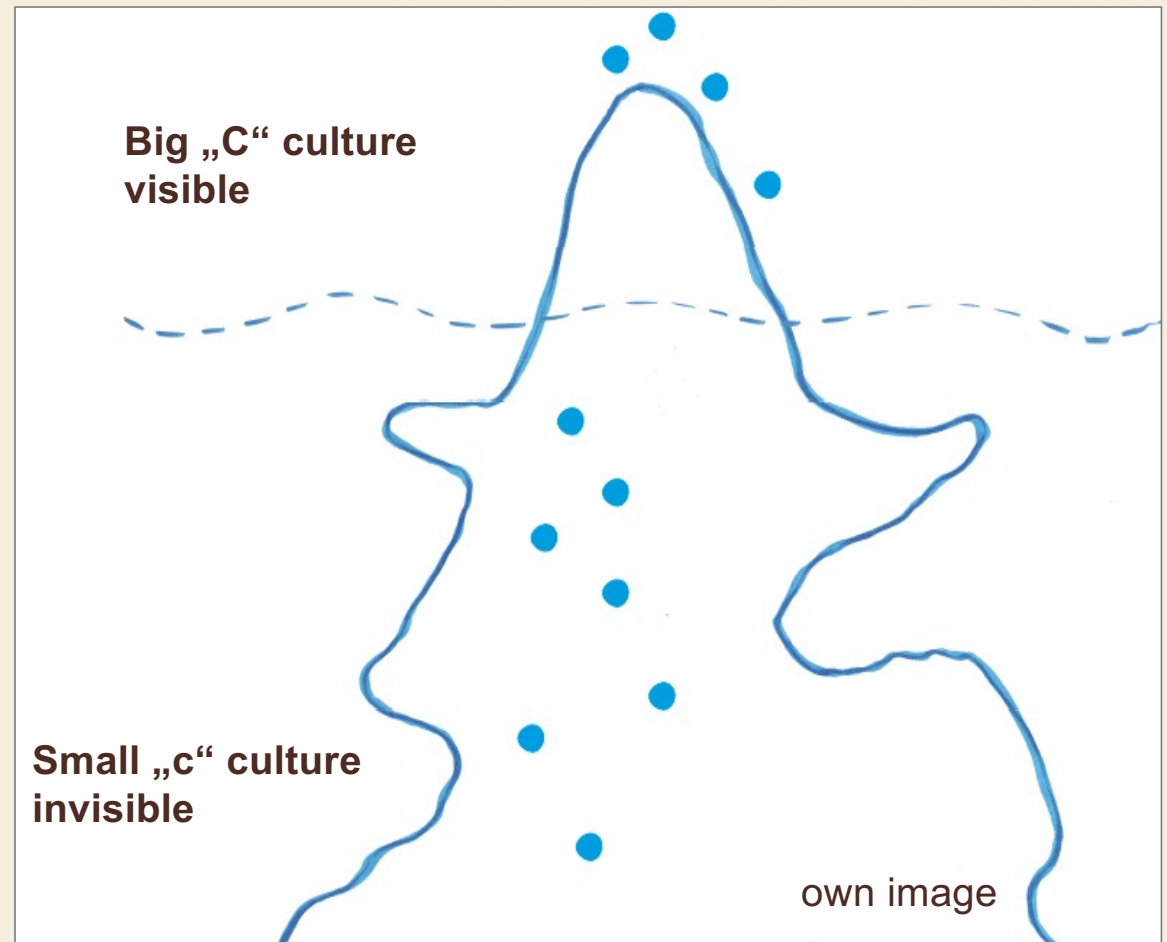 Spencer-Oatey, 2009

Culture and worldview

- „Cultural lenses" influence the way people see the world and themselves.

- Culture and one's own cultural lens influences the interpretation and meaning that is attached to practices of behaviour.

own image

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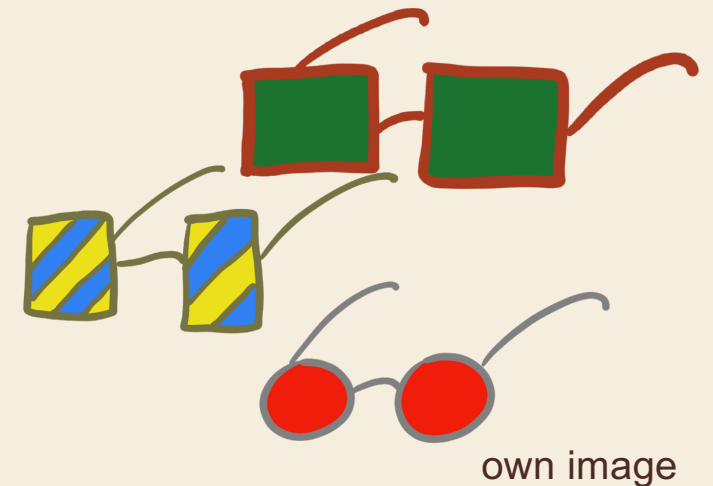
Culture and subcultures

- People can belong to multiple, overlapping subcultures that comprise cohesive patterns of behaviour, e.g. subcultures of academic disciplines, student groups, music culture, etc.

- Invisible aspects of culture, like values and beliefs require time and energy to explore, adapt and to be integrated into existing patterns of cultural behavior.

- The way how people view the world is culturally learned and shaped through patterns of behaviour in everyday life and through institutions.

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Cultural Iceberg

Big „C" culture visible

Small „c" culture invisible

own image

Culture

- **Big „C" culture:** Objective culture, visible culture

  e.g. forms of architecture, dance, opera, literature, culinary arts, fashion,

  holidays, economic systems, religious systems, educational systems, etc.

- **Small „c" culture:** Subjective culture, „hidden" culture

  e.g. how to behave, verbal/nonverbal symbols, communication styles, conflict

  management, cultural values what is good or bad, cultural traditions, etc.

Explore Culture!

- Explore big „C" and small „c" aspects in your intercultural groups in breakout rooms.

- Copy/paste the prompts from the chats, and choose from the list to discuss them in your breakout rooms.

- Be ready to present examples from your group in the plenary.

❖ Enjoy this activity!

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Intercultural Communication and Understanding

- Intercultural communication prioritizes "communicating within human diversity that is inclusive of age, race, genders, religions, socioeconomic backgrounds, physical abilities, ideological beliefs."

Deardorff, 2022

Questions? Ask anything!

- In your breakout rooms discuss questions that you would like to have an answer to.

- Prepare to present your most important questions in the plenary.
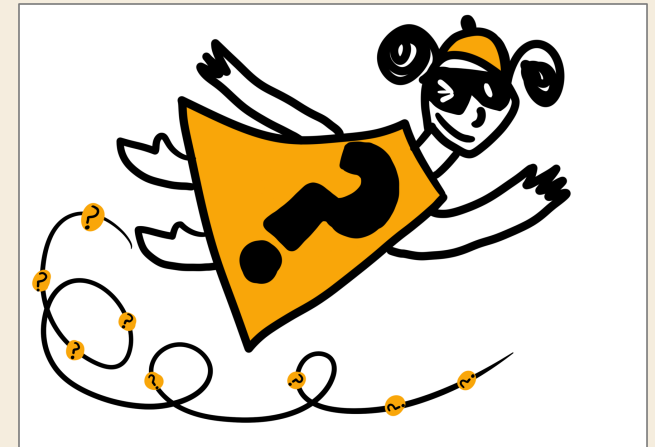
Projects - examples

- ENLIGHT European Universities

  10 European Universities. Courses for students: Range of formats,

  e.g. virtual, blended learning programs, and topics.

  https://enlight-eu.org

- Erasmus+ Project ROCKET

  Universities Goettingen, Uppsala/Sweden, Groningen/Netherlands.

  Online courses, blended learning: Conflict transformation through

  educational role-playing games in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion.

  https://rocket-erasmus.eu

Courses - October

- Intercultural Competence Compact

  Oct 13/14/16 (Mon/Tue/Thu) from 14:15-17:45, Foyer International

  Register in StudIP: 4513240

- Intercultural Competence GameBased

  Oct 20/21/23 (Mon/Tue/Thu) from 14:15-17:45, Foyer International

  Register in StudIP: 4513241

- Topics: Taking perspective, building empathy, practicing your communication skills. You may obtain 4 credits for key competencies by handing in a reflective portfolio.

References

- Bennet, Janet M. 2011. Designing Intercultural Training: Skills and Tools for the Educator. Donau-Universität Krems. March 28-31, 2011.

- Deardorff, Darla K. 2022. "Communicating successfully across differences within COIL Virtual Exchange." In *The Guide to COIL Virtual Exchange,* edited by Jon Rubin and Sarah Guth, 274 - 286. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing LLC.

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- ROCKET Erasmus+ project. .

- Spencer-Oatey, Helen. 2009. *Intercultural Interaction. A Multidisciplinary Approach to Intercultural Communication*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

- Spitzberg, Brian H. and Gabrielle Changnon. 2009. „Conceptualizing Intercultural Competence". In: *The SAGE Handbook of Intercultural Competence*. Edited by Darla K. Deardorff. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.

Thank you!

Contact

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