

Intercultural Communication

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IDENTITY

Do you know who you are?



Do you know who you are?

How do you introduce yourself in different occasions?

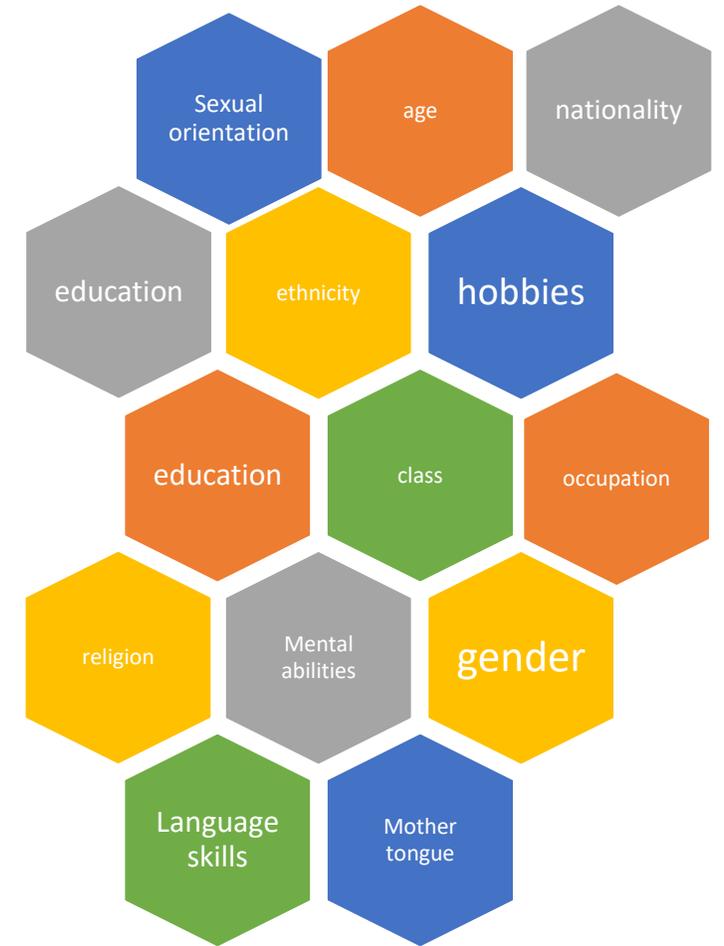
A student? A mother? A father? A teacher? A vegan?
An artist? A European? An Asian? A Middle Eastern?
A Muslim? A Christian? An atheist? A Finn? An English speaker?

ETC.



IDENTITY

- built in Interaction
- dynamic (but not sth we can lose or win)
- can be multiple





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Sometimes, the identities that are important to us are not the identities that other people see and use to make judgments about us.



So What?

- Increases awareness of oneself.
- Helps to acknowledge different values and expectations in encounters.
- Once one becomes aware of the multiple identities easier to recognize in others --> helps to form multifaceted conception.
- Gives tools to analyze others in more detailed manner.

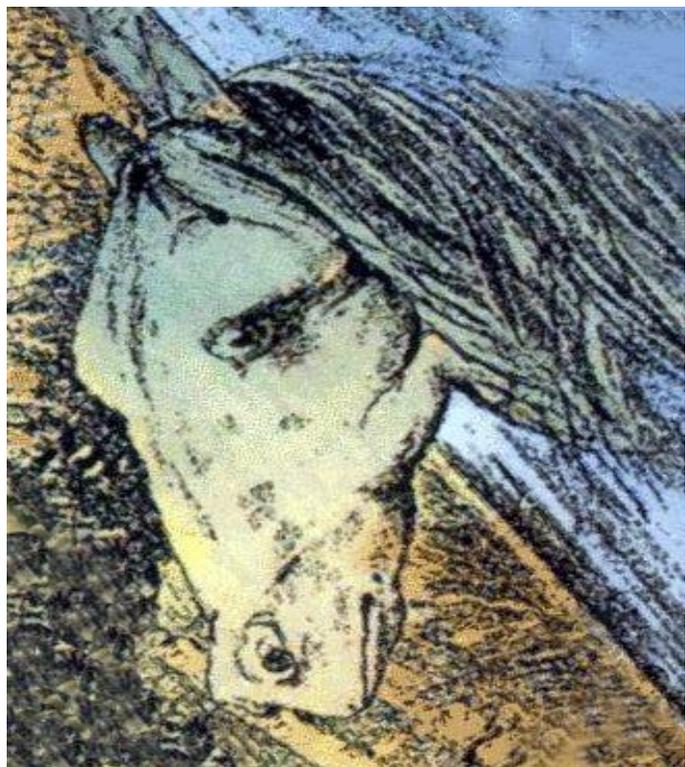


Understanding ourselves
and the lens we use to see
the world is necessary
before we can try to
understand others.



What do you see?





What did you see?





- “ When you notice some violation of social rules or norms, you tend to attribute it to the ignorance of those responsible.”
- “If those violations persist, you suspect that those responsible are deliberately anti-social or even dishonest.”
- “Only later, and perhaps after receiving some insight, might you consider that they may have a different set of rules or values.”

Swallow & Khan-Panni (2003)



Keep in Mind:

We tend to assume that our own opinions, beliefs, attributes, and behaviors are more widely shared than they actually are. This gets increased in intercultural encounters. (Consensus Bias)



Remember that

**as a tutor you are usually the first real contact
for the students in a completely new
environment!**



Some Tips:

- Respond to people according how you find them rather than according to what you have heard about them.
- Avoid easy answers about how people are. Put aside simplistic notions.
- Appreciate that every society is as complex and as culturally varied as your own.
- Learn to build up thick descriptions of what happens between you and others -to work out how to communicate as we go along.



More Tips:

- Be clear with your intentions and expectations.
- Keep your word and be consistent. Trust is trust across cultures.
- Take initiative and explain everything even if they don't ask.
- Humor is dangerous! Sarcasm even more so! Be careful when using them.



Watch the TED-talk below and ponder upon the single stories you might have in your mind:



https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en



Have Fun!

