



# Get to know Finland Tervetuloa!

Source: Aalto University Annual Report 2013

Pictures: Aalto University Communications, Academy of Finland, Lehtikuva Picture Agency

Watch the video



# Task#1: enact this picture with your partner



# Lesson II: Culture and communication

Culture:

Values, beliefs, norms and normative behaviours in a society.

Communication:

Expression of things and coordination of activities according to a set of norms.

Ways of communication:

Convey values that are transparent to the members of a given society.









Hugo Simberg 1903: Haavoittunut enkeli / Wounded angel

23.1.2019

5







Akseli Gallén-Kallela 1891: Aino-taru / Aino Myth

# Art and Finnish realities

Eero Järnefelt (1893)  
Burning the brushwood



Albert Edelfelt (1887)  
The Luxembourg Garden





# Task#2: explain what is noteworthy about this picture



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# Cultural competence

## Tacit knowledge, values, and valuations

- Live long enough in a foreign culture, and linguistic, visual, musical, and cultural cross-references and layers start to appear everywhere.
- Ability to detect these references and layers equals ability to understand them = cultural competence. This understanding separates a "native" and a "foreigner".
- The longer you stay in a particular culture, the more you learn. More you pay attention, the faster you learn.
- Cultural competence is human capital. In any sensible work-environment that values high-performers, also cultural competence is valued.



# Culture and communication ... speaking of which:

What are some of the strange, distinctive or simply different things about Finns interacting with other people that you have noticed during your stay thus far? Any cultural clashes?

Discuss with a partner!

Customs | Manners  
Ways of communication  
Gestures | Expressions  
Food | Arts | Music  
Religious ceremonies | Holidays  
Sports  
Architecture



Interpretation of behaviour

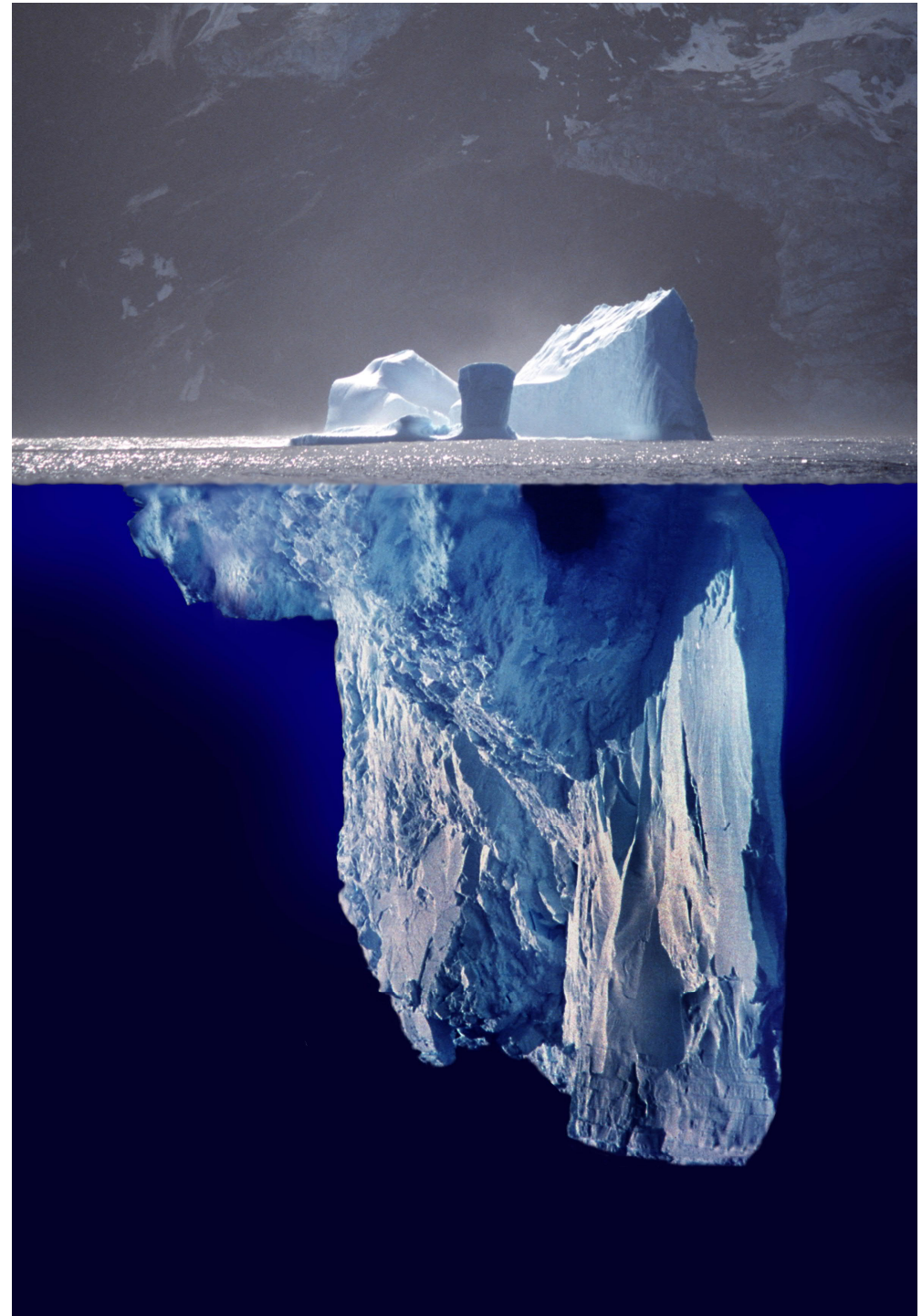


Values

What it is to be a good person? A  
good member of society? What is  
desirable?

What strategies are acceptable?  
What is manly? Ladylike?

What is good or bad for given  
Religion/value system?



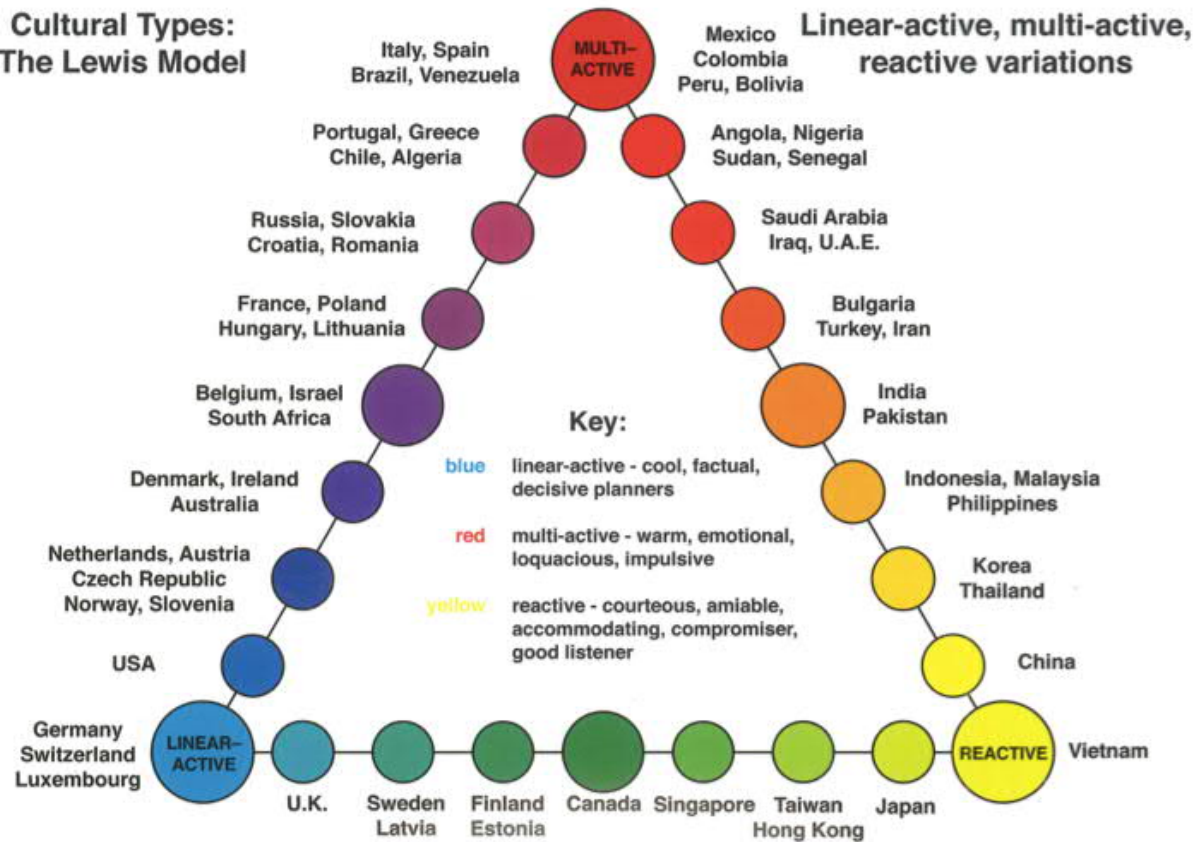
# Cultural categories of communication

Task 3: read the handout on Cultural Categories of Communication (Lewis, 2005).

1. First round with a partner: how does the categorization of Finns match your experience? Does it?
2. Group discussion: what differences (with regard to Lewis' categorization) stand out between your own cultural categories of communication and those of Finns?
3. Bonus: any hypotheses of the historical background of these categories, e.g. for Finns?



## Cultural Types: The Lewis Model



# Finnish silence!

1. Respecting the other's turn
2. Respecting the other's privacy
3. Respecting the other's peace
4. Respecting the other's (social) face

# Some perspectives to Helsinki

<http://helsinkiennnen.fi/> Maps and photos showing the changing of Helsinki

<http://www.juttutupa.fi/> Helsinki People's Hall still has the bar where Lenin sat with Finnish communists plotting the revolution

<https://www.suomenlinna.fi/en/> Fortress Suomenlinna offers you some respite from the hectic metropolitan life

<https://www.kansallismuseo.fi/en/kansallismuseo> The best place to go if you want to get a clearer overall picture of the history of the Finnish state, nation, and culture.

<http://www.loylyhelsinki.fi/en/front-page/>

<http://www.kotiharjunsaua.fi/>

The city tour will show you more!