Intercultural Competence for a Sustainable Planet: Principles, Practice and Outcomes

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Our Session Today

Theories of intercultural learning are outdated when they don’t address the central challenges of our age—climate change, declining biodiversity, unsustainable consumption and income disparity. As such, re-conceptualizing intercultural competence for a sustainable planet is the next great work of international educators. To this end, panelists describe principles and practices of a sustainable model of intercultural competence and draw from BEVI, GPI and IDI data sources to challenge outcomes assessment processes that fail to address sustainability learning intentionally.
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AN ADVENTURE IN MIND

CHOOSE EARTH
**Intercultural Competence** is the process of developing targeted knowledge, skills and attitudes that lead to visible behavior and communication that are both effective and appropriate in intercultural interactions.

D. Deardorff, 2006, 2009

**Global Learning** is a critical analysis of and an engagement with complex, interdependent global systems and legacies (such as natural, physical, social, cultural, economic, and political) and their implications for people’s lives and the earth’s sustainability.

AAC&U Global Learning Value Rubric, 2012
**Intercultural Competence Model**

**Attitudes:**
- Respect (valuing other cultures);
- Openness (withholding judgment);
- Curiosity & discovery (tolerating ambiguity)

**Knowledge & Comprehension:**
- Cultural self-awareness,
- Deep cultural knowledge,
- Sociolinguistic awareness

**Skills:** To listen, observe & evaluate; To analyze, interpret & relate

**Desired External Outcome:**
- Effective and appropriate communication & behavior in an intercultural situation

**Desired Internal Outcome:**
- Informed Frame of Reference Shift (adaptability, flexibility, ethnorelative view, empathy)

**Individual**

**Process Orientation**

**Interaction**

CONNECTING WITH COLLEAGUES

1. Briefly introduce yourself

2. Explain how you are defining and assessing intercultural competence and global learning
The Global Perspective Inventory (GPI)

What it is

- Pre and post study abroad survey deployed at all TEAN sites since 2015
- The survey helps us assess you cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal development during study abroad
- Pre-test: January/February; Post-test: May/June
- Survey is best taken prior to departure and upon return home
- 67 questions plus biographical data collection: Takes about 20 minutes. Survey is anonymous and confidential
- Outcome reports generate only aggregate data. No individual reports are generated
- It’s essential that you take both pre and post survey. They have different components

How you take it

- All TEAN students received an email alert from TEAN about the coming GPI survey
- Then students receive a direct email link to GPI from Dr. Robert Reason of the GPI-Rise Institute
- Students receive three email reminders from GPI Institute
- Monitor your in-box and spam files for the incoming invitations
- The survey is open for only two weeks. Take it early so we get better pre-to-post results
- TEAN participation rate is very good: 58%. Help us improve this rate!
- Joins some 16,000 students at 60 institutions since 2009 who have taken the GPI
- Your local Resident Director will remind you take the survey now and at the end of the program

Why it’s valuable

- Students can use GPI survey to better articulate the knowledge and skills they acquired abroad. **Great for job interviews!**
- TEAN uses the GPI to improve programming and student learning. **Help us be more awesome!**
- Post survey includes items on sustainability and economic and social justice. **Help us Choose Earth!**
Global Learning Pre-to-Post Survey Items

Courtesy: The Education Abroad Network

✧ I understand current threats to environmental sustainability.

✧ I am mindful that a sustainable approach in all aspects of our daily lives is a global imperative.

✧ I am aware of the connections between mass-consumerism and environmental deterioration.

✧ I learn about sustainable lifestyles by experiencing how other people live.

✧ I am changing my lifestyle in order to consume more sustainably for the good of the planet.

✧ I am concerned about income disparity and global poverty.

✧ I am aware of gender inequalities within other cultures.

✧ I am aware of global food issues, such as nutrition, world hunger, sourcing food locally, & ethical eating.

✧ I am alert to diverse forms of discrimination.

✧ I am committed to taking action in response to global issues of social injustice.