Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication

Portland - Oregon - USA



Session III A, July 23-27, 2018

30. Competency-Based Debriefing: Building Tools and Skills for Practicing Interculturalists

Intercultural games and simulations are fun unique, and sometimes challenging, and can build a sense of community and camaraderie. To go deeper, the meaning and learning within experiential activities is in the debriefing. This is where—and how—we come to better understand ourselves and others and our thought and behavioral patterns. Yet, most interculturalists are unsure how to conduct themselves and facilitate others in this all-important practice. In this week-long course, we will take the time necessary to understand the focus and functions of debriefing, its concepts and skills, and a wide range of topics designed to enhance our professional abilities to lead debriefings in diverse settings. We will discuss and engage in the design and ethics of debriefing, as well as strategize how to debrief in challenging situations. Our time together will include: brief presentations and discussion, critical readings, partner, small, and large group activities, games to be learned and taught through the process, and practice with all aspects of debriefing intercultural group activities.

Designed for: Intercultural, diversity, and inclusion trainers and consultants, educators, group and team leaders, program developers and designers, group facilitators at all levels of career and professional development.

Workshop Objectives

You will have the opportunity to:

- Engage in best practices with regard to the design and implementation of various forms of group debriefing
- Understand the terminology of debriefing experiential learning activities
- Develop an awareness of your own style of debriefing
- Comprehend and integrate professional and intercultural ethics into debriefing practices and activities
- Further define and refine your group leadership and facilitation skills
- Observe and critique various forms and styles of debriefing in action
- Develop a repertoire of skills and tools pertaining to experiential learning and debriefing

Learning Activities

In this highly experiential workshop, we will use a broad variety of activities, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

- Brief, informal presentations on content and context
- Partner, small group, and full class discussions and reflection
- Free-writing to gain awareness of one's own perspective on course content and key questions
- Non-competitive, non-sexist activities and games
- Developing and designing a debriefing modality to share and have constructively critiqued by the group
- Small group assignments designed to heighten and refine awareness, skills, and your own

personal/professional tool kit

- After-class reading of short articles for class discussion
- Dealing with a range of challenges, issues, and individuals in your work/professional setting

We will respond to a variety of pragmatic and essential questions regarding the essence of debriefing in all its aspects. Considerable time will also be allowed for your questions and concerns, with an eye toward each of you coming away from these five days together with an enriched and invigorated readiness to lead and facilitate debriefing experiential group activities in diverse settings and a wide range of contexts.



Dr. Daniel Cantor Yalowitz is an international trainer and consultant whose work focuses on community-building, conflict transformation, archetypal psychology, social and emotional intelligences, and play. As former dean and vice provost for graduate education at the School for International Training Graduate Institute, Daniel has facilitated credit-bearing courses, presentations, intensive trainings and workshops, conference keynotes, and plenaries in 88 countries to date. Daniel's primary focus through all of his professional endeavors is on social justice and equity issues. He is a committed community activist whose work has been featured on TV and radio in the U.S. and UK.