



Session III A, July 24-28, 2017

30. Engaging the Hardest Conflicts: Arts, Alchemy, and Social Transformation

What do artists know and understand about conflict that others need to know and understand? How can conflict interveners hone their artistry, and broaden their repertoires of creative practice? Over the past ten years, I have been examining these questions in my research and organizational/ community practice. This workshop is a place to share and experience these ideas, and to bring your own work and questions. We will use expressive arts and dialogue as our modes of engagement, deepening our relational capacities to engage and transform conflict. Case examples of applying arts-based tools to build practical skills and resilience will be presented, along with new insights from neuroscience. We will look deeply at the dynamics of identity, worldviews and power in intercultural settings, and develop facility with the analytical skills needed to design effective conflict interventions.

Designed for: Experienced consultants, negotiators, facilitators, mediators, educators, dialogue practitioners, artists and conflict resolution trainers who want to expand their capacities for transforming complex conflicts and for organizational and community leaders whose work involves resolving or preventing conflict.

Workshop Objectives:

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Learn how expressive and creative arts can function as resources to organizations, families, and communities
- Apply arts-based tools to analysis and process design for intercultural conflicts
- Examine the relative efficacy of diverse tools and approaches in addressing power imbalances in conflict-habituated settings
- Explore neuroscience-based understanding of resilience in conflict engagement
- Experiment with using arts-based conflict interventions with feedback from experienced peers
- Deepen ways to foster cultural fluency across a range of conflict issues

Learning Activities:

As a learning community, we will experience:

- New theories, field-tested research, and case studies on intractable conflicts
- Interactive ways to apply creative and expressive arts tools in conflict
- Activity-based explorations of unique attributes of worldview and identity conflicts, and ways to engage them and power imbalances within them
- Examination of unconscious aspects of conflict including ways to address what is not realized by some or all conflict parties
- Design-lab thinking applied to conflict situations from participants' home settings
- Leadership coaching to enhance cultural fluency and effectiveness in engaging conflict



Michelle LeBaron is a senior faculty member at the University of British Columbia Allard School of Law in Vancouver, Canada. She has done seminal work in many types of conflicts, including intercultural, international, family, organizational, inter-religious, and commercial. Creativity, culture, and interdisciplinary perspective animate Michelle's work, including her recent project, *Enacting Resilience*, which examines how the arts inoculate against violent extremism. Michelle was visiting fellow at the Trinity College Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute in Ireland in 2016, and she is currently a Knut and Alice Wallenberg Fellow at Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies in South Africa. Her publications include several monographs and books, including *The Choreography of Resolution: Conflict, Movement, and Neuroscience*.

For more information, please visit www.intercultural.org/siic.html
To register, please visit www.intercultural.org/siic-registration.html