



Session III B, July 24-26, 2017

35. Maximizing Intercultural Teams

When members of a team come from many different cultures, teamwork can be both rewarding and challenging. Research shows that cultural diversity in teams can result in better outcomes, but also that diverse teams may take longer to learn to work together. Whether you work with geographically dispersed teams, or a local group, the complexities of team management can baffle the best of us. In this workshop, we will examine the challenges and benefits of intercultural teams. You can expect to examine various conceptual frameworks that can help you facilitate diverse groups of people working together, with a particular emphasis on best practices for making the most of intercultural team collaborations. By combining experiential group activities with analyses of those experiences, you will both develop skills to analyze teams through an intercultural lens and build your repertoire of tools to help diverse teams reach their full potential.

Designed For: Anyone who works with groups and teams in any context, including trainers, managers, supervisors, team members, and educators.



Dr. Mary Meares is an associate professor of communication studies at the University of Alabama, where her research focuses on intercultural groups, virtual teams, workplace diversity, mistreatment, and perceptions of voice. She has taught intercultural and organizational communication in the U.S. and Japan, was named the Faculty Mentor of the Year at Washington State University, and recently served as the first intercultural specialist for the Semester at Sea comparative cultures study abroad program. She has consulted for educational, corporate, and public service organizations in the areas of intercultural transitions, team building, and conflict. Mary also provides career counseling to participants at SIIC and teaches yoga.