



Session II B, July 16-18, 2018

26. Inspiring Curiosity: Fostering Intercultural and Global Competence for Students, Host Families, Faculty, and Staff

Building intercultural competence and increasing your sensitivity to cultural differences can be a lengthy process requiring extensive experience, reflection, and support. However, engaging participants (study abroad students, faculty, or staff) in activities to develop intercultural competences is always a challenge as most of them do not perceive such skills as something they need. How do you inspire their curiosity in those instances? In this session, you will get a chance to facilitate quick and easy-to-adapt experiential learning activities aimed at creating meaningful reflections and enhancing intercultural skills. We will discuss strategies for implementing these activities in different settings, and identifying ways to turn such brief experiences into purposeful and long-lasting learning for your audiences. Drawing on AFS's 60+ years of experience in facilitating intercultural learning, trainers from AFS Intercultural Programs will lead this highly interactive workshop and share their best practices in developing Student and Host Family Learning Journeys that engage participants throughout their study abroad programs and beyond.

Designed for: International education faculty and staff, trainers and others who are involved in developing global competence or intercultural diversity training in education, healthcare, social services, and NGOs.

Workshop Objectives

You will have the opportunity to:

- Explore the key elements of intercultural competence
- Experience and apply effective experiential learning activities to foster curiosity
- Examine strategies to support learners in shifting perspectives as core to intercultural competence development
- Explore debriefing as a powerful tool to support meaningful learning
- Discuss ways of creating an effective program to develop intercultural competence in your own context

Learning Activities

- Intercultural competence: what are its key components and key steps to get it right
- Shifting perspectives and self-awareness: how to make it engaging, exciting, and meaningful
- The role of curiosity in developing intercultural competence: how important curiosity is and how to foster it through various activities
- Experiential learning: how to choose and develop activities to create a full experiential learning cycle
- Debriefing: how to best debrief activities to ensure meaningful learning takes place
- Program design: key elements of successful intercultural competence development programs and how can you use it in your context



Sarah Collins is the manager of the AFS Intercultural Link Learning Program where she oversees the program's operations and trains AFS volunteers and staff around the world in intercultural learning topics. Sarah holds a Master's degree in international education and is a qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory. Prior to working at AFS, Sarah taught English to adults from 40+ countries and worked as a consultant in higher education.

Marcela Lapertosa is the director of Education and Intercultural Learning at AFS Intercultural Programs. In the last 10 years, Marcela has traveled the world providing intercultural learning, training, and coaching to volunteers and staff. An intercultural designer and trainer at heart, Marcela led the AFS Educational Methodology Review project that resulted in the development of the AFS Student and Host Family Intercultural Journeys. She also led the development of Sentio's Global Competence Certificate, a blended learning program for 18+ study abroad participants. Marcela is a child psychologist with a Master degree in Cross Cultural Psychology and is also a qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory. She is passionate about the power of intercultural learning to change the world one person at a time.



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