



## Session II A, July 16-20, 2018

### **16. New Approaches for New Intercultural Challenges: How the Latest Ideas About Communication and Culture Can Help Reframe What We Do and How We Think**

**Note:** This is an updated version of a course offered for the first time in 2016. (Changing Times, Shifting Places: Ten Provocative New Insights for Our Intercultural Work in Today's Complex World)

The need for intercultural communication expertise has probably never been greater than in the world of today. However, we may feel that many of our concepts and assumptions are being overwhelmed by the speed and complexity of sociocultural change and new discoveries—a feeling shared by many. As professionals, how can we update our understanding and our skills to respond to these challenges with new understanding, creativity, and confidence? In this workshop we will explore findings from many leading thinkers, including scientists and social scientists from across the globe as well as writers from the humanities—disciplines that are now as interdependent as cultures and nations. This workshop brings together contemporary thinking with engaging, practical applications for our professional work.

The intimate connection between culture and communication that has always defined our field has taken on new meanings as technologies reshape both, linking people previously divided by geography yet who now may be more connected to each other than to their family, neighbors, and colleagues. Neuroscience research now reveals more about the culture within us, just as our foundational intercultural work first alerted us to the concept of culture as communication.

**Designed for:** Teachers, trainers, community workers, HR professionals, consultants, those in health services and other applied fields, and anyone who would appreciate this opportunity to explore contemporary thinking in our discipline by experiencing creative activities designed to engage with those we most want to reach.

#### **Workshop Objectives**

You will have the opportunity to:

- Reexamine how we think about communication, culture, and other key concepts in light of what research tells us today.
- Discover how contributions from leading thinkers in diverse disciplines can inform our work, confirm its importance, and help us respond appropriately and imaginatively to difficult situations
- Be challenged by real-world intercultural controversies from multiple perspectives, and consider how to introduce these to the people with whom you work and interact
- Gain access to the workshop's bank of resources and suggestions for further discovery to which we can all contribute

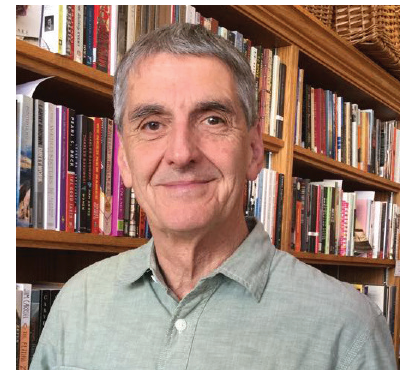
## Learning Activities

- Balancing discussions of today's ideas about culture and communication with innovative activities and exercises, and considering how to adapt them in the work we do
- Experimenting with creative play—a crucial, though neglected aspect of culture—as an important method for stimulating the imagination and for reaching across cultural boundaries
- Touching on the basics: reviewing and reinterpreting what drew us into the intercultural field, even if this is still new to us
- Going off campus for an ethnographic fieldwork exercise in downtown Portland, to experiment with concepts central to the workshop
- Inviting each participant, on our last day together, to share in a structured yet creative and individual way—all approaches and media welcome—insights and issues that the workshop may have inspired (In the past this has been a powerful and deeply moving experience)
- Contributing to an ongoing online workshop resource bank of materials and references that may continue beyond the course and keep us connected



**Dr. John (Jack) Condon**, author, award-winning educator, and founding faculty member of the Summer Institute, is also regarded as one of the founders of the intercultural field. An emeritus professor at the University of New Mexico, Jack taught overseas for 20 years in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. He is the director of the Jemez Institute where, with Native American friends and colleagues, he offers field trip seminars in northern New Mexico.

**Dr. Richard Harris**, born in London, UK, is a professor of intercultural management at Chukyo University in Japan, where he has lived for over 38 years. Richard's eclectic research interests range from the influence of physical and psychological space on intercultural encounters to the representation of ourselves and the other in media, museums, tourism, and interpersonal interaction. He is the author of *Paradise: A Cultural Guide*, a study of cross-cultural concepts of the ideal. His latest paper, on *Rethinking Cultural Relativity*, was given at the 2016 American Anthropological Association Conference and will be published later this year.



For more information, please visit [intercultural.org/siic.html](http://intercultural.org/siic.html)  
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