

Qatar Institute for Intercultural Communication

Education City – Doha – Qatar



May 11, 2017

E. Managing and Experiencing Transitions: Helping Ourselves and Others

Cultural transitions, whether desired or not, can provide challenges and opportunities for individuals, groups, and organizations. This workshop will explore the change process, and how concepts from intercultural communication can help us to frame changes in ways that allow us to move through them with cultural sensitivity and effectiveness. We will include discussion of culture shock in a broad sense, looking at transitions from moving from one country to another, as well as "smaller" transitions in an organizational role or job, and how they impact individuals and groups. Whether a transition is eagerly anticipated or dreaded, understanding change in intercultural settings can help us work through the process constructively.



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.