

Intercultural communication workshop

Pre-Conference Workshop – Marcel van der Poel

In this longer session, in presence, we experience and discuss a range of relevant aspects of **culture and cultural learning**, preferably connected to own experiences. We may check, for instance, the conditions for reducing stereotypical and preconceived ideas about the other. Or we explore how to effectively deal with **critical incidents and cultural dilemma's**. We may want to check the relevance of **cultural self-awareness in cross-cultural interaction**. In any case, we will discuss how to make valuable steps in **developing intercultural sensitivity as a precondition for intercultural competence and for maintaining inclusive learning spaces**.

The workshop is highly **interactive**; we first do and only then hear about the underlying concept or theory. Our key context is the international educational environment.

Overall learning ambition

In the IC workshop we explore how we may effectively navigate (cultural) differences in worldview and behaviour, in general, and more specifically in the international classroom.

We thus need to explore what it takes to develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of differences in (relevant) cultural categories, meaning, we **learn how to foster intercultural sensitivity**

Then, **moving from sensitivity to competence**, we review a culture-general approach; we learn how to handle (cultural) differences relatively irrespective of origin. Finally, we try to apply this to (current) cultural dilemma or conflict situations that affect our classroom dynamics and/or affect our colleagues and learners.



Marcel H. van der Poel (1962) is a senior lecturer, researcher and professional trainer in intercultural relations. He is the co-initiator and core facilitator of the award-winning *Intercultural Competence Learning Lab* (since 2011, publication 2016). Marcel is further a freelance trainer at institutes of higher education and at companies and (international) NGO's.

At Hanze UAS Groningen, Marcel is involved with IC-related education and theses-writing in both BA and MA programs, development of IC teaching and training materials, research into the conditions and effects of the international classroom, and most recently with research and training in diversity &

inclusion.

Marcel worked for over 20 years in managerial positions, of which 10+ years in East-Africa. During his years abroad, he taught at the Uganda Martyrs University and was a member of the Uganda National Drug Authority.

Sociologist by training (University of Groningen, 1988), he earned his second Master degree in Intercultural Relations (University of the Pacific, Stockton, USA) in 2013, and his PhD in 2020 (University of Groningen; topic: Intercultural Competence Development).