

## Intercultural communication workshop

### AEC Talk 1 – Internationalisation at home – Marcel van der Poel

In this 1-hour online session we will first seek agreement on **how to refer to 'culture'**, making sure we use the term appropriately and effectively. We will check current / popular concepts about culture and to what degree they are helpful, or not. A brief inventory of participant's cultural experiences may conclude the hour, so to inform the session on September 22nd.

#### 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).