





- Professional trainer and coach for 25 years
- Numerous careers in business, media, education
- Global nomad
- Lived in 9, worked in 16, traveled in over 50 countries (so far)
- Learns something new every year



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WHAT IS CULTURE?

a: the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior [...] transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations

b: the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group[...]

c: the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution or organization[...]

Merriam-Webster Online



THE HIDDEN ASPECTS OF CULTURE

Language Dress The Surface

Architecture Habits Food Habits Production External Boundaries

Gender Roles Concept of Time Decision-Making Etiquette Norms Handling Emotions Internal Boundaries Dealing with Space

Communication Styles Values

Problem Solving Authority

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10% above the surface

10% above the surface

90% below the surface

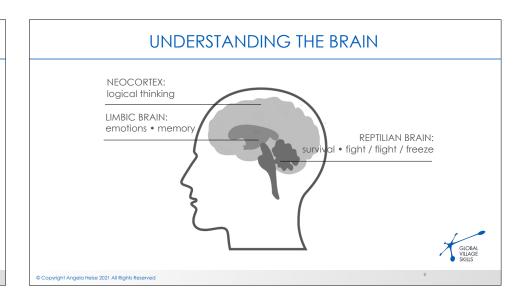
UNDERSTANDING CULTURE



Is finding out **how** you know **what**



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THE BRAIN IS A PATTERN DETECTOR







TWO SIDES TO CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE



Interacting as a local with expats

Interacting as an expat with locals



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WHAT IS CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE?

"In brief, culturally intelligent people have:

The **knowledge** to understand crosscultural phenomena.

The *mindfulness* to observe and interpret particular situations.

The skill of adapting behavior to act appropriately and successfully in a range of situations."

David C. Thomas and Kerr Inkson, Cultural Intelligence, 2003



GLOBAL VILLAGE SKILLS

CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE COMPETENCIES

- •The willingness to have your views and behaviours challenged
- The willingness to change yourself as you learn (versus expecting others to fit you)
- Knowing how to see a familiar situation from different perspectives
- Being sensitive to nuances of difference





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CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE COMPETENCIES



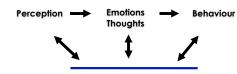
- •The ability to distinguish between stereotypes and generalisations
- Being able to differentiate between the expectation to know about everything about every culture and having knowledge of general cultural patterns and frameworks
- Having a sense of humour when things go in unexpected directions



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MAKING CONNECTIONS



Values

are general and abstract, identify what is judged (in)appropriate

Norms

relate to norms that define behaviour in specific situations



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ALL THE SENSES

- Seeing
- Hearing
- Touching
- Tasting
- Smelling





PERCEPTION



- The unconscious mind processes approx. 11 million bits of information per second
- The conscious mind processes approx. 60 bits of information per second
- We need to process 60 bits of information to understand one person who is talking to us



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EMOTIONS AND CULTURE SHOCK

Feelings of anxiety and stress people experience when they are removed from their familiar habits and routines and move into in a new environment.

Originates from not knowing what is appropriate and what isn't.





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CULTURAL AMBIGUITY

- Body Language / Dress
- Tonality / Sounds
- Words





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PUNCTUALITY



How acceptably late can you be for a business appointment?

- •no more than 5 minutes
- •around 20 minutes
- •up to an hour



next

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• You kiss them on the cheek and use their first name

GREETINGS

• You shake their hand and use their last name and title

How do you greet someone in a social

context you have only met once before?

• You say "hi" and lift your hand for a wave



SAYING GOODBYE



"See you later" means

- I'll see you later today
- I'll see you sometime soon
- Maybe we'll meet again



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PRACTICE WALKING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES

- Find a person from another culture
- Follow them as they walk at a distance where you can see their whole body
- Model their body language, walk like they do
- Direct your attention, look where they look



GLOBA VILLAGI SKILLS

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WHEN THINGS GET CONFUSING



- Remember to breathe
- Become aware of how your beliefs and values impact on your perception, emotions and behaviour
- Consider that the person is not their behaviour - it's likely cultural filters
- Find the funny side



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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