



Activity: Redland, Blueland and Orangeland Walk Into a Bar

Roleplay: Intercultural Encounters

Adapted from: Huber-Kriegler, Lázár & Strange (2003). *Mirrors and windows: An intercultural communication textbook*, pp. 85–88.

Materials

Roleplay cards
Nametags in Red, Blue and Orange
Discussion questions printed or on a screen

Time: 20 minutes

Procedures

1. Divide participants into four groups: Redland, Blueland, Orangeland and Observers. Give each group a nametag indicating their culture colour and explain that they are going to role-play a situation where they are at a networking event meeting each other for the first time.
2. Hand out role cards. Participants will be given a few minutes to read the role card and develop their character. When they are ready, participants will now mingle and get to know one another. Ask observers try and make notes about the habits of the three different cultures.
3. After mingling for 5-10 minutes (depending on the size of the group), bring participants together in their culture groups and ask a few brief questions

Observers: What habits or norms of each culture did you observe? (Are your guesses right?)

Cultures: What was one norm of another group that stuck out to you? Why?

4. Divide participants into groups consisting of at least one person from each country and one observer. Hand out the discussion questions, below:

What did we learn about the three different cultures?

- What is the role of physical contact?
- What caused (or could have caused) conflicts?
- How did participants avoid/solve conflicts?
- Are there any similarities between your culture and any of these three cultures?
- What are some of the differences?
- Which culture did you find the strangest of all?
- What else would you like to learn about these cultures?
- How did you feel while you were participating in the game?
- What did you notice when you were observing the role-play?

Rolecards: Below

<p>You come from Redland. You like to meet foreigners, but you really dislike being touched by strangers, even handshakes. In your country you rarely look into each other's eyes, and you always avoid eye contact when you first meet someone, and you don't like to stand too close to someone when in conversation. You never end a conversation with a handshake, but simply nod, and walk away.</p>	<p>You are from Blueland. In your country, people gently, but consistently touch each other's arms when they talk. You therefore tend to stand very close to people while in conversation. You like to meet foreigners, but you tend to avoid talking one on one to people of the opposite gender. You end conversations by squeezing the other person's shoulder.</p>	<p>You come from Orangeland. You love to meet people and express your enthusiasm with a lot of gestures. You speak very loud. When you meet someone, you must always shake their hands. You end conversations with a vigorous handshake. While you are enthusiastic, you consider it rude to touch or be touched by someone except through a handshake.</p>
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