







Intercultural Relationships

Benefits and Challenges that deal with Intercultural Relationships









The definition of intercultural relationships is "Relationships that are formed between individuals from different cultures" (Martin & Nakayama, 2013, p. 391).

Benefits of Intercultural Relationships

Knowledge about the world



One may gain specific information about the unfamiliar cultures, which include patterns and language.

Breaking Stereotypes



One may start to understand that not all stereotypes are true.


Acquiring New Skills




One may obtain new skills from other cultures that they could use themselves.

"All of these potential benefits can lead to a sense of interconnectedness with others and can establish a lifelong pattern of communication across differences" (Martin & Nakayama, 2013, p. 392).

Relational Learning



In Brazil, having a girlfriend who is 18 to seven years younger is normal!



"Learning that comes from a particular relationship but generalizes to other contexts" (Martin & Nakayama, 2013, p. 392)

Challenges of Intercultural Relationships

Motivation



There has to be a desire for building intercultural relationships.

Differences in Communication Styles, Values, and Perceptions




Having to find similarities between different cultures can be a challenge.

Negative Stereotypes




In order for stereotypes to diminish, people will need to act without judgment.

Anxiety




Is the fear of interacting with others and the fear of their potential negative reactions

Affirming another person's Cultural Identity



Recognizing the differences between cultures, as well as, accepting that they may be different from your own.

The Need for Explanations



There is the need for greater explanations, because when one has an intercultural relationship, their perceived reality is different from one's own.


Intercultural Relationships can't happen without Communication between different Cultures and People

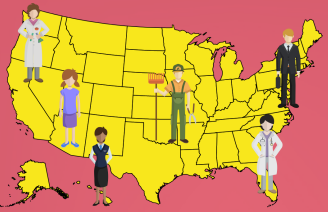
Source: Martin, A. J. & Nakayama, T. K., (2013). Intercultural Communication in Contexts, 6th edition. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

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STEREOTYPES

Beliefs about groups of people: POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE?






Stereotypes can be positive or negative.


There are many different kinds of deception based Stereotypes.

Stereotypes


Identities of people are becoming threatened due to unconscious stereotypes.




Gender



Race



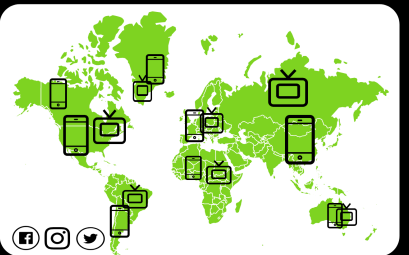
Culture



Individual Groups

"...stereotypes often operate at an unconscious level and so are persistent, people have to work consciously to reject them" (Martin & Nakayama, 2013, p. 212)


Media & Stereotypes




Media has played a crucial role in projecting the negative stereotypes across the different global media systems.


The truth about peoples individual selves has become distorted globally.

Understanding a stereotype is the key to changing the belief




Not all women are stay at home mothers





Not all Asians are great at Math



Source: Martin, A. J. & Nakayama, T. K., (2013). Intercultural Communication in Contexts, 6th edition. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

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