



# IFCCTL

Institute for Cross-Cultural Teaching and Learning

## **Intercultural Competence Development through Education Abroad: Key Concepts, Practical Applications Fall Semester 2019 webinar series**

The Institute for Cross-Cultural Teaching and Learning is pleased to announce a series of four webinar presentations to be held September – December 2019. These webinars will be presented by specialists who have spent years teaching, researching, and writing about intercultural learning.

### **Webinar #1: Study Abroad Offices as Academic Centers for Learning: Some Problems and Some Strategies**

Dr. Annie Gibson, Tulane University

Thursday September 19, 2019, 1-2 pm Eastern time

Study abroad offices are uniquely positioned to provide pedagogical training in intercultural competency to key faculty and staff who guide students in experiential learning settings, not only before and during study abroad, but after they return to their home institutions. Annie Gibson became committed to this mission after years of working as a resident director for faculty-led semester programs in Cuba and Costa Rica and then making the transition into an on-campus learning-centered administrative role in the Tulane University Office of Study Abroad. The practical experience of working with students and facilitating their intercultural learning abroad coupled with her administrative and teaching experiences at Tulane have taught her both the potential that international education offices have to define and frame the undergraduate experience for their students, as well as the challenges that these same international educators often face in negotiating complex structures at their particular institutions.



This webinar is designed for those involved in the organization and delivery of international programs abroad, for faculty who teach courses abroad, and for international education offices tasked with preparing faculty members to engage in international experiences with students. As we have seen discussed in previous webinars, it is often a challenge to get study abroad faculty to include intercultural learning pedagogy in their teaching since such pedagogy usually falls outside of their areas of expertise. It is also often a challenge for international education offices to be recognized as academically-focused centers for learning when they fall outside of the structures of academic departments. In this webinar, we will explore ways that international education abroad professionals, be they staff, faculty, or administrators, can take a learning-centered approach to designing a study abroad curriculum that takes into account experiential and intercultural learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom.

In this webinar, Annie will share early stages of her research on instructors' perceptions of the influences in student gains in intercultural competency during study abroad. She will then explore a variety of strategies for designing faculty-led international programs that embed intercultural learning content in all phases of program design and execution. And finally, this webinar will propose potential ideas for international offices who are implementing or would like to implement faculty training on global learning pedagogies while navigating the pressures of administrative tasks and of meeting faculty as well as upper administration goals, inquiries, and demands.

**Learning Outcomes: Participants will be able to:**

- Identify connections between instructors' intercultural development and pedagogical practices and the effectiveness of student learning abroad
- Understand a potential model for faculty-led program design and possibilities for on-campus workshops and discussions for both new and veteran instructors engaged in intercultural learning curriculum;
- Share with colleagues practical strategies for implementing such instructor development while negotiating administrative demands and constraints.

**About the Presenter**

**Dr. Annie Gibson** is the Director of Study Abroad and an Administrative Associate Professor at the Center for Global Education at Tulane University where she leads Tulane's efforts to promote intercultural learning campus-wide. She has also worked in the assessment and evaluation of Tulane programs abroad and is a qualified administrator of the IDI.

Annie has taught a wide range of university courses in Latin American Studies, Spanish, Portuguese, and Intercultural Learning and has directed and taught study abroad programs in Cuba, Brazil, Costa Rica, Senegal, Dominican Republic, Spain, Sweden, and Denmark. She is the author of dozens of peer-reviewed chapters and articles and of two books: *Post-Katrina Brazucas: Brazilians in New Orleans* (UNO Press: 2012) and *Hispanic and Latino New Orleans: Immigration and Identity Since the 18th Century* (co-authored with Andrew Sluyter, Case Watkins and James Chaney, LSU Press: 2015 J.B Jackson book prize for contribution of the year to the historical and ethnic geography of the United States (Association of American Geographers)).

**Contact information:** [agibson3@tulane.edu](mailto:agibson3@tulane.edu)

## **Webinar #2: Facilitating Intercultural Learning: Key Pedagogical Practices**

Dr. Tara Harvey, True North Intercultural  
Thursday October 10, 2019 – 1-2 pm Eastern



Opportunities for intercultural learning abound, both on our study abroad programs and on our increasingly diverse campuses. However, research indicates that exposure to and even immersion in other cultures does not necessarily lead to intercultural development. Therefore, we need to intentionally design and facilitate experiences that DO foster intercultural learning and growth. But how? In this webinar, we'll discuss several key intercultural pedagogical practices and how they can help us foster learning through intercultural experiences.

### **Learning outcomes: Participants will have opportunities to:**

- Identify several key intercultural pedagogical practices.

### **About the presenter**

Tara Harvey, Ph.D., has been in the field of international/intercultural education for more than fifteen years. She has taught English abroad and worked as an international student advisor at Texas A&M and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At the University of Minnesota—where she also earned a Ph.D. in Comparative and International Development Education—Tara taught two innovative courses designed to help students learn from and through their own intercultural experiences. As the Academic Director of Intercultural Learning at CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange), Tara developed the signature course, 'Intercultural Communication and Leadership' (offered at more than 20 study centers around the world) and integrated intercultural learning frameworks into CIEE's wide array of study abroad programs. A contributing author to *Student Learning Abroad: What our Students Are Learning, What They're Not, and What We Can Do About It* (Stylus, 2012), Tara is currently co-authoring a follow-up book—an educator's guide to facilitating intercultural learning—to be published by Stylus in 2019. As Founder/Consultant of True North Intercultural, Tara is a consultant, trainer, and coach focused on helping educators and institutions of higher education increase students' intercultural learning.

### **Contact information:**

tara@truenorthintercultural.com

## **Webinar #3: Creating a Culture of Support for Intercultural Learning**

Rich Kurtzman, Barcelona SAE

Thursday November 14, 2019 – 1-2 pm Eastern



While far away from their typical support structures, students and interns abroad are asked to push their boundaries and extend themselves beyond their comfort zones. This is why we must create a culture of support overseas while stretching our students to further their intercultural learning. Rich Kurtzman has spent 17 years working directly with students on-site, developing new activities based on intercultural theories and his own experience, and teaching workshops and classes such as “Intercultural Communication and Competence,” “Internship Seminar for Professional Growth,” “The Culture of Food and Wine in Spain” and “Harnessing Growth Mindset in Education Abroad.” As a professor, intercultural coordinator, coach, and director of programs, Rich has worked with thousands of students, and hundreds of intercultural educators to provide cultural mentoring aimed at intercultural growth through the study abroad or internship experience and continues to do so today as CEO of Barcelona Study Abroad Experience (SAE).

This webinar provides a brief background on theory but will focus more on the practical activities that have been tried and tested throughout the years. Rich will walk the participants through the activities in a manner that is simple enough to not just understand, but later replicate on their own, so they will walk away with activities they can incorporate immediately. In addition to exercises applicable to students, this webinar will go beyond and explain the intercultural training that Barcelona SAE has developed for both on-site staff, faculty and homestay families through our TODOS initiative (The Outcomes-based Diversity Outreach Strategy) to create a culture of support for our underrepresented students including training on micro-aggressions, history of race relations in America, and LGBTQ issues.

### **Learning Outcomes: Participants will have opportunities to:**

- Cite the theoretical principles that encourage and support the activities;
- Deliver and debrief several activities for students that will increase cultural awareness and understanding, even from a distance;
- Create their own mini-training program for on-site staff, faculty and homestay families based on the Barcelona SAE cultural programming and TODOS activities described.

### **About the Presenter**

Rich Kurtzman has been working in the field of International Education since 1998. Prior to founding Barcelona Study Abroad Experience (SAE) in 2009, he led groups of high school students abroad through World Learning, worked for IESAbroad in Chicago and Barcelona, taught courses on Spanish Culture and Intercultural Communication in Barcelona through CEA

abroad and worked as an Intercultural Consultant for Business Executives with Berlitz Cultural Consulting. Rich has presented dozens of sessions at NAFSA and Forum including: Increasing Cultural Awareness in Short-term programs: A toolkit of Activities, Helping Students Make the "Right" Decisions: Using Choice Architecture and Nudge Theories, and Using Reentry Workshops for Continued Professional and Personal Development. In 2017, Rich had a prime time spot on the NAFSA Soundstage to present on Interactive Activities to Gain Cultural Awareness. He also sends out "Culture Stock: Tips and Strategies for Increasing Cultural Awareness"; a bi-monthly newsletter.

**Contact Information:**

rich@barcelonasae.com

**Webinar #4: Teaching Strategies for Developing Self-Awareness and Cultural Competence in Study Abroad: Classroom Applications**

Dr. Madalina Akli, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Friday December 13, 2019, 2-3 pm Eastern time

Dr. Madalina Akli teaches the curriculum of the International Scholars Program and Certificate in the Commonwealth Honors College at University of Massachusetts Amherst. The curriculum consists of preparatory classes on inter-cultural communication and the integration of international experience for those who spend their junior year abroad. In this webinar, she will present a selection of teaching strategies for developing the key elements of self-awareness and reflection in inter-cultural communication.



Study-abroad students are eager to learn about cultural values of people in their host country. Typically, students turn outward to discover visible differences in other cultures. The presenter shares reflection activities, such as the writing of an auto-ethnography —a personal and cultural map — and role playing to help students turn inwardly and to mindfully reassess their own intentions and values before engaging with distant others. By first shedding light on how students operate on "automatic pilot," and reevaluating their personal and cultural territories, their engagement abroad will then have a different grounding that is more meaningful, ethical, and sustainable. With this foundation of understanding, students are able to transcend the cultural differences and realize the many cultural similarities of our shared humanity.

This webinar is suitable for those who teach classes related to study-abroad education.

**Learning Outcomes: Participants will have opportunities to:**

- Identify new teaching strategies for inter-cultural communication that address obstacles in building authentic cultural relations, such as stereotypes, generalizations, and hypotheses about a foreign culture;
- Describe instruments of introspection and reflection appropriate for classroom setting;
- Share examples of how students can develop personal reflection and mindfulness, including examples of how they can build a conceptual space of self-awareness, ambiguity, creativity, empathy, and compassion.

**About the presenter:**

**Dr. Madalina Akli** was born in Romania and arrived in the U.S. as an international student. She holds a M.A. from Sorbonne University (Paris, France) and a Ph.D. in French studies from Rice University. She is director of both the International Scholars Program and the Office of National Scholarship Advisement at UMass Amherst. Her publications include: "Study Abroad and Cultural Learning through Fulbright and Other International Scholarships: A Holistic Student Development," (*Journal of International Students*, 2013), "The Role of Study-Abroad Students in Cultural Diplomacy: Toward an International Education as Soft Action," (*International Research and Review: Journal of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars*, 2013), "In the Mind of a Global Citizen: Identity and World Belonging," (*International Educator*, 2012), and *Conventional and Original Metaphors in French Autobiography* (Peter Lang, 2009).

**Contact Information:**

[makli@umass.edu](mailto:makli@umass.edu)

**About the Institute for Cross-Cultural Teaching and Learning**

The Institute for Cross-Cultural Teaching and Learning is committed to promoting effective intercultural teaching and learning in international education through workshops, webinars, and individual consulting and training sessions.

**Questions?**

Contact Steven Duke at [steve@ifcctl.com](mailto:steve@ifcctl.com)