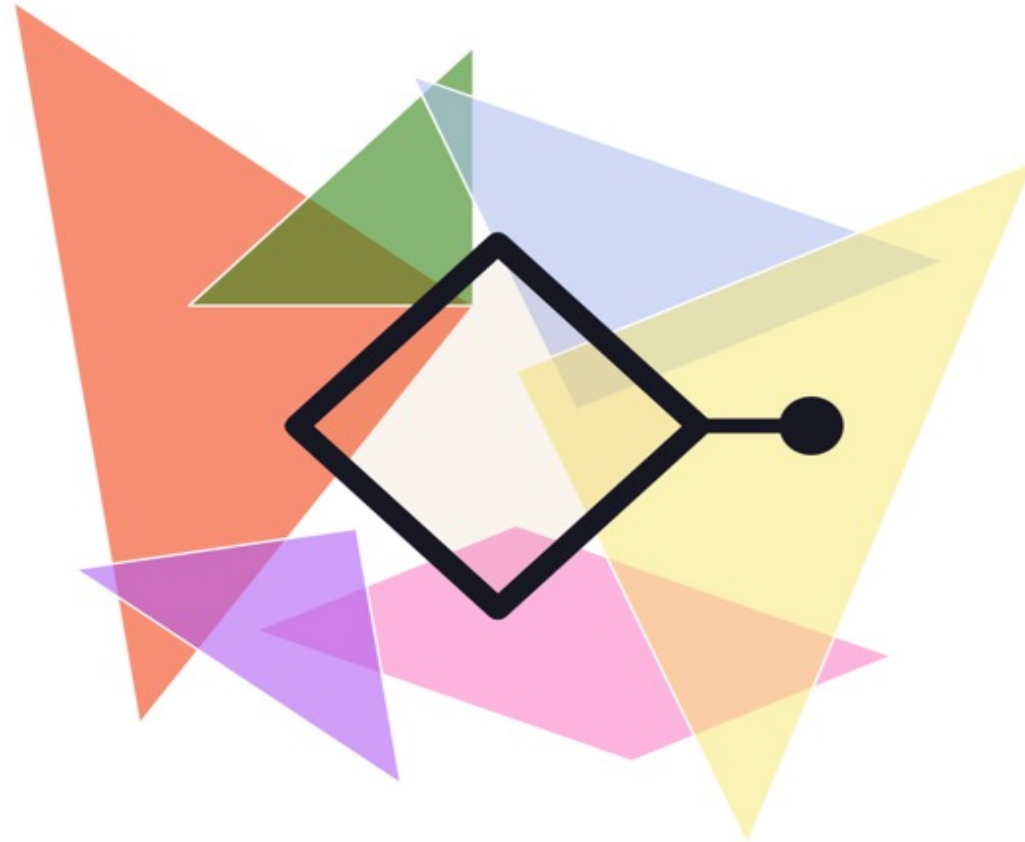


# Intercultural Communication Across Courses



Eleanor Beckman and Adam Ramejkis

**Eleanor Beckman** is working towards an MA in Applied Imagination at CSM, exploring topics of cross-disciplinary exchange. They were elected the Arts SU School Rep for CSM Culture & Enterprise, Spatial Practices, and Graphic Communication Design.

They have worked in contemporary art, fashion, and community-building in New York and Los Angeles, most recently launching and running a hybrid retail business that morphed from an independent space to a collaborative venture with multiple museums in LA.

**Adam Ramejkis** is a supporter of learning, working primarily in Intercultural Communication and UAL-wide Academic Support, opening spaces for shared creative and critical inquiry.

All sessions follow a think-share-explore approach - where participants engage with and learn about themselves and others through respectful exchanges of the different knowledges, experiences and ideas in the learning spaces (#valueofdifference).

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# Communication through intercultural lenses

Join us for a series of workshops and discussions - exploring themes related to culture, communication and collaboration.

Engaging with texts and other resources, and crucially through sharing thoughts and experiences with each other, be part of a shared critical inquiry into how culture(s) shape(s) communication(s), and how communication(s) can in turn inform culture(s).

The ultimate aim is to appreciate the value of difference, and to recognise the constant need for considered and considerate communication (UNESCO's fourth pillar of education - Learning to live together).

## a series of (seven) sessions

- Different “cultures”?
- Identity/identities (and intercultural competences)
- Visualising collaboration
- Pause to reflect...
- Talking about values
- Open-source English
- An as-yet undefined space...

# Communication through intercultural lenses

CSM Culture + Enterprise

## overview



Culture and Enterprise - Communication through intercultural lenses

0 Add comment

## Different cultures (pre-session)



Smithsonian Folklife

foklife.si.edu

Approaches to Cultural Heritage Presentation

An institution considered by many to be an authority on American culture, I really appreciate all of the resources that Smithsonian Folklife has available to educators and those who are simply curious. There is a wealth of resources available here for self-education and methods for researching different cultural backgrounds. I encourage everyone to peruse the Smithsonian Folklife resources:

<https://folklife.si.edu/education/>

[utm\\_source=si.eduutm\\_medium=referralutm\\_campaign=education](https://folklife.si.edu/education/utm_source=si.eduutm_medium=referralutm_campaign=education)

and if one is musically inclined, to peruse the US's rich folk music heritage:

[https://folklife.si.edu/education/utm\\_source=si.eduutm\\_medium=referralutm\\_campaign=education](https://folklife.si.edu/education/utm_source=si.eduutm_medium=referralutm_campaign=education)

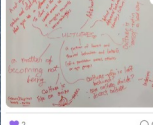
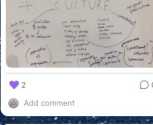
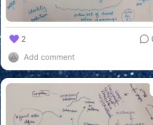
think-share-explore 5m  
The description for these resources raises some questions, like:

think-share-explore 5m  
Why is the Smithsonian "considered by many" to be an authority? Is this because the Smithsonian has positioned itself as an authority (and has the resources/support to do so)? Also, what does it mean to be "an authority on culture"?

Add comment

What is culture?  
I did a youtube search, and here are some of the results (chosen because they

## Different cultures (post-session)



## Reflections etc (post-session)

From today's session I got a chance to explore the meaning of culture. One interesting metaphor that came up was how culture is multi-layered as an onion. Where there is a certain identity of self and as we grow up in life, more geographically, one's identity keeps evolving and building up on.

It is intriguing to both deconstruct and magnify this phenomenon of the evolution of one's cultural identity. When we try to deconstruct it, cultural identity is informed by factors such as geographical location - where one was born or lived and moved to, the rituals and beliefs we relate to.

On the other end of the spectrum, with the internet and connectivity, I also feel that we are becoming more and more homogeneous as a world culture. Today, there is a sense of common ground if I had to communicate and connect with someone from my age group or field of work, from a completely different culture. But if this same evolution and addition of layers were to be multiplied by 10x, there is a slight chance that one might get stuck in the uppermost layers of identity and lose the essence or connect with our roots.



## Identity/identities (pre-session)



Chimnanda Ngozi Adichie - the danger of a single story

Please watch this - again, you can share thoughts, questions etc below, AND we can discuss this when we meet next Friday...

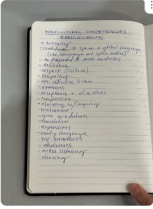
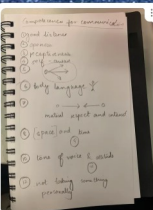
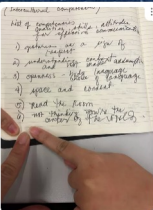
## Amin Maalouf - In the name of identity



Please read this chapter - share comments, questions etc below AND we can discuss about it in our session next Friday...

Our identities are first drafts written by other people since we were born, and so Hemingway said, the first draft of anything is shit.

## Intercultural competences



## Reflections etc (post-session)

Here's the link

Buket Uzuner - I am Istanbul

The young girl Buket Uzuner... the young girl Buket Uzuner... the young girl Buket Uzuner...

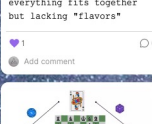
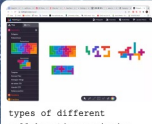
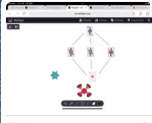
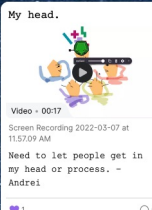
I am Istanbul - Buket Uzuner

Found this when looking through files on my computer the other day (looking for sth else) - and thought I'd share it with you. Wondering if/how this connects with our discussion last week...

and this link is to an interview with the author...

Through this exercise/reflection I am exploring the different ways in which teams could be formed. Please feel free to download, edit and re-share.

## Visualising collaboration



## Talking about values

Team Blue - Values



## Group Lav (ender)



## green - t-shirt



## Open-source English



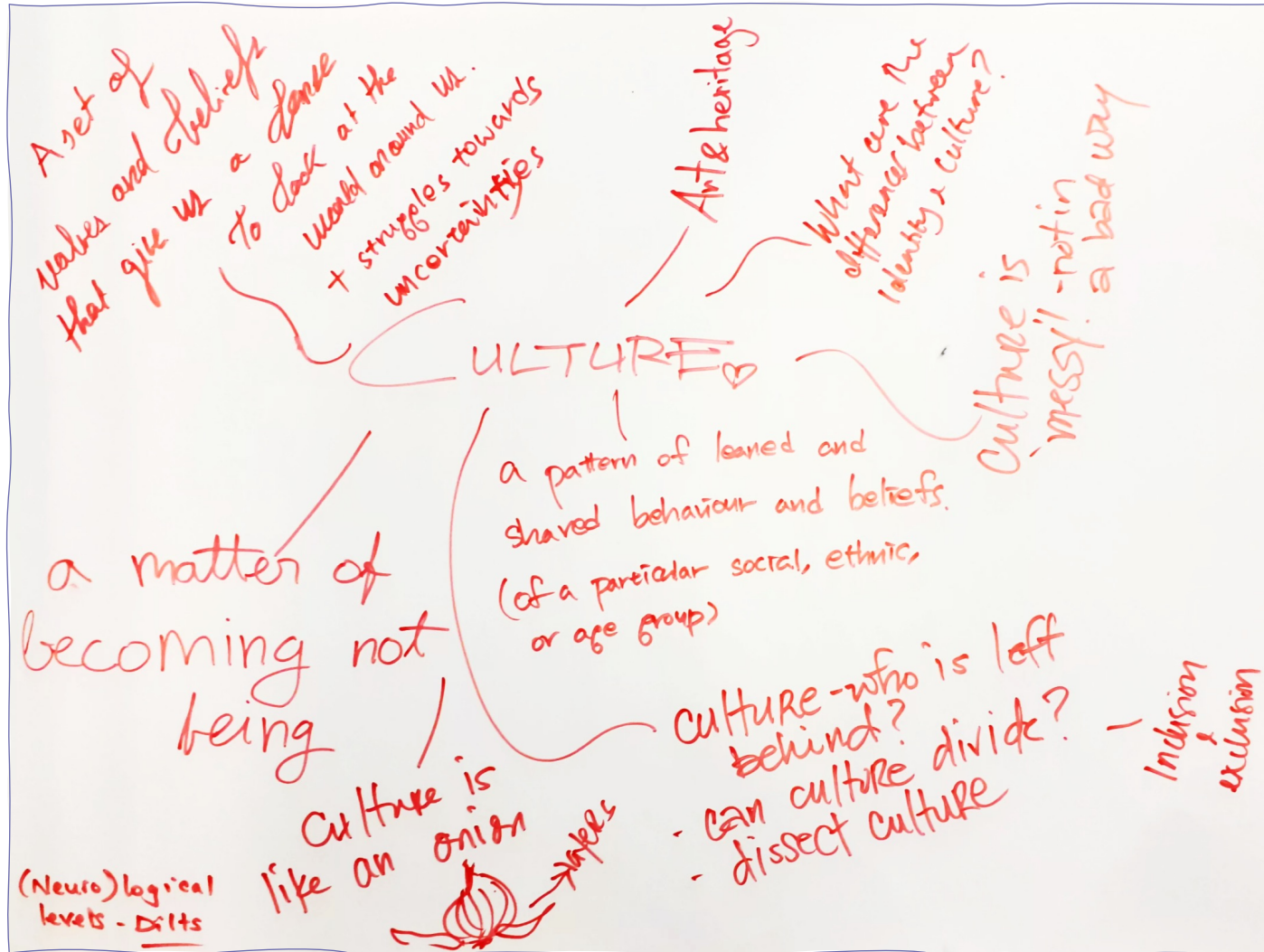
The 21st Century Flux - Dizraeli and Macmillan Dictionary

An Ecotopian Lexicon - Foreward

## 7 suggestions for the ecotopian lexicon...

7 suggestions for the ecotopian lexicon... some suggestions

# Different "cultures"?



# Intercultural competences

## INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCIES COMMUNICATION

- = curiosity
- confidence to speak a global language  
(use language not your native)
- be prepared to make mistakes
- Resilience
- respect (culture)
- empathy
- non-offensive humor
- awareness
- acceptance = of mistake
- compassion
- checking in/inquiring
- involvement
- open mindedness
- translation
- expressions
- body language
- self-awareness
- attentiveness
- active listening
- sharing

# Talking about values





## Participants' reflections

- Tangible way to create spaces for cross-disciplinary community through discussion and iterative, repeated interactions
- The non-hierarchical space allowed for an open and flexible dynamic
- Focusing on foundational common ideas like identities, cultures, values, and collaboration highlights some of the unseen labour involved in communication
- By exploring our differences, we found common ground from which to work together - lessons that translate to individual courses and beyond
- Collaborative and social learning journey

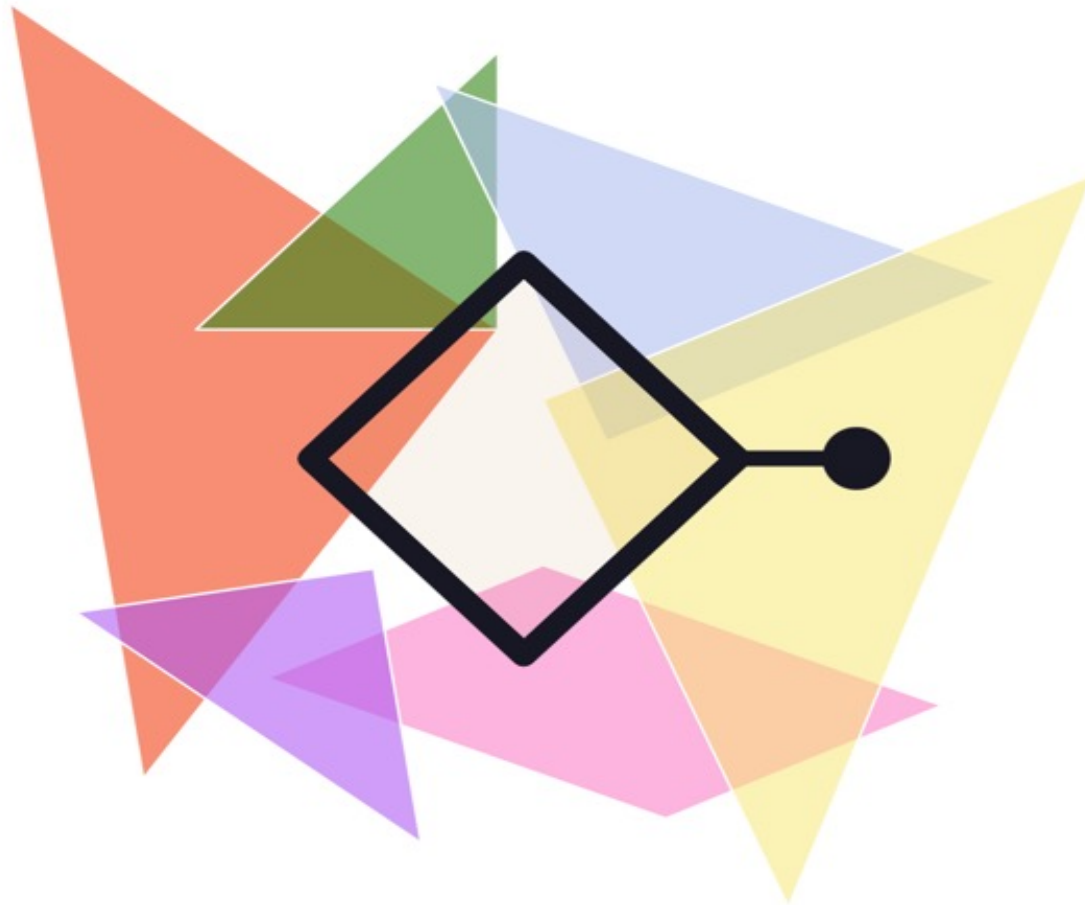
# Student learning

- Connects to Arts SU discussion around **The Big Question** Survey and student feedback about their experiences
- Isolation is a form of siloization: community-building is a way to create transdisciplinary exchange leading to deeper and more nuanced engagement
- Opportunity for inclusivity for students from a variety of backgrounds
- Connecting with others facilitates components of the social theory of learning: learning as belonging, becoming, experiencing, and doing
- Moving beyond the individual learning journey mindset

## a continuation...

- Presenting at **UAL Education Conference** and **Who do we think we are?** (workshop and lightning talk)
- Plan to re-run series of sessions with new (and returning) students for CSM Culture and Enterprise students
- A post-series *What? So what? Now what?* session with the group - “planning” a possible follow-up? (hopefully July)
- Possibly running the series via PG Community (to be discussed, and hopefully organised, for October)
- Discussions have started around opening opportunities (paid!) for students to **help design and co-facilitate** sessions exploring themes related to culture, identity, communication, etc... (e.g. Big Welcome zine workshops)

# Visualising collaboration (a mini-workshop)



# Collaboration - a storming of brains

- Reflecting on positive and not-so-positive experiences
- Listing factors at play when working with others
- Identifying/suggesting elements of collaboration
- Recognising the challenges of collaboration
- 
- 
-

# Visualising your collaborative challenge

- [mathigon.org/tangram](https://mathigon.org/tangram)
- Move the shapes around, rotate them, change colours, overlay them (changing opacity/transparency levels?)
- Take a screenshot
- Upload to [artslondon.padlet.org/TSE/VC120722](https://artslondon.padlet.org/TSE/VC120722)
- Give your image a title and 1-2 sentence description
- Like and comment on others' posts 😊

to be continued...

Questions, suggestions, provocations, considerations?

THANKS for listening, engaging and sharing 😊

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