University, Society and Interculturality

DARE+

Train the Trainer Seminar

Granada, 15-19 February 2016

Universidad de Granada

Prior reflection

Why "University, Society and Interculturality"?

Further reflection...

Some definitions…

- **Culture:** cumulative deposit of **knowledge**, **experience**, **beliefs**, **values**, **attitudes**, **meanings**, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions **acquired by a group of people in the course of generations** through individual and group striving (Hofstede, 1997)

Some definitions…

- **Layers of culture:** People even within the same culture carry several layers of mental programming within themselves.

  Different layers of culture exist at the following levels:

  – The national level: Associated with the nation as a whole.

  – The regional level: Associated with ethnic, linguistic, or religious differences that exist within a nation.

Some definitions…

- Layers of culture:
  - The gender level: Associated with gender differences (female vs. male)
  - The generation level: Associated with the differences between grandparents and parents, parents and children.
  - The social class level: Associated with educational opportunities and differences in occupation.
  - The corporate level: Associated with the particular culture of an organization

Some definitions...

- **Interculturality: interaction of people from different cultural backgrounds** using authentic language appropriately in a way that demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the cultures. It is the **ability to experience the culture of another person**

- **Multiculturality:** coexistence of different cultures

Some definitions…

- **Intercultural competence:** refers to behaving and **communicating effectively and appropriately in cross-cultural communications** to achieve one's goals to some degree. (Deardoff, 2006)

Some definitions…

- Therefore, IC:
  - requires a combination of specific knowledge, skills and attitudes that lead to successful interactions,
  - is developmental in nature (Bennett, 1998): progression from a more ethnocentric world-view toward a more global mind-set, and
  - Requires a process of learning (several cycles, including experience, reflection, conceptualisation and experimentation)

Towards an intercultural and multicultural university

- Cultural awareness
  - Identify cultural differences
  - Adapt to the foreign environment
    - Certain aspects will be learned subconsciously
    - Certain aspects will be learned consciously
  - Two-sided process
- Process of learning: provide tools for it (teacher training)

Towards a multicultural society

- University part of society
- Involvement of university and society to build a multicultural and intercultural society: from university to society and from society to university

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