

# Promoting Mindful, Reflective Perspective Taking

A World Café Session

Mascha Gemein, University of Arizona

Aisha Haque, Western University

Nanda Dimitrov, Western University

# What does perspective taking mean to you?

- What are some potentials you see with it in higher education?
- What are some potential pitfalls of engaging students in learning activities that involve perspective taking?



# Perspective Taking in Higher Education

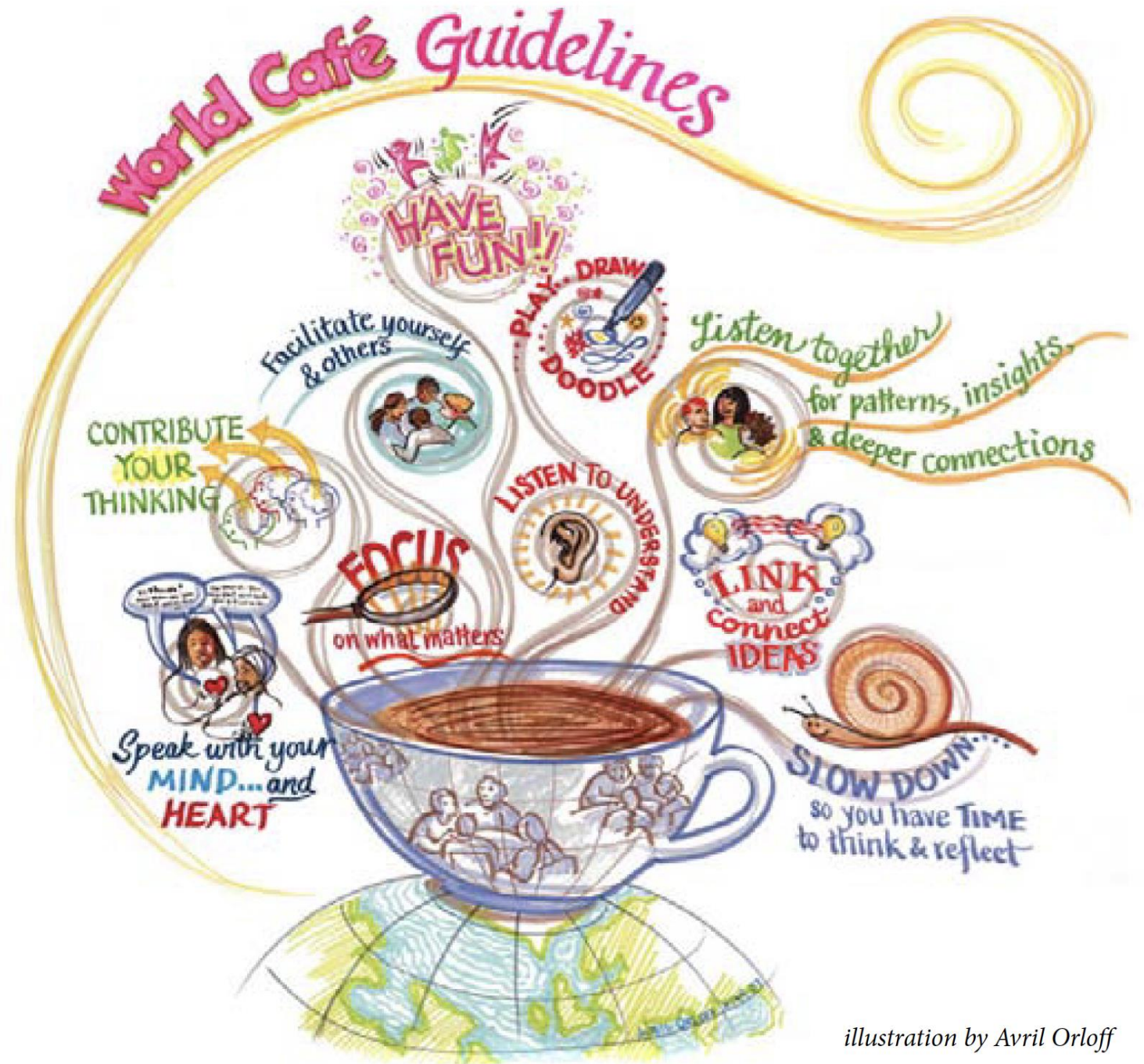
- Over 90% of students and higher education professionals identify perspective taking as an essential goal of the college experience (AACU).
- Reconciliation in Canada and Inclusive Excellence in U.S. higher education call for more attention toward a more explicit focus on learning activities that may be applicable across disciplines.
- Introspection, awareness for one's own positionality and awareness of the positionalities of others are foundational elements in developing intercultural competence. (Merryfield and Subedi, 2006; Deardorff, 2006)

# Examples of Learning Activities that Promote Perspective Taking

- Visibility Exercise
- Creative Re-Writes
- The Avatar/Ally Exercise
- Contemplative Practices
- Theatre of the Oppressed
- Simulations and role plays
- Empathy Lab (Mobile Simulation Aging Lab)
- Storytelling/Story Writing
- Human Library (<http://humanlibrary.org>)
- *More examples in* Berardo, K., Deardorff, D. K. 2012. *Building cultural competence: Innovative activities and models* (1st ed.). Sterling, Va: Stylus Pub.



# World Café Method



<http://www.theworldcafe.com>

*illustration by Avril Orloff*

# World Café Etiquette

- Share ideas, doodle, ask questions
- Move to a new table in each round
- Table hosts stay and summarize the conversation
- We will share ideas via google docs after the session



## Round 1

How do you promote  
perspective-taking in ways  
that encourage students to  
first reflect on their own  
positionalities?

## Round 2

**How can instructors negotiate a balance in monitoring students during perspective-taking activities?**



## Round 3

How can instructors help students negotiate their affective responses to intercultural learning experiences?

## Takeaways and highlights

- What will you take back to your own practice from today's conversation?



# Sharing activities online?

We will add our examples to google docs using the template

Share your own examples with the group at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16BsEHUYpUu9DM6JqpK28ORKjqbdUiuJp7toertuX2lw/edit?usp=sharing>

# References

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