



Intercultural Playground: Creative Experiential Approaches to Facilitate Learning and Connection

Presenters: Dr. Basma Ibrahim DeVries & Jon DeVries

Life is a non-stop experiential learning opportunity, and as interculturalists, we continuously practice how to capture those learning moments and facilitate new connections – between people, ideas, and lived experiences. Experiential approaches engage us holistically, strengthening mind-body connections and enhancing learning through self-exploration and real-world application. During these dynamic times, we invite you to join fellow workshop participants to expand your toolkit in assisting clients/students in understanding, truly appreciating, actively engaging, and ultimately, bridging and leveraging differences. Skilled educators and trainers utilize current challenges to inspire creativity, resourcefulness, and reflection, while fostering greater equity and inclusion.

This highly interactive session engages participants in several unique intercultural learning activities (related to diverse communication styles, cultural values and dimensions, barriers to inclusion) and includes discussion on adaptations for specific training goals. Workshop participants can expect to be creatively, experientially, and reflectively engaged, while meeting session objectives:

- Expand and strengthen design, adaptation, and facilitation skills by utilizing a variety of new tools and concepts
- Address intercultural/equity barriers by maximizing creative approaches to various training and education contexts
- Learn easy-to-implement strategies for promoting greater inclusion
- Broaden skills to (co-)facilitate with spontaneity and be fully present for a groups' realities



Dr. Basma Ibrahim DeVries is a professor of Communication Studies at Concordia University in Minnesota, a faculty member at the Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication, and an intercultural and DEI trainer and consultant. Basma co-authored *Communication Highwire: Leveraging the Power of Diverse Communication Styles* and *Cultural Detective®Egypt*. She served on the national board of SIETAR-USA and as *Board Vice President of GiGi's Playhouse –*

Twin Cities, Down Syndrome Achievement Center.

The logo for the Virtual Master Workshop Weekend. It features a stylized archway with a rainbow gradient at the top left. To its right is the SIETAR USA logo, which consists of three wavy lines above the text "SIETAR USA". The main text "Virtual Master Workshop" is in a large, bold, blue font, with "Virtual" in a smaller purple font above "Master". "Workshop" is in a teal color. Below "Workshop" is the word "Weekend" in a smaller, light blue font.

Virtual
Master
Workshop
Weekend



Jon DeVries is an intercultural trainer and consultant specializing in Intercultural Competence Development, Leadership Development, Team Building and Training Design with a background in Experiential Education and Adult Learning Theories. Jon held positions at the University of Minnesota, including Short-Term and Custom Programs Director in the International Student and Scholar Services Office. He has worked with large and small businesses, K-12 and higher education institutions, government agencies and non-profit organizations. He is also a Music Teacher through

the nationally accredited Music Together Program and on Basma's Facebook page is known as "super-daddy."

Basma and Jon enjoy leading student travel and service-learning groups abroad and were faculty members and Intercultural Learning Circle Coordinators aboard the inaugural semester-long voyage of The *ScholarShip*. They are also founders and planning board members of SIETAR-Minnesota.