

Pedagogical Orientation
within the Dynamics of Transculturality

Handouts for the

Digital Autumn School: Transculturality in Teacher Education

at Heidelberg School of Education, Autumn 2020

By Carola Mantel

Where are you looking from?

At first sight	On second look
Statements	
<p>That's right, that's wrong. That's not normal! If it's not done in a certain way, it's disrespectful/rude. They should... These people are living backwards. They can't understand. I know how these people function. Are you Turkish or Swiss?</p>	<p>What can I learn from this? At first I thought...and now I see... Things are sometimes not as they seem. I'm cautious about judging, there is so much I don't know. In what ways does the irritation have to do with myself? Will you tell me about your point of view? I'd like to understand that better. How could we solve this together? Ambivalence is part of life.</p>
Behaviours	
<p>Reproducing stereotypes. Seeing the familiar as the «normal». Quick, spontaneous judgement. Standing by the judgement. Taking irritations personally. Seeing others as in need of help. Avoiding conflict.</p>	<p>Interest Listening, considering other perspectives Sensitive to questions of belonging and (subtle) degradations Recognising and questioning stereotypes Knowledge of one's own limited knowledge Creative solutions Getting acquainted with one's own notions of «normal», social belonging and power dynamics «Commitment and humility»</p>
Beliefs	
<p>On the one side «us» and on the other «the others». The «us» group represents the «normal». «The others» deviate from the «normal».</p>	<p>Everyone belongs. Diversity is the norm (and: rules are necessary to live together)</p>



How do you shift?

- ...
- ...
- ...

The six commitments for true encounters

<p>1. Sincere interest</p> <p>I'm looking for real encounters and I'm interested in people who irritate me or who seem strange or unfamiliar to me.</p> <p><i>(Versus: My first impressions are my final impressions, even if they are negative.)</i></p>	<p>2. Cheerful equanimity</p> <p>I'm aware of the fact that I have prejudices and when I uncover them, I'm kind to myself or I laugh a bit at myself.</p> <p><i>(Versus: I assume that I have no prejudices and when I still uncover some, I feel deeply ashamed.)</i></p>	<p>3. Openness to others</p> <p>I practice an open-minded attitude by deferring judgments about others as much as possible. I strive to understand the perspective of the other person and I'm aware that there is a lot I don't know. In particular, I humbly acknowledge experiences of discrimination, especially if I do not know them from my own personal experience.</p> <p><i>(Versus: I'm quick to judge situations and people and I assume that my judgements are right.)</i></p>
<p>4. Openness to self-awareness</p> <p>I'm open-minded towards myself and I'm interested in my own influences and the resulting notions of «normal». I make sure to consider these influences in a neutral and fair manner and not hastily judge them.</p> <p><i>(Versus: I'm totally normal. There are lots of not normal people in this world. That's all I need to know about this topic.)</i></p>	<p>5. Self-regulation</p> <p>I make sure to find inner balance on an ongoing basis. If people don't behave in the way I'd expect them to, I don't take it personally. Sometimes I can simply accept things just the way they are.</p> <p><i>(Versus: If I'm not feeling good, it's the fault of others. I can neither accept nor influence that.)</i></p>	<p>6. Expansion of knowledge</p> <p>I'm aware that there is a lot I don't know. Again and again, I access new horizons to learn more about the living conditions of others and to discover my own “blind spots”.</p> <p><i>(Versus: I know enough about the life circumstances of others. I can judge concrete situations from my own life experience.)</i></p>

Inspired by Dethmer, J., Chapman, D., & Warner Klemp, K. (2014). *The 15 Commitments of Conscious Leadership. A New Paradigm for Sustainable Success*: Conscious Leadership Group.

More information (in German) in Mantel, C., Aepli, M., Büzberger, M., Dober, H., Hubli, J., Krummenacher, J., & Puškarić, J. (2019). *Auf den zweiten Blick. Eine Sammlung von Fällen aus dem Schulalltag zum Umgang mit migrationsbezogener Vielfalt*. Bern: hep.