Quotes about interculturality

- 1. There are no foreign lands. It is the traveler only who is foreign. Robert Louis Stevenson (Scottish Essayist, Poet and Author of fiction and travel books, 1850-1894)
- 2. Culture hides more than it reveals and, strangely enough, what it hides, it hides most effectively from its own participants. Years of study have convinced me that the real job is not to understand foreign culture but to understand our own. Edward T. Hall (American anthropologist and cross-cultural researcher, 1914-2009)
- 3. It is useful to know something of the manners of different nations, that we may be enabled to form a more correct judgment regarding our own, and be prevented from thinking that everything contrary to our customs is ridiculous and irrational, a conclusion usually come to by those whose experience has been limited to their own country. René Descartes: Discourse on the method, Part 1. (1637)
 - [Il est bon de savoir quelque chose des moeurs de divers peuples, afin de juger des nôtres plus sainement, et que nous ne pensions pas que tout ce qui est contre nos modes soit ridicule et contre raison, ainsi qu'ont coutume de faire ceux qui n'ont rien vu. Descartes: Discours de la méthode 1637]
- 4. Instead of focusing on reaching agreement, use these opportunities to change the goal of the communication. The new goal is to create understanding and understanding doesn't mean agreeing. It isn't necessary for [...] people in conflict to see eye to eye and walk away holding hands, but it's helpful if they can talk to each other respectfully, feel heard by each other, and gain a greater understanding of the situation and the other person. Scott, Vivian. (Conflict resolution for dummies, 2010:22)
- 5. No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite. Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom, Used by Barack Obama on Twitter after the Charlottesville racist violence. 12 August 2017.
- 6. I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. Maya Angelou (American poet, writer, civil rights activist 1928-2014)
- 7. A kis kultúrák közvetítője mindig kételkedni kénytelen munkája értelmében. Csak abból meríthet erőt, hogy tudja: másként nem tehet, ha egyszer belátta, hogy csak egymás jobb megismerése szabadíthat meg bennünket a gyűlölködés rabságából. Bojtár Endre, translator and expert of Eastern European literatures, 2010 [Transmitters of small cultures always doubt if their work has any sense. They can draw strength from knowing that it is only getting to know one another that can free us from the confinement of hatred.]
- 8. Intercultural business contexts force us to be more self-aware and to rely on words more than we do in our native cultures. Sherwood Fleming (author on ICC and Business English)
- 9. When you withhold trust within intercultural business contexts, how are you making the decision to not trust someone? Sherwood Fleming (author on ICC and Business English)
- 10. What sets worlds in motion is the interplay of differences, their attractions and repulsions; life is plurality, death is uniformity. Octavio Paz (Mexican poet, writer and diplomat; 1914-1998)
- 11. Respect for the rights of others means peace. Benito Juarez (Mexican president and national hero; 1806-1872)
- 12. If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace. Franklin D. Roosevelt (President of the United States; 1882-1945)
- 13. Peace cannot exist without justice, justice cannot exist without fairness, fairness cannot exist without development, development cannot exist without democracy, democracy cannot exist without respect for the identity and worth of cultures and peoples. Rigoberta Menchú Tum (Guatemalan Indigenous rights activist, 1990 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education, 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner; b. 1959)
- 14. The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border? Pablo Casals (Spanish cellist, Wrote music for UN Anthem for world peace; 1876-1973)

- 1. Every human is like all other humans, some other humans, and no other human. Clyde Kluckhon (American anthropologist. 1905-1960)
- 2. A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots. Marcus Garvey (Jamaican political activist, 1887-1940)
- 3. You have to maintain a culture of transformation and stay true to your values. Jeff Weiner (American businessman, b. 1970)
- 4. Differences simply act as a yarn of curiosity unraveling until we get to the other side. Ciore Taylor (author of "The conversation starts here)
- 5. The stranger sees only what he knows. African proverb
- 6. Deep listening is miraculous for both the listener and speaker. When someone receives us with openhearted, non-judgmental, intensely interested listening, our spirits expand. Sue Patton Soele
- 7. If you don't give people information, they make up something to fill the void. Carla O'Dell (top manager)
- 8. To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way that we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others. Anthony Robbins
- 9. There is very little 'of course' when it comes to customs. Janet Kagan (American science-fiction author, 1946-2008)
- 10. People of different religions and cultures live side-by-side in almost every part of the world, and most of us have overlapping identities which unite us in very different groups.
 - We can love what we are, without hating what- and who we are not. We can thrive in our own tradition, even as we learn from others, and come to respect their teachings. Kofi Annan (Ghanaian diplomat, UN secretary general, 1938-2018)
- 11. It is not easy to be stranded between two worlds, the sad truth is that we can never be completely comfortable in either world. Sharon Kay Penman (American historical novelist, b. 1945)
- 12. One of the most significant facts about humanity may finally be that we all begin with the natural equipment to live a thousand kinds of life but end in the end having lived only one. Clifford Geertz (American anthropologist, 1926-2006)
- 13. Society in its full sense... is never an entity separable from the individuals who compose it. No individual can arrive even at the threshold of his potentialities without a culture in which he participates. Ruth Benedict (American anthropologist, 1887-1948)
- 14. No culture has ever developed all human potentialities; it has always selected certain capacities, mental and emotional and moral, and shifted others. Each culture is a system of values which may well complement the values in another. Ruth Benedict (American anthropologist, 1887-1948)
- 15. Most of my important lessons about life have come from recognizing how others from a different culture view things. Edgar H. Schein (American professor of management and organisation culture, b. 1928)
- 16. Everybody believes that their reality is the real real reality. Paul Watzlawick (Austrian-American family therapist, psychologist, communication theorist, and philosopher, 1921-2007)
- 15. One of the most effective ways to learn about yourself is by taking seriously the cultures of others. It forces you to pay attention to those details of life which differentiate them from you. Edward T. Hall (American anthropologist and cross-cultural researcher, 1914-2009)
- 17. We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are. Anonymous
- 18. Cultural analysis is intrinsically incomplete. And, worse than that, the more deeply it gets, the less complete it is. Clifford Geertz (American anthropologist, 1926-2006)
- 19. The international manager reconciles cultural dilemmas. Fons Trompenaars (Dutch organizational theorist, management consultant, b. 1953)
- 20. We live in different realities but when you deny what this person is going through, you are denying their reality. We are as different as we are on the inside as on the outside, and we have the right to be so. People, don't deny differences... accept them, recognize them and cherish them. Jane Elliot (schoolteacher, anti-racism activist, and educator, known for her "Blue eyes—Brown eyes" exercise; b. 1933)
- 21. Diversity: the art of thinking independently together. Malcom Forbes (American entrepreneur, 1919-1990)
- 22. Peace is not in unity in similarity but unity in diversity, in the comparison and conciliation of differences.

 Mikhail Gorbachev (Russian/Soviet politician, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union 1985-91; b. 1931)
- 23. Choose your self-presentations carefully, for what starts out as a mask may become your face. Erving Goffman (Canadian/American sociologist 1922-1982)

- 24. If we wanted home truths, we should have stayed home. — Clifford Geertz (American anthropologist, 1926-2006)
- 25. You'll surprise you more than they will. Janet Kagan (American science-fiction author, 1946-2008)
- 26. Two monologues do not make a dialogue. Jeff Daly (American exhibition designer)
- 27. I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university. Albert Einstein (German-born theoretical physicist who developed the theory of relativity, 1879-1955)