

# NIC HELSINKI 2011

Theoretical Turbulence –  
Is there a paradigm shift in the field of  
intercultural communication?

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Aalto University  
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3. Evaluation of introspection: When participants claim that they learned most about themselves, the methodological problem becomes even more stringent. Is it possible to evaluate a change of personal outlook? We are able to evaluate and assess teachers and teaching methods, but how about measuring the effect on the affects of intercultural learners? I will describe our attempts at involving psychological monitoring to help affective development.

Keywords: teaching results, cognitive and emotional learning, evaluating introspection

#### **Polycultural Educational Approach to Teaching and Training the Students of the Udmurt State University**

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Polycultural educational approach is a compound of Multi- and Intercultural Education. This approach views teaching and training as a way to enable a person to interact effectively and appropriately with others from various cultures. Polycultural Education is the special combination of several cultural traditions in the curriculum and training methods for helping students come to cultural diversity as social norm and personal value.

In our opinion, polycultural educational approach can be based on the idea of the Intercultural Competence Learning Spiral (Deardorff, 2008), the idea of the Pyramid of Multicultural education (Banks, 2001), and the Multi-paradigm approach for pedagogy (Kolesnikova, 2001; Bondarevskaya, 2006). This approach explains how to develop the attitudes, comprehensive cultural knowledge and intercultural skills, an ability to reflect on intercultural issues as an internal outcome, and an ability to interact constructively as an external outcome. The new techniques to teaching and training are:

- Reflection the cultural background through the role of "Intercultural mediators" (the international web-forums, where students improve their foreign language skills).
- Construction the multicultural knowledge in the Ethnopsychological training for personal growth (concept "Ethno-psychological competence")
- Construction the intercultural attitudes through the discovery the "Common roots in different cultures" (the Students' Linguistic and Musical Clubs).
- Construction the intercultural skills in the Social-projecting sessions (concept "Ethno-methodical competence")

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