



THE POLITICS OF INTERCULTURE: SHARED SPACE

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We are faced with massive challenges on a global scale. Our environment is threatened, our tolerance is challenged and the gap between rich and poor widens. In some parts of the world, the benefits of industrialization are questioned and weighed against the consequences on our natural and human resources. In others, increased public welfare seems possible only if technology is quickly exploited. These parallel processes are often at odds. The result is conflict, unrest and frustration.

This comes as no surprise. As our human potential grows, our conflict potential follows. Social cohesion - at local, national, regional and global levels - shakes and trembles. We face a global crisis of mutual need and trust.

Developing intercultural perspectives in all areas of political and social sectors is the only sustainable solution. It is about practicing mutual transformation and sharing space.

In order for us as a people to share a space we must first frame it, clarify it, map it. We must see the big picture and at the same time explore the details. We must both observe and inter-act.

Intercultural action is mutual transformation, nothing less and nothing more. We are confronted by the Other and we allow ourselves to be changed in the encounter. If we remain in locked positions, unchanging and at best tolerant, then no development is possible.

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