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Jen Puch-Bouwman is a Lecturer in Psychology at Charles Darwin University, Australia. She lived in different countries and was based in New Zealand and Fiji before moving to Australia. Her main interest is in acts of rectification and healing for colonial, intercultural and other global, community and individual issues.

Culture-Share: Deep Cultural Knowledge for Community Cohesion

Intercultural encounters often include gaining knowledge of 'other' cultures. This knowledge may be superficial or transmitted via vicarious channels. The process of deep cultural knowledge is suggested, encompassing cognitive and emotional experiences. Deep cultural knowledge can be gained via culture-share, an experience that brings people together as teachers and learners of cultures. The process evolves from the group of people present in the room, who put forward cultural gifts and share their surface and latent or personal meaning. Participants are encouraged to think in advance about a cultural gift they would like to share. These can be a song, a dance, a work of art, the meaning of a holiday, a custom, an artefact etc. Such deeper sharing of cultural aspects in turn leads to more complex and meaningful intercultural understanding and increases community cohesion.