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Patterns and the Anthropologist
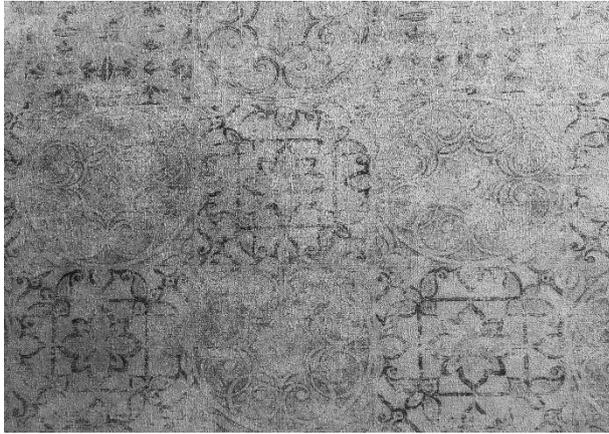
PREPARED BY: Artemisszio Foundation

TAGS (3 categorizations)

Is this activity focusing on one of the 3 steps of the method or tackling a transversal challenge facilitators may face?	**Step of the method**	Decentering	Discovery of the frames of references of the other	Negotiation
	Challenge treated		x	

Small Description

Please explain in a short paragraph (using grammatically correct full sentences) what your activity is about, why did you create it?

This is a chain of activities with the aim of leading participants to the understanding that in order to get to know the frame of reference of the other they do not necessarily have to learn to recognize and consider all the imaginable cultures, rather they have to work as an anthropologist: use their observation, ask questions, contextualize, create theories and see how they work to understand the other's perspective.

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Quick info

TIME FRAME 30-60min	**GROUP SIZE** 2-10	**FACILITIATION LVL** Beginner	**COMFORT ZONE** Safe	**MATERIALS** Pen and paper or a computer/mobile device.

40-60 min	20	intermediate	challenging	paper, pen, screening tools, link of the short video, image, projector

Preparations needed

Instructions Step By Step

Please give step by step instructions of your activity, including debriefing. Be direct, address the reader as a facilitator directly: eg. ask your participants to stand in a circle…

Step 0.

Introduction:
What do anthropologists do? They observe, ask questions, look for patterns and based on that they create theories. Looking for patterns can help us to understand the cultural references of others.

"Man is an animal suspended in webs of significance he himself has spun" (Clifford Geertz, Interpretation of Cultures). The web is created by patterns. Patterns are regularities' that create collective structured behavior in time and space. These regularities speak about the social-political-cultural context that we need to understand if we want to know what the meaning of the event to the participant is.

Step 1.

After a short introduction of the activity, ask you participants to look for patterns in the short video. Ask them to write down what they observe. Screen the video.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2X_sd31z94
After screening you can form couples and ask to discuss their findings or ask in a plenary about the observations. At the end, try to define collectively, what is a pattern (See above).

Step 2.

Show an image/video that presents something that is not known or regular in the everyday life of the participants, like this:

Propose them a set of questions to go through in pairs or small groups.
What would you need to know?
What questions would you ask?
What patterns would you look for?
What hypotheses could you make?

You can also visualize these questions in this form:
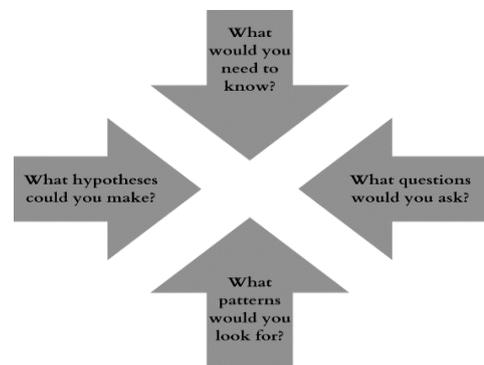
Step 3.

Ask your participants to share their findings. Try to unveil the possible cultural meanings behind the action on the image/video.

Step 4.

These activities are meant to introduce the case analysis work. It was foreseen to make a trial on question 6, sing the same questions as those we used for the picture.

Hints for the facilitator

Reading Cliffords Geertz essay "Thick Description" could be helpful in the facilitation of this activity.

Also doing some research on the cultural context you present on the picture. In this particular case eg. a reference to Evans-Pritchard's work on the Azande can be a good ethnographic reference. For a quicker access see: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-3588674/The-fascinating-tribe-uses-cow-urine-showers-ash-dung-fires-smeared-skin-fight-infection.html

Ressources (Who invented this activity or who inspired it)

If you invented it, please write the name of your colleague and institution as you'd like it to be referenced
If you used ideas /activities of others please put full reference as concretely as you can

The activity was invented by Diana Szántó, inspired by a presentation by Chris Corrigan on the Cynevin framework, during the 2020 Megaphone conference.