

# Cultivating Intercultural Competence in CFL Instruction

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## **Paper Abstract:**

This presentation argues that fostering students' intercultural competence must form an integral part of the curriculum Chinese as a Foreign Language (CFL). It focuses on the design and implementation of activities both inside and outside the classroom for Chinese courses at advanced level to help students develop their intercultural competence as they improve their language proficiency. Based on the presenter's experience, the presentation provides suggestions on the following practical issues: (1) identifying the causes of the lack of intercultural competence, (2) exploring different ways of cultural discovery, (3) determining what types of activities and learning materials to be incorporated into the course curriculum to successfully move students toward intercultural competence, (4) designing effective projects to engage students in developing intercultural competence, and (5) monitoring students' progress and learning outcomes as they strive to acquire intercultural competence. The audience will be asked to reflect on the presented learning activities, analyze the artifacts created by students, and evaluate the assessment plan to measure student learning. Through conversations with the audience, the presenter aims to articulate some principles for enhancing advanced CFL students' intercultural competence. Recommendations on best practices, cautions about potential pitfalls, and suggestions for further explorations will also be offered.

## **Presenter's Bio:**

Chengxu Yin is a teaching professor of Chinese in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Notre Dame. She has also taught at Brandeis University, Harvard University and Johns Hopkins University, and the summer Chinese School at Middlebury College. Her interests include second language acquisition and foreign language teaching, with a focus on course design and hybrid teaching. She has published a number of articles on Chinese language teaching and received multiple grants for course design and implementation.