

Challenging stereotypes exercise

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (b. 1977–) is an award winning Nigerian author who calls for more diverse voices and representations in literature. In universities of Nigeria and the United States Chimamanda studied medicine, pharmacy, communication, political science. Her experiences led to reflections on stereotypes and how easily they can shape daily interpretations. Chimamanda discusses the tendency to view those different to ourselves as one-dimensional, stereotypical entities; as having only a 'single story'. Obviously we are all multi-dimensional complex beings. The institutions we are a part of are equally as complex and capable of representing diverse and competing positions. The same is true for partners involved in hosting students and their context. It may be useful to watch this video (as staff or student groups) to consider the following:

What is the 'single story' that could be told about your partner and their institution?

What do you already know about their context that challenges this one-dimensional view?

Can you imagine other possibilities to the 'single story'?

How could you find out more about your partners that would enable an in-depth and fuller understanding of their situation?

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story