Interculturalism as a method of creating more harmonious and connected communities.

Pathway, Circuits and Crossroads Conference
Massey University, Albany, Auckland

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A Working Definition

At every opportunity, the intentional bringing together of people from diverse cultural, language and faith backgrounds which result in meaningful interactions that help people to:

- Reduce fear
- Increase Understanding
- Engage in dialogue
- Share experiences
- Create New Ideas
- Become Friends

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1. **Builds** on the foundations of biculturalism – it is the outcome of well implemented bicultural practice

2. **Respects** difference and seeks to identify commonality

3. **Acts**, at every opportunity, to bring people of different cultural, language and faiths

4. **Reduces** the risks and opportunities for divisive politics

5. **New skill sets** as it’s not just about ‘engagement’ but relationship building between people who are different

**Inter** = within and between

**Bridging** social capital
Multiculturalism

Multi = lots of
Bonding social capital

1. Respects but can over-emphasise difference
2. Unintended consequence of keeping people apart
3. Tool for identity politics
4. No explicit policy imperative to create understanding or relationships within and between different groups of people.

Interculturalism

Inter = within and between
Bridging social capital

1. Builds on the foundations of multiculturalism
2. Respects difference
3. Acts, at every opportunity, to bring people of different cultural, language and faiths together
4. Reduces the risks and opportunities for divisive politics
5. New skill sets as it’s not just about ‘engagement’ but relationship building
**Biculturalism**

**Bi** = Two

**Bonding** social capital

1. **Treaty** of Waitangi 1840
2. **Relationship** is between Māori as First nation peoples and all others
3. **Respects** difference with precedence given to the expression of Māori culture
4. **No explicit policy** imperative to create relationships within and between different groups of people

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Need to redefine the ‘host’

Tangata whenua

mana

Tangata Tiriti

manaakitanga
Biculturalism

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Māori

Crown

Pakehā

Bi = Two
Bonding social capital

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Interculturalism as a methodology
City of Ballarat’s Index

Intercultural City Index (ICC) - City sample (non-nationals/foreign borns < 15%)
Evidence of Efficacy

Migration Policy Group

• **Strong statistical link** between local intercultural policies and local well-being.
• Intercultural Cities are **more likely to have populations who believe that migrants are good for their city**.
• Inclusive policies do not antagonise public opinion or alienate voters.
• Residents of Intercultural Cities have a **higher level of satisfaction with public services and local administration**
• Migrants find it **easier to find jobs**
• Migrants and greater public **feel safer**
• A city’s intercultural policies are the strongest determining **factor of public opinion of migrants** – even more important than a person’s age, gender, employment/financial situation or the city’s percentage of migrants.
• **Local policies are the key factor of successful integration** – even more important than national policies.

https://www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities/-/study-finds-that-intercultural-cities-have-higher-well-being-and-citizen-satisfaction
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