

# Intercultural communication in practice

*A Crossborder Journalism  
Campus workshop*



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# Group work set up

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- Recommended time to allocate 2 x 45 minutes
- Make groups of 3-5 persons of different backgrounds
- Read the two exercises, agree in the group which one to focus on and how to structure your work time
- Prepare a very short presentation (5-7 minutes) for our discussion in class

# Why? The ideas behind this group exercise

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- Enjoy the richness of backgrounds in this class and get to know each other
- Get a little understanding of what shapes our world view to start seeing own and others' bias
- Get an early insight into the differences and how collaboration across borders and with multiple backgrounds can be useful to enrich our journalism
- We exercise an observing and nuanced language to discuss these questions

# The “Where are you from?” exercise



- What is your view on the countries of your classmates?
- Each in the group shares insights about their home country. You can further select one of the following countries: United Kingdom, Belgium, Italy, Germany, South Africa, France, Russia/USSR, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, China, India or the USA (and do feel free to guess why we suggest these countries, multiple reasons – may become another point of discussion!). So, at the end you have your groups' countries to talk about plus one.
- Discuss what you were taught in your country/school about these countries' history during the 19th and the 20th century and until now (where they the good guys, the victims, the bad guys, not mentioned at all, not existing when you went to school etc.).
- Discuss these countries' place in the world today and how they are described in your home country (allies, enemies, mentioned frequently, mentioned only in crisis, not mentioned at all etc).
- What does this background say about your view on the world?
- What does this background mean for your discussion?

# The “Normal People” exercise



- What is normal?
- How many in your group have watched the Irish tv-series “Normal people” from 2020 or read the book by Sally Rooney from 2018? If all in your group have watched or read it, do discuss what has shaped the two main characters given their personal background (the rural/urban divide, the income divide of families, the family structure divide).
- If not all in your group have watched the series, each group member gives a short description of whether and how social class and family are described in literature/film/tv-series/radio in your respective countries and how this gives you a terminology to talk about rural/urban, well-off/poor, higher/lower education, caring/distanced/conflicted relationships and other differences.
- Throughout, bear in mind how shared and different impressions from books and films and series shape our language and communication.
- You can also watch it together  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normal\\_People\\_\(TV\\_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normal_People_(TV_series))

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