



FOUNDATIONS OF Intercultural Learning & Teaching

WITH TARA HARVEY, PH.D.

MODULE 2: Self-Awareness & Meaning-Making

Perception & Meaning-Making



Overview

- Discuss the following concepts/ideas:
 - perception
 - meaning-making
 - frame-shifting
 - self-awareness
- and how these relate to intercultural learning



How many letter Fs do you see below?

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF
SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE
EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.



How many letter Fs do you see below?

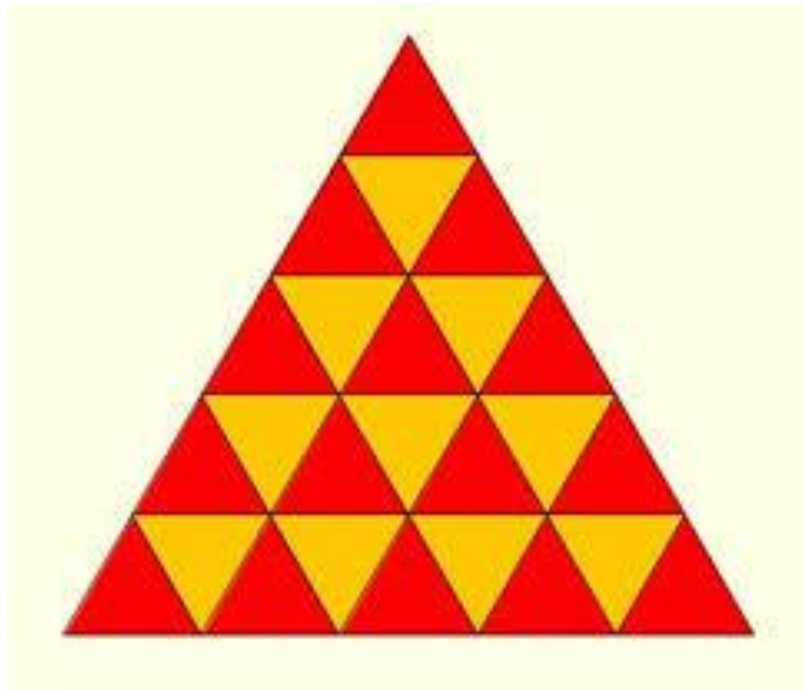


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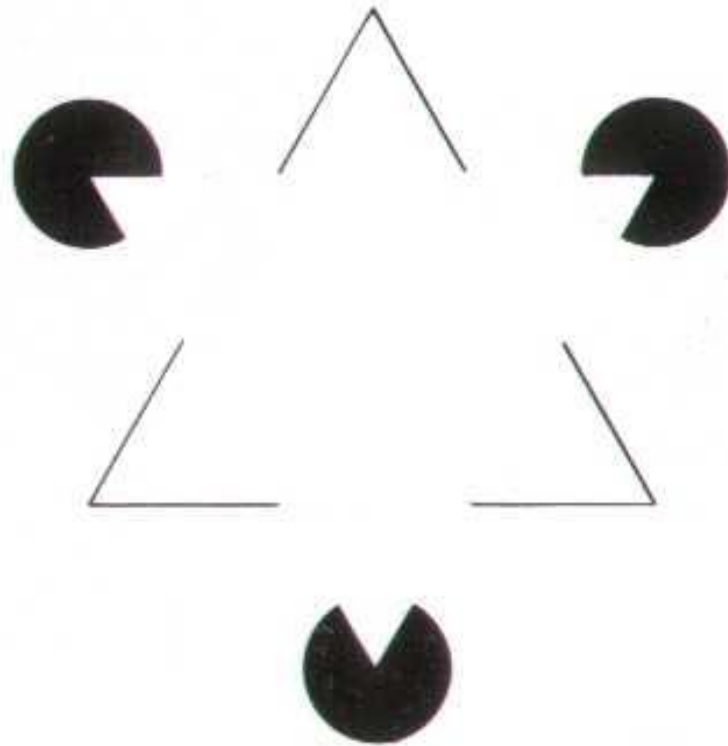


How many triangles do you see?



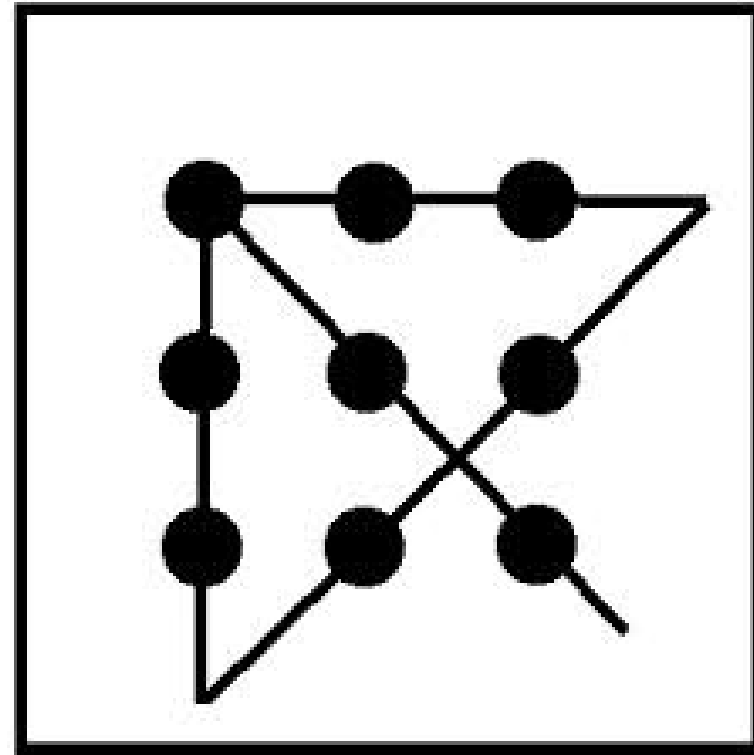
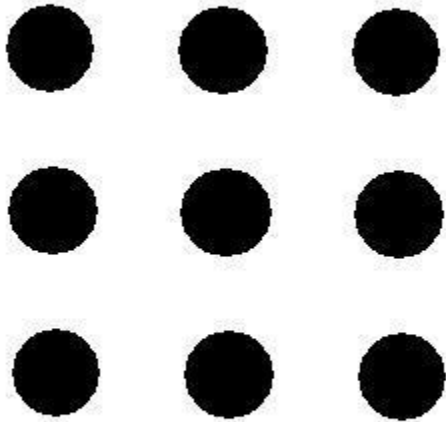


How many triangles do you see?





Draw four straight lines connecting all nine dots, without retracing any line or lifting your pen from the page.





To Summarize:

- There is a lot happening in our minds outside our conscious awareness:
 - We can miss things right in front of us.
 - We may see things that aren't even there.
 - We act on assumptions that we aren't aware we're making.
- To develop intercultural competence, we need to become more aware of how we are perceiving and making meaning of the world around us.



Try this...

“Ask yourself:

What assumption am I making,
That I’m not aware I’m making,
That gives me what I see?

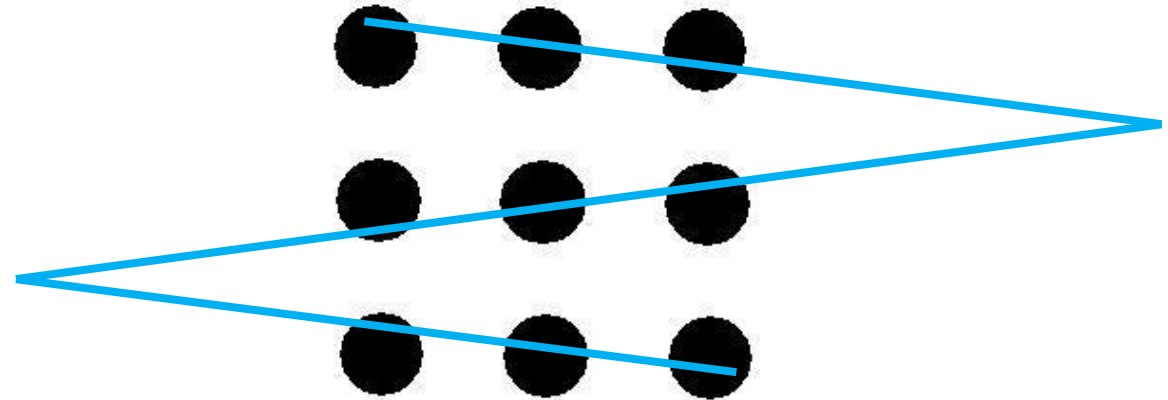
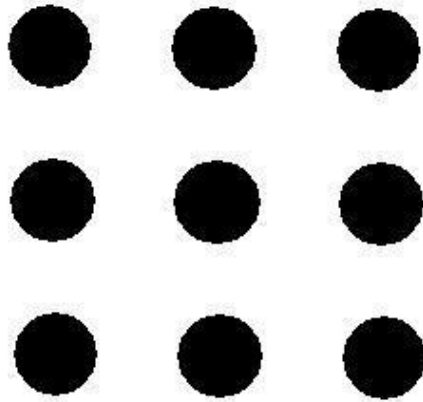
And when you answer that, ask yourself:

What might I now invent,
That I haven’t yet invented,
That would give me other choices?”

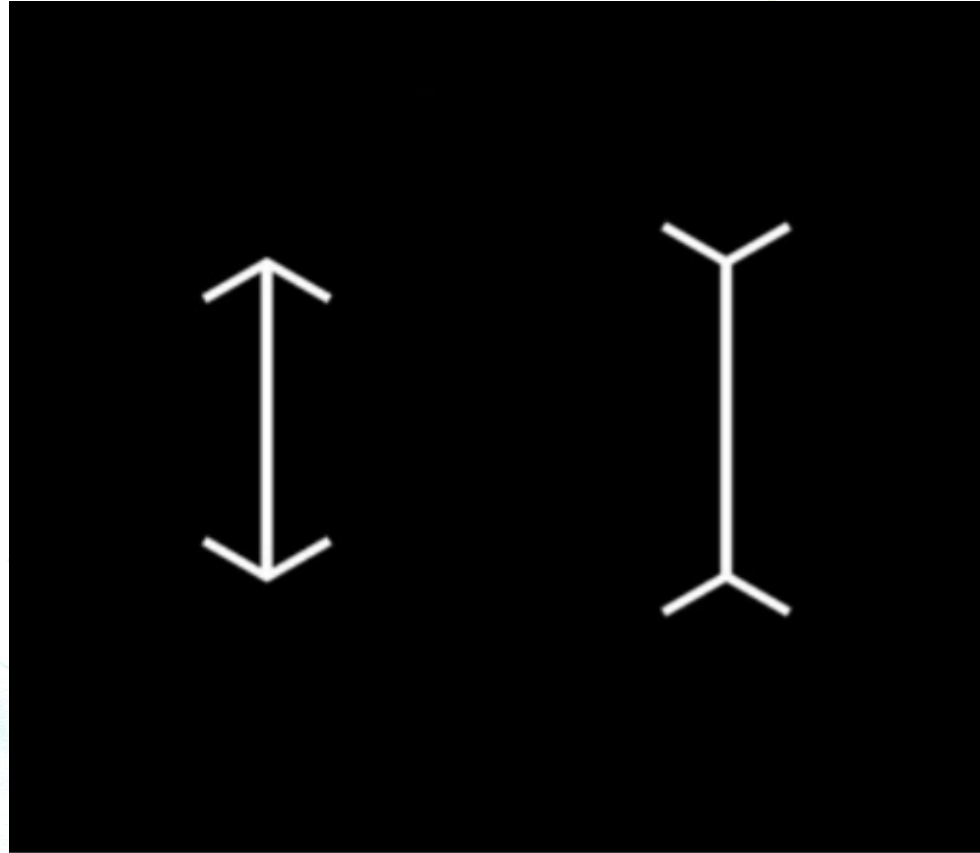




Draw three straight lines connecting all nine dots, without retracing any line, or lifting your pen from the page.

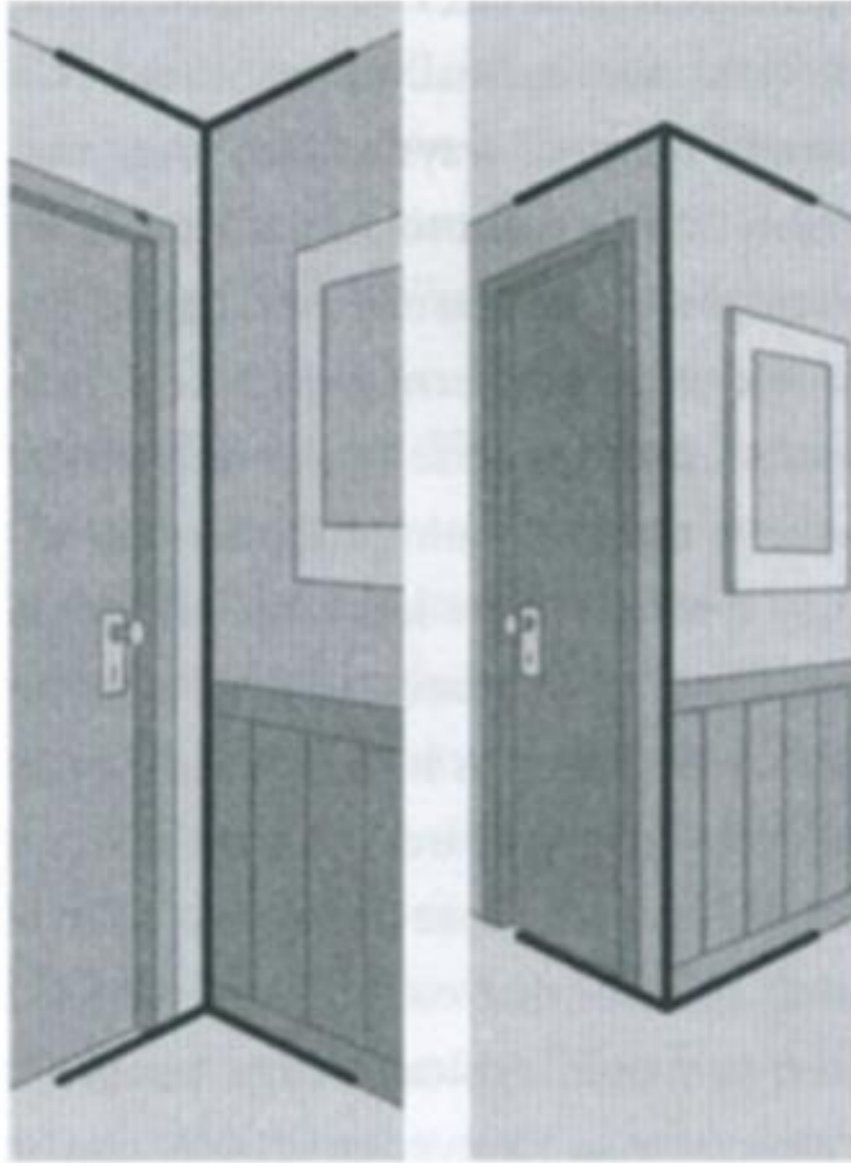


Which line is longer?



(A)

(B)






Perception, Meaning-Making & Frame-Shifting

- The meaning of events is not in the events themselves, but in us: We make the meaning that we perceive in events—and we can make meaning differently from others.
- We can “catch” ourselves doing this and learn to shift our frame of reference.
- Other people can help us experience other ways of framing.
- When we can see that there are different ways of framing an event, we have choices.



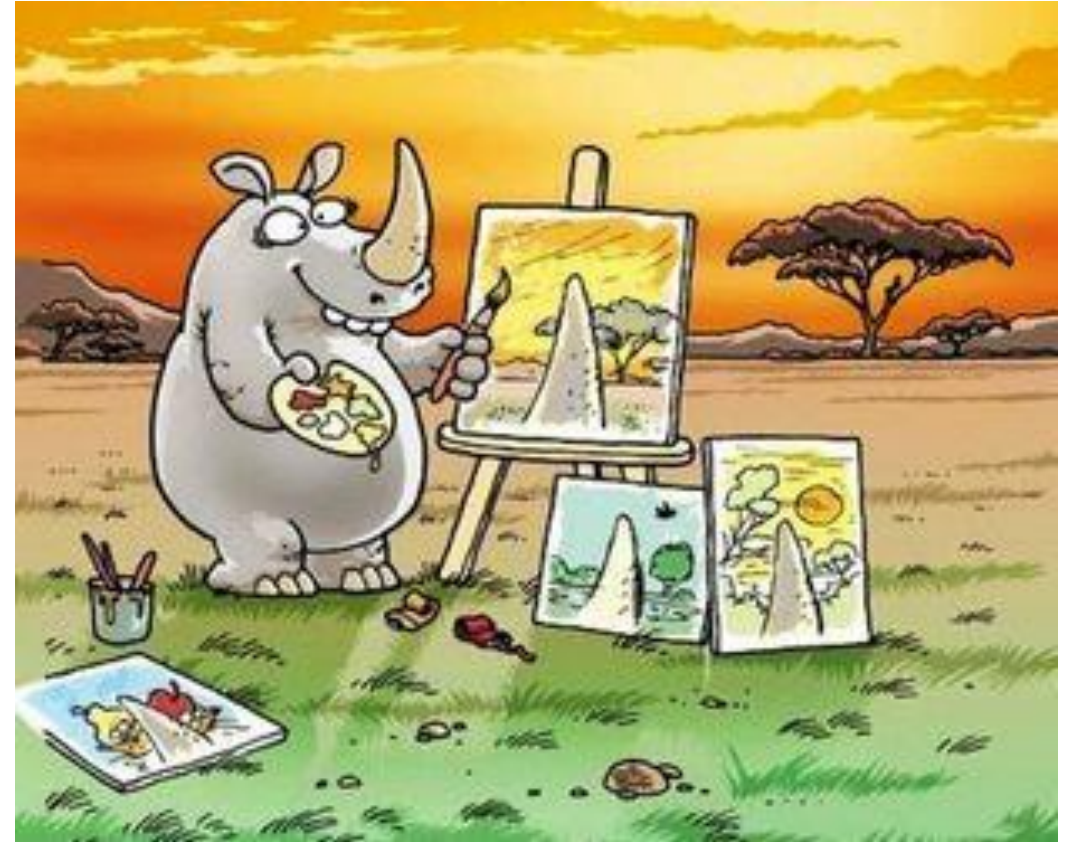


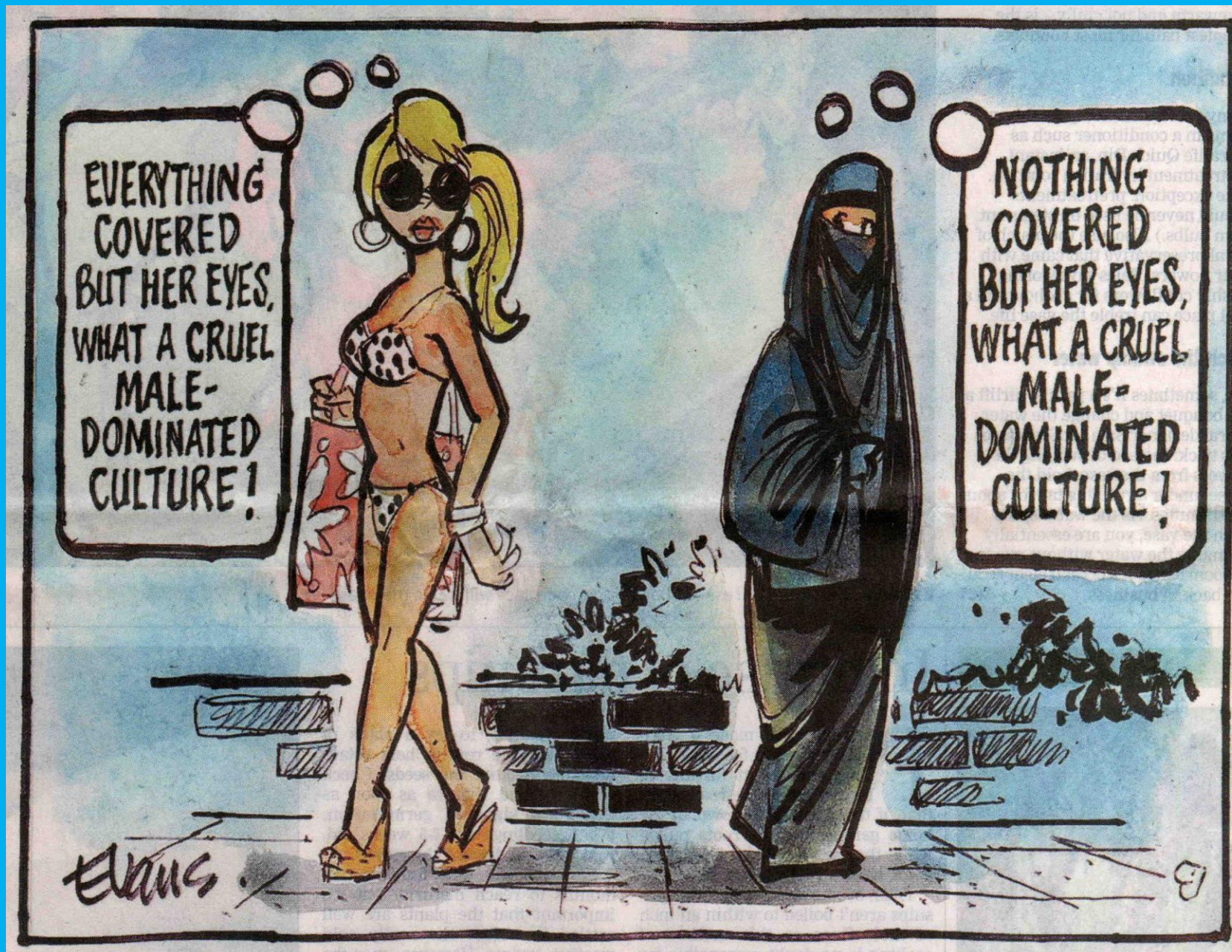
“The most interesting thing about cultures may not be in the observable things they do—the rituals, eating preferences, codes of behavior, and the like—but in the way they mold our most fundamental conscious and unconscious thinking and perception.”

- ETHAN WATTERS

“We don’t see things
as they are, we see
things as we are.”

- Anaïs Nin







References

Watters, E. (2013). "We aren't the world." *Pacific Standard*. Available at <https://psmag.com/we-aren-t-the-world-535ec03f2d45>.

Zander, R. S. & Zander, B. (2000). *The art of possibility*. New York: Penguin.