



Intercultural Cities Workshop
Trench Room, Ballarat Town Hall
Thursday 9 June 2022
10.00am-2.00pm

The idea of the 'intercultural city' is gaining traction around the world as a local-level policy approach which promotes cultural and social cohesion by fostering dialogue and interaction across cultural boundaries. The global spread of the intercultural city model, however, has highlighted a wide variation in how the core concept of intercultural interaction is being translated into specific policies and practice.

In a world-first, the *International Intercultural Cities Comparative Study* has brought together an international team of leading intercultural cities researchers seeking a deeper understanding of the factors shaping these variations and their policy outcomes as a crucial step towards the consolidation of the intercultural city movement.

The study is mapping convergences and divergences in how the intercultural cities approach has been interpreted and expressed in policies and practices in three regions with very different histories of migration and diversity policy: Europe, North America and Australasia. Five cities, all members of the Intercultural cities program, have joined the study: Sabadell (Spain), Sherbrooke (Canada) and Ballarat and Salisbury (Australia). In particular, the project will examine

- **How have the cities interpreted interculturalism?**
- **How have the cities translated intercultural objectives into policies and practices?**
- **What are the factors that have enabled or constrained the successful implementation of intercultural policies and practices?**

As part of our data gathering in Australia, an Intercultural Cities Workshop was held in Ballarat on Thursday 9 June 2022. Designed as 'policy/science' dialogue, the workshop began with an overview of the *International Intercultural Cities Comparative Study* presented by the researchers, followed by focus groups with City of Ballarat representatives and diversity sector stakeholders.

Program

10.00-10.30

The International Intercultural Cities Comparative Study

Dr Glenda Ballantyne

10.30-12.00

Concurrent Focus Groups: City of Ballarat representatives & City of Ballarat stakeholders

12.00-1.00 **Lunch**

1.00-2.00

Concurrent Focus Groups: City of Ballarat representatives & City of Ballarat stakeholders

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Ballarat Intercultural Cities Workshop – a science /policy dialogue

International Intercultural Cities
Comparative Study

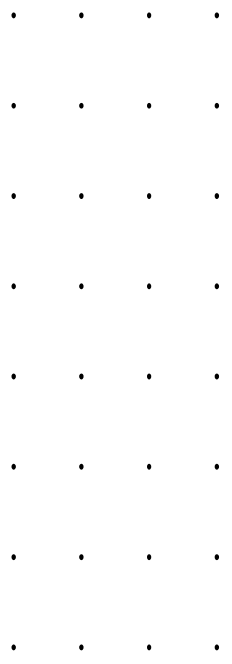
Dr Glenda Ballantyne



Acknowledgment of Country

I would like to Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land we are meeting on today, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, and recognise their continuing connection to the land and waterways, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

I would also like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of lands across Australia and recognise the continuing sovereignties of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nations, as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people here with us today.



Program

10.00-10.30

The International Intercultural Cities Comparative Study

Dr Glenda Ballantyne

10.30-12.00

**Concurrent Focus Groups, Session 1: City of Ballarat
representatives & City of Ballarat stakeholders**

12.00-1.00

Lunch

1.00-2.00

**Concurrent Focus Groups, Session 2: City of Ballarat
representatives & City of Ballarat stakeholders**

The International Intercultural Cities Comparative Study

A comparative study of four city-members of the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities (ICC) program across three national contexts - Spain, Canada and Australia

Groundbreaking- brings Australia into the comparative frame

Background

The 'intercultural city' model is gaining traction around the world as a local-level diversity policy approach

But there is a wide variation in how the core principles of intercultural dialogue and interaction are being translated into specific policies and practice

Aims

To understand the factors shaping these variations

To provide policy makers and practitioners with comparative findings which might help consolidate and extend the intercultural cities approach

National contexts

- **Spain:** a 'new immigration country' in Europe, the epicentre of heightened anti-multicultural sentiment and the 'home' of the intercultural cities approach
- **Canada:** a 'classical country of immigration' recognised as both a bastion of multiculturalism and the home of its own variant of interculturalism
- **Australia:** a 'classical country of immigration' in which multiculturalism has until recently reigned unchallenged as the only diversity approach

The Cities

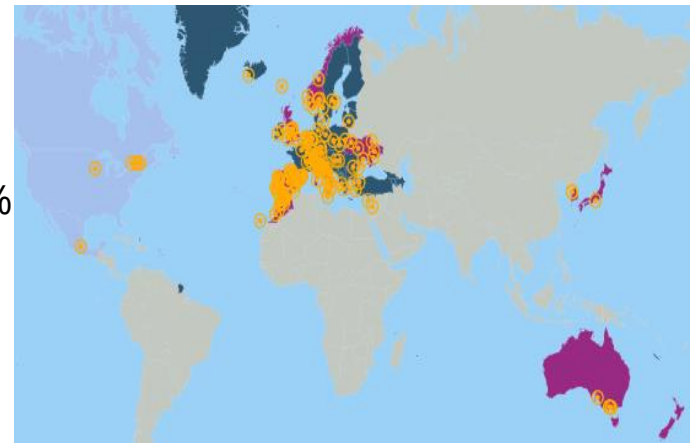
- members of the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities (ICC) program
- broadly comparable population

Sabadell, Catalonia. Pop. 207,500; Foreign born 11%

Sherbrooke, Quebec. Pop. 173,207; Foreign born <10%

Ballarat, Victoria. Pop. 111,000; Overseas born 10%

Salisbury, South Australia. Pop. 140,000; Overseas born 30%



The Investigators

Dr Glenda Ballantyne, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Sciences, Swinburne University of Technology, Victoria, Australia

Professor Ricard Zapata-Barrero, Department of Political and Social Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona-Catalonia-Spain

Professor Bob White, Département d'anthropologie, Université de Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Professor Robyn Eversole, Centre for Social Impact, Swinburne University of Technology, Victoria, Australia

Dr Kiros Hiruy, Centre for Social Impact, Swinburne University of Technology, Victoria, Australia

Dr David Radford, UniSA Justice and Society, University of South Australia

The Focus Groups

Mapping convergences and divergences in how the intercultural cities approach has been interpreted and put into practice in the four cities

1. What are the core principles of the intercultural approach?
2. How are they being translated into policies and programs?
3. What factors assist or hinder the implementation of intercultural policies and programs?
4. How has the broader policy and governance context influenced the way interculturalism has unfolded?

Session one: City Representative Focus Group

Interpretations

1. How would you describe the core principles of interculturalism?

What keywords characterize your policy?

2. What texts or concepts have you found useful for thinking about intercultural policy?

3. What in your view differentiates interculturalism from multiculturalism?

4. Do you consider interculturalism and multiculturalism opposing or complementary approaches to diversity policy?

If complementary, how in your view could or should they be combined?

5. What relative weight to you consider should be given to strategies and policies which

- (1) foster recognition of diversity
- (2) address discrimination and inequalities and
- (3) promote dialogue and interaction?

Implementation

6. What strategies have been developed in your cities to get citizens involved in interactions across cultural groups?

7. What image of shared identity does your city promote?

How does it balance ethnic and civic or place-based elements?

8. What strategies and policies have been introduced in your city to address inequalities, racism and discrimination?

9. What strategies or policies have been used to develop intercultural competence among people in your city?

10. What did you do to get support for intercultural strategies across different sectors or divisions within your city administration?

Session two: City Representative Focus Group

Conditions of success

11. What do you consider to be your most and least successful strategies, policies or programs?

12. What in your view are the biggest assets in implementing intercultural policies in your city?

Please give some examples of factors that assisted the elaboration of intercultural models.

13. What in your view are the biggest obstacles to implementing intercultural polices?

Please give some examples of factors that constrained the elaboration of intercultural models.

14. Were there certain types of stakeholders (policymakers, community organizers, media, citizens) or individual stakeholders that you view as particularly good allies?

Were there others that were more antagonistic?

15. Where do you see the gaps between policy and practice in your city?

Prior or co-existing diversity policy approaches and national/or regional governance structures

16. What diversity policy approaches are in place in the national and regional contexts in which your city is situated?

How have they influenced the development and implementation of intercultural policies in your city?

17. What diversity policy approach was in place in your city prior to the adoption of interculturalism?

How has it influenced the implementation of intercultural policies and practices?

18. What is the relationship between national, state/regional and local strata of government in which your city is located? Has it influenced the development and implementation of intercultural policies in your city?

19. How do you mediate relations between the different levels (local, state and federal) of government?

20. How do you mediate relations between administrators and elected officials?