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**Conversions and Transformations:
Missiological Approaches to Religious Change**

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Entering the Religious World of the Other through Enactment

Abstract

At the very heart of our response to God’s mission in our global context is the problem of intercultural/interreligious conflict, which today’s missionaries experience at almost every turn. But such “bumps in the dark” are both a challenge and an opportunity, for it is precisely through the abruptness of our unfulfilled expectations that we become aware of difference and are able to begin bridging through situational enactment. The speaker introduces the theory of Intercultural Conflict Styles (ICS), as developed by Mitchell Hammer*, in which all culture groups belong to one of four conflict styles—Discussion, Engagement, Accommodation or Dynamic. These are outlined on the floor as a square with four quadrants. Then using the sociometric techniques** of spectrograms and locograms combined with a series of questions, the director has participants each discover their conflict style and place themselves in their respective quadrant. Then the director has the groups in two of the quadrants interact with each other around a real disagreement. Through the methods and techniques of Sociodrama** such as role-reversal, mirroring and doubling, the director leads each group to experience and take on the reality of the other. The session ends with a sharing of experiences.

*Hammer, M.R. (2009). Solving Problems and Resolving Conflict Using the Intercultural Conflict Style Model and Inventory. In M.A. Moodian (Ed.). Contemporary Leadership and Intercultural Competence (Ch.17, pp. 219-232), Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

**Sociometry and Sociodrama were developed by J.L. Moreno and are espoused by the American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama (ASGPP) <http://www.asgpp.org/>

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