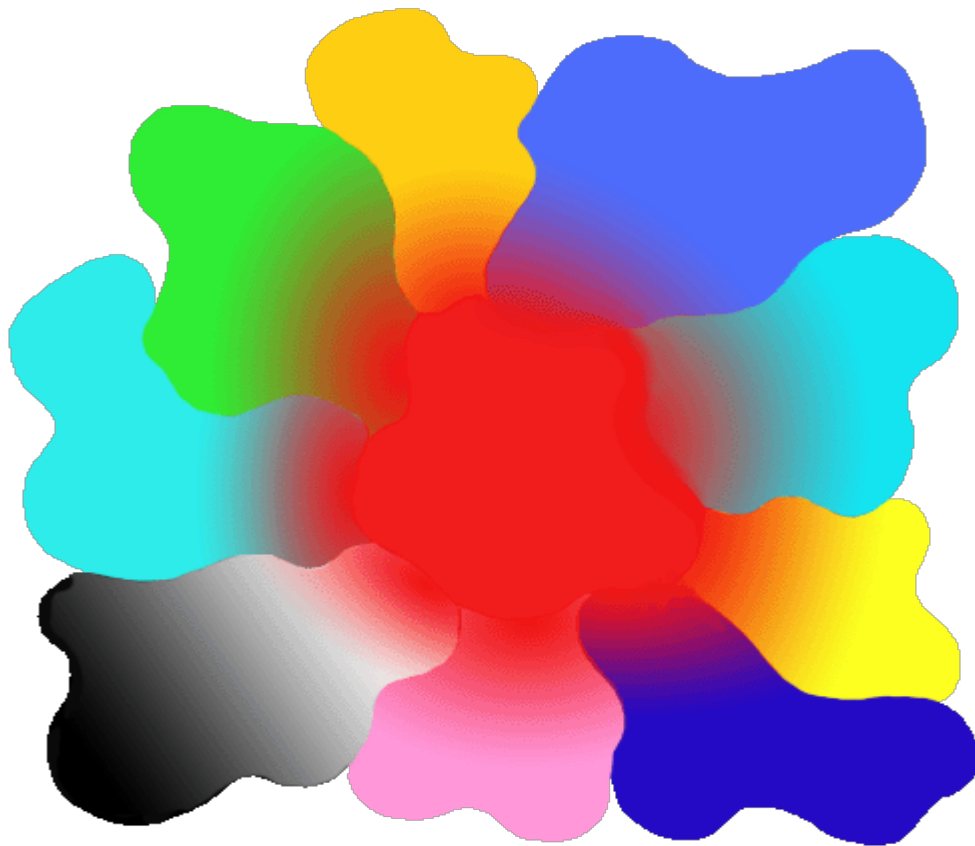


# MULTIPLE IDENTITIES MOSAIC



**PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE:**

The exercise aims to explain the concept of multiple (social) identities. It also helps participants to be able to analyze their own identities and to become aware of one's own norms and values.

**TIMING:**

20 min (basis exercise)

**NEEDED MATERIAL:**

A printout of the eight social identities

### HOW TO CONDUCT THE EXERCISE:

The participants spread out across the room and create an individual identities mosaic with elements that have, from their own perspective, strongly influenced their values and identity. To do so, they think about where they see themselves.

Eight social identities: sex, ethnicity, sexual preference, health, education, occupational role and social economic status and membership of groups and what this means for them. In the mosaic they fill in how each identity applies to them. Words, symbols and figures can be used. Those who wish to can share their own mosaic within the group.

#### Extra/extended exercise:

Think of how the different identities interact with each other:

- Which identities are more important to you as a person, which identities are more at the background, do you sense a hierarchy?
- Which place does sex, gender and sexual orientation take in your life?
- Are there identities that you have taken for granted, you haven't really given a lot of thought?
- Which expectations do you experience that come with your social identities:
  - Your own expectations ?
  - Expectations from important others in your life?
  - Expectations from society?
- Are there social identities that clash with one another, that cause dilemmas?

### SUGGESTIONS:

Use an example of a mosaic (Figure above is after Hoffman, E.)

### THEORETICAL BACKGROUND:

Each individual is part of several social 'collectives', groups which the individual has certain traits in common with and feels connected to. An individual only partly identifies with a certain collective, as they have different groups they have things in common with. One is never just a daughter, but also a woman, teacher, etc. There are nine social identities or 'a person can belong to and identify with: ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, health, education, language, age and social economic status.

Every individual is therefore a unique mix of social identities. Some of them are fixed, like ethnicity, other may vary depending on the context or time in your life you are in, like health and social economic status.

### REFERENCES:

Hoffman, E. (2013). *Interculturele gespreksvoering. Theorie en praktijk van het TOPOI-model*. Houten: Bohn Stafleu Van Loghum.

## Social identities of the Multiple Identity Mozaic

### **Primary identities:**

(The identities you were born with and are difficult to put aside)

Sex

Ethnicity

Sexual preference

Health

### **Secondary identities:**

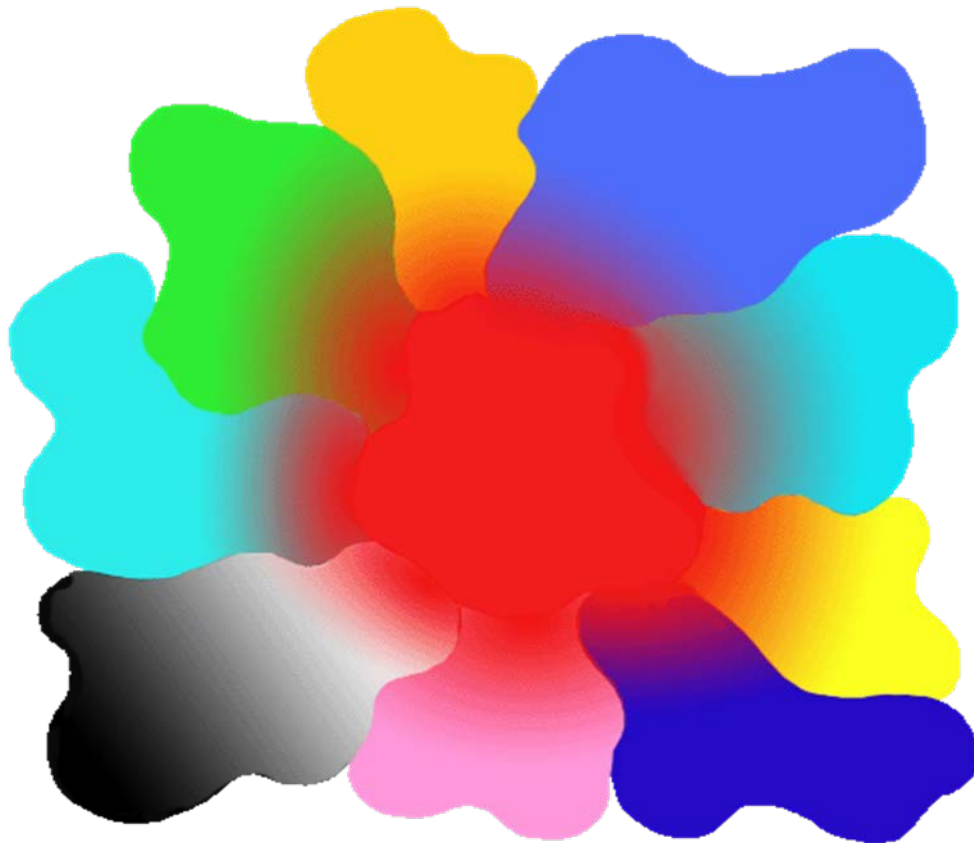
(acquired identities)

Education

Occupational role

Social economic status

Membership of groups



MULTIPLE IDENTITIES  
MOSAIC

