

“In the Language of Scholarship and of Spiritual Things”: Striving to Be “Bilingual” in Our Efforts to Promote Belonging

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Gospel Methodology in the Classroom

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“In the Language of Scholarship and of Spiritual Things”: Striving to Be “Bilingual” in Our Efforts to Promote Belonging

- BYU Statement on Belonging: “ . . . to create a community of belonging composed of students, faculty, and staff whose hearts are knit together in love (Mosiah 18:21) . . . ”
- President Kimball: “Your double heritage and dual concerns with the secular and the spiritual require you to be ‘bilingual’ . . . you must speak with authority and excellence to your professional colleagues in the language of scholarship, and you must also be literate in the language of spiritual things.”

Intergroup Dialogue

Intergroup Dialogue: Practical

- Small group of students/participants
- Meet for 2-3 hours, over multiple weeks
- Readings, activities, exercises that promote dialogue on belonging and related topics.
- Often focusing on a specific topic, sometimes cover multiple topics
- Led by two co-facilitators



Intergroup Dialogue: Practical

- Developed in the 1980s at the University of Michigan
- Grounded in intergroup relations research
(social psychology, communication, education)
- Studied throughout last 30 years
(see Frantell et al., 2019 for a review)

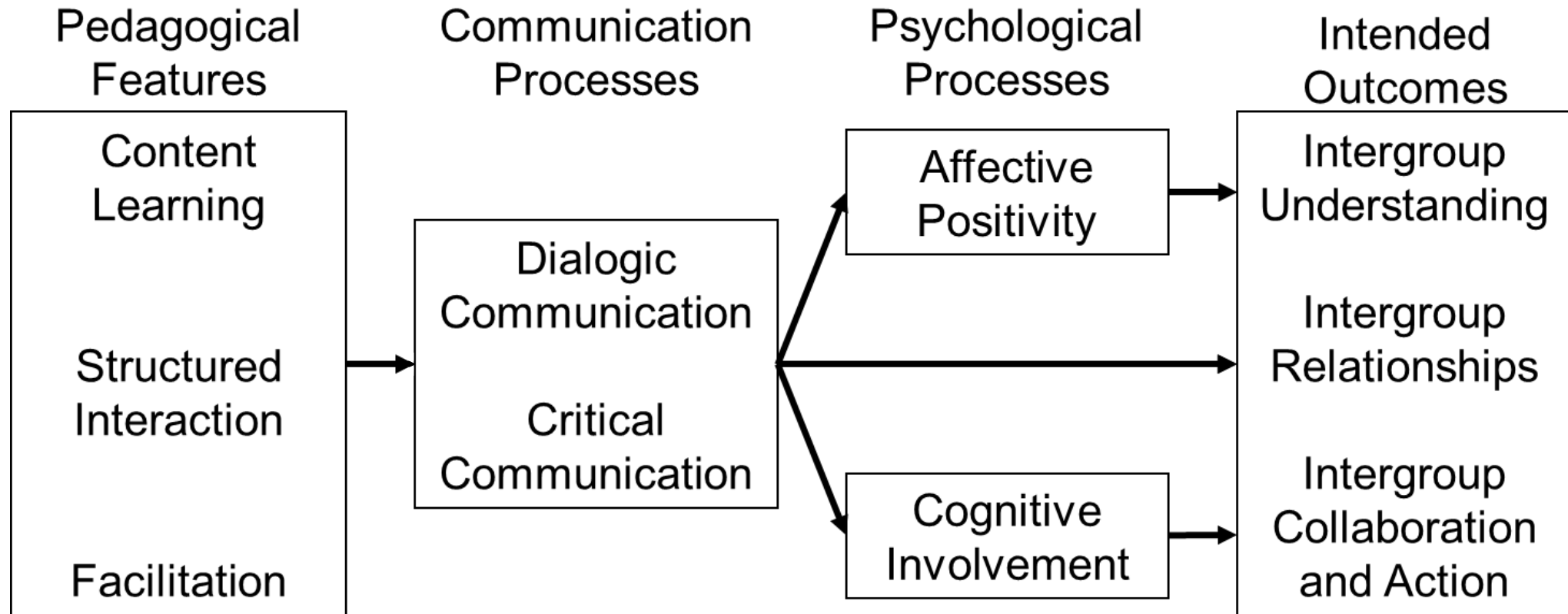


Intergroup Dialogue: Practical

- Dialogue vs. Discussion vs. Debate
- Guides participants through different phases:
 1. Developing relationships & exploring commonalities
 2. Exploring differences & engaging with controversial issues
 3. Solidifying intergroup relationships, understanding, and next steps (on one's own and in collaboration with others)



Intergroup Dialogue: Practical



A process model of intergroup dialogue.

Source: Gurin, P., Nagda, B. R. A., & Zúñiga, X. (2013). *Dialogue across difference: Practice, theory, and research on intergroup dialogue*. Russell Sage Foundation, p. 76.

Intergroup Dialogue: Personal

Intergroup Dialogue: Scriptural

- DC 136:23-24 Cease to contend one with another; cease to speak evil one of another and let your words tend to edifying one another.
- James 1:19 . . . let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath . . .
- Moroni 6:5 And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls.

Intergroup Dialogue: Scriptural

DC 88:122

. . . let not all be spokesmen at once; but let one speak at a time and let all listen unto his sayings, that when all have spoken that all may be edified of all, and that every man may have an equal privilege.

DC 50:22

Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together.

Intergroup Dialogue: Scriptural

James 1:22

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving your own selves.

Locking arms for racial harmony in America

What the NAACP and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
are doing together



Joint Statement by President Russel M. Nelson & the NAACP

Within Ourselves

- Pray that the people of this land will heed the call to abandon attitudes of prejudice
- Open our hearts to those whose lives are different than our own
- Learn to value the differences in America
- Love God first . . .

In our Relationships & Interactions

- . . . and love our neighbor as ourselves
- Listen to and learn from others
- Elevate our conversations above divisive and polarizing rhetoric
- Look for ways to reach out and serve someone of a different background or race
- Treat others with respect
- Build bonds of genuine friendship

At the Organizational Level

- “Our organizations have learned lessons from the past”
- Teach children to love all, and find the good in others
- Call on government, business, and educational leaders at every level to review *processes . . . and organizational attitudes* regarding racism and root them out once and for all

At the Societal Level

- Call on government, business, and educational leaders at every level to review *processes and laws . . .* regarding racism and root them out once and for all

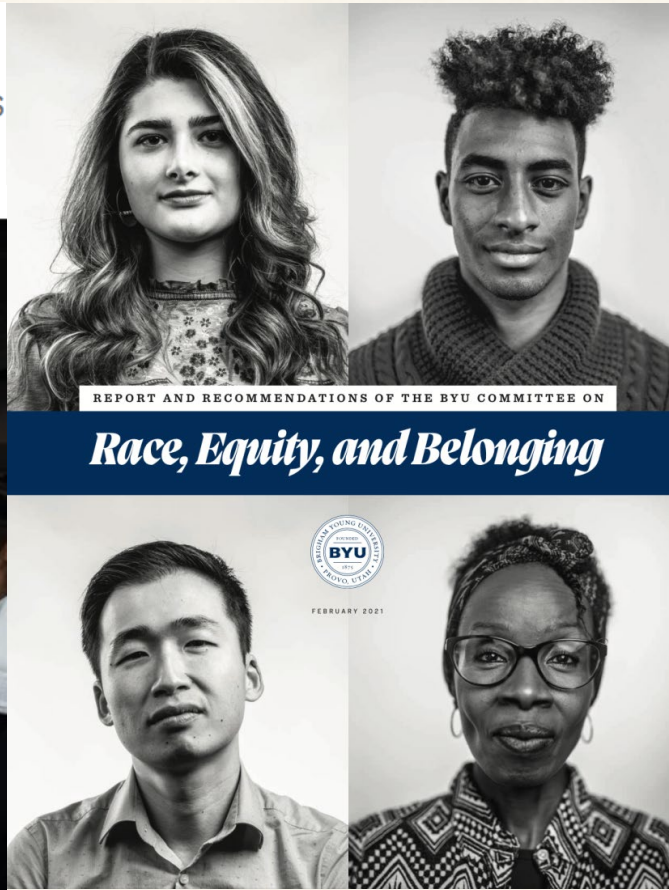
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BYU announces the formation of a new Office of Belonging

August 23, 2021

BYU Statement on Belonging:

“We strive to create a community of belonging composed of students, faculty, and staff whose hearts are knit together in love (Mosiah 18:21) . . .”

Intergroup Dialogue: Scriptural

- Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;
- DC 84:109-110 . . . let not the head say unto the feet it hath no need of the feet . . . The body hath need of every member, that all may be edified together, that the system may be kept perfect.
- Moses 7:18 . . . they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them.

Intergroup Dialogue: Scriptural

- Romans 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.
- 1 Cor. 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

A Practical Example	IGD Phase: Relationships & Commonalities	IGD Phase: Differences & Controversial Issues	IGD Phase: Intergroup relationships, understanding, and next steps
In the Language of Scholarship	Decategorization, Minimization of Difference	Salient Categorization, Acknowledgement and Internalization of Difference	Recategorization, Bridging of Differences, Ingroup Reappraisal
In the Language of Spiritual Things	Three Identities, President Nelson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child of God • Child of the Covenant • Disciple of Jesus Christ 	BYU Statement on Belonging: “We value and embrace the variety of individual characteristics, life experiences and circumstances, perspectives, talents, and gifts of each member of the community and the richness and strength they bring to our community.”	Eph. 2:19: “No more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens” 1 Cor. 12:12-27: “all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ . . . [there is] no schism in the body . . . ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. Eph. 4:15-16: “ . . . the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

Reflect & Share:

Commonalities & Differences

- Both the gospel and scholarship highlight the important roles that our commonalities and differences play in creating a community of belonging.
- In what ways can attention be given to our commonalities and differences:
 - In your own units?
 - In your work, specifically?
- Also, in what ways might the **level** and **sequence** of attention given to commonalities and differences be important considerations in those efforts?

Closing Thoughts . . .

President Worthen: “[President Kimball’s call] was not a call to flee the world, but to engage it on our own terms, with the goal of improving the world.”

President Oaks: “As a Church and as a culture, we need to lead out in demonstrating inclusion.”

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1 Cor. 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

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Thank you!

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