

Supporting International Students' Integration in a New Academic and Cultural Environment.

What We Do at Uni  Bv

Corina Silvia MICU, PhD
Coordinator of the International Relations Office
Transilvania University of Braşov

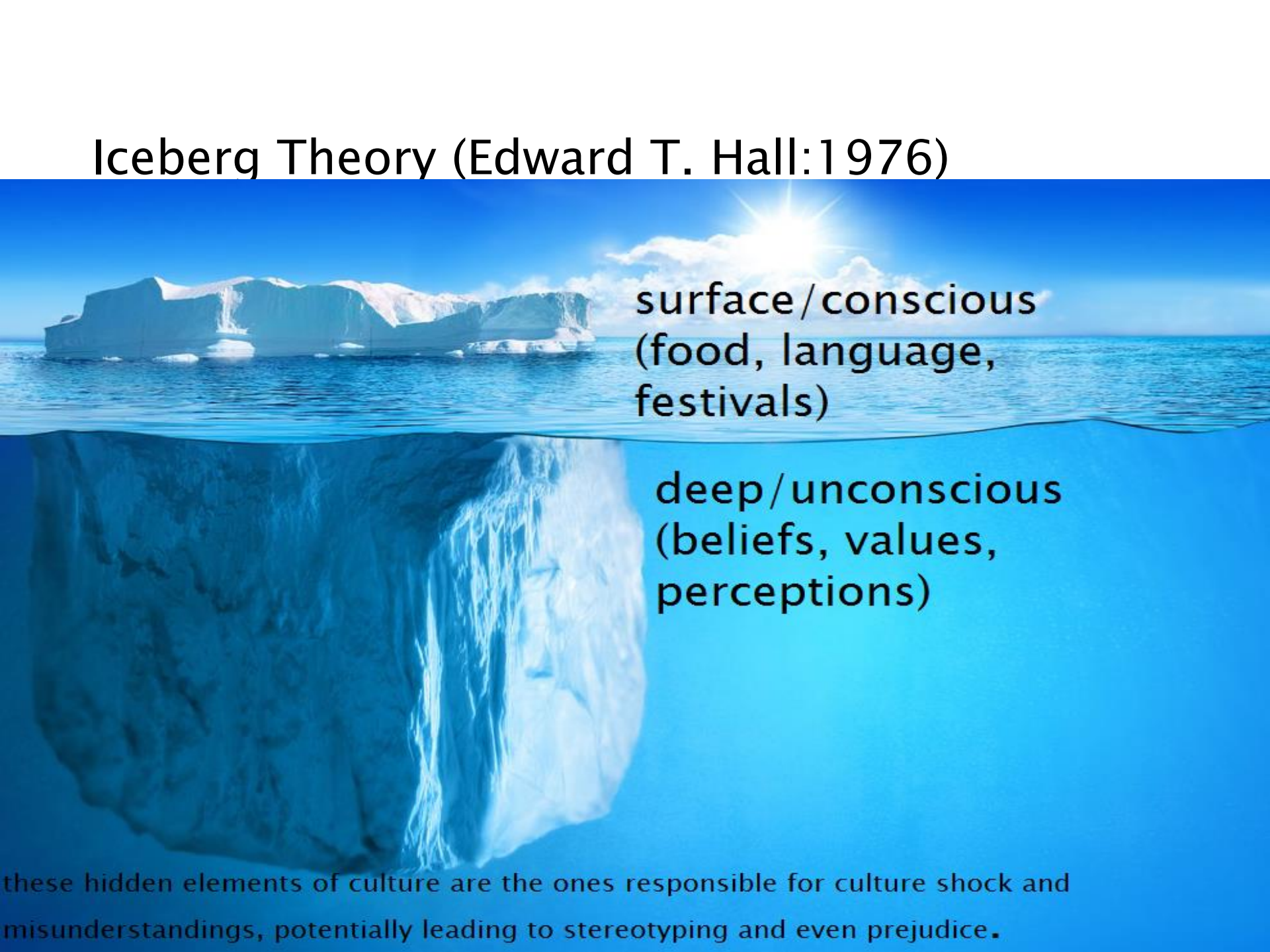
- ▶ National vs. International
- ▶ Cultural vs. Intercultural
- ▶ Multicultural
- ▶ Language–Culture (*la langue–culture*)

- ▶ “**Culture**... is that complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, law, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by [a human] as a member of society.”
- ▶ (Sir Edward Burnett Tylor’s definition of culture)

- ▶ Intercultural Competence (IC) = people’s “ability to interact in their own language with the people from another country and culture” (Michael Bryam :1997)

- ▶ Intercultural Communication Competence = “the ability to interact with people from another country and culture in a foreign language” (Michael Bryam:2008)

Iceberg Theory (Edward T. Hall:1976)

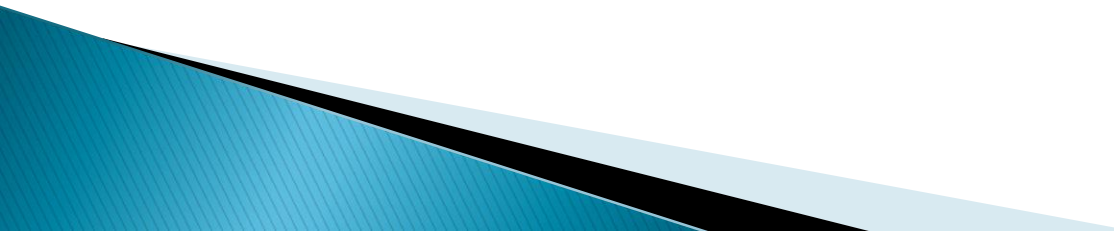
A large iceberg floats in a blue ocean under a bright sun. The top part of the iceberg is above the water line, while the much larger bottom part is submerged. The water surface is clearly visible, separating the two parts of the iceberg.

surface / conscious
(food, language,
festivals)

deep / unconscious
(beliefs, values,
perceptions)

these hidden elements of culture are the ones responsible for culture shock and misunderstandings, potentially leading to stereotyping and even prejudice.

International students at UniTBv

- More than 300 partner universities from 28 countries
 - Erasmus+ students (around 100 for the 1st semester 2016 – 2017)
 - International full-time students (around 80 enrolled in the 1st year for 2016–2017)
 - Romanian Language Preparatory Year
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- ▶ UniTBv Student Welcome Team – the “buddy” system



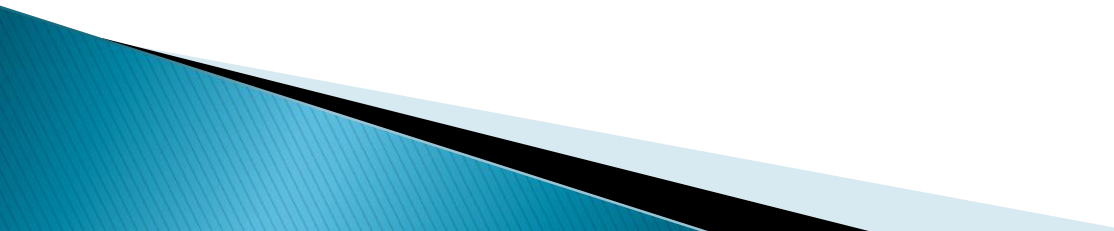
▶ International Students' Cultural Night Out



- ▶ Presentations
- ▶ Gastronomy
- ▶ Music and dance
- ▶ Contest
- ▶ Karaoke

- ▶ And a glimpse of how it happened...

Conclusions

- ▶ cultural integration does not just happen, it takes some time to understand the 'other' and it goes both ways;
 - ▶ with a little help from peers it happens faster (the fastest);
 - ▶ knowledge => understanding => adaptation
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References:

- ▶ López–Rocha, S. (2016). Intercultural communicative competence: creating awareness and promoting skills in the language classroom. In C. Gorla, O. Speicher, & S. Stollhans (Eds), Innovative language teaching and learning at university: enhancing participation and collaboration (pp. 105–111). Dublin: Research–publishing.net.
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