



NEWSLETTER

Dear SIETAR India members and friends,

Greetings as we enter the last few months of 2016.

We have been silent for a while but buzzing with behind-the-scenes activity. We are working hard to put together an amazing year ahead including learning events and networking opportunities organized by SIETAR India. We are also revamping our membership process and moving to virtual platforms to ensure we can achieve a more global reach. Stay tuned for some very exciting announcements come January!

In the interim, thanks to increased collaboration with other national SIETARs, here is a round-up of events happening around the globe and in India. Also, check out the editorial by our President Sunita Nichani including a useful link that addresses women who make unconventional choices.

INDIA LEARNING EVENTS

Join us on December 1st from 20:30 - 22:00 (IST India Time) for a virtual learning event, entitled "Western Who? Unlearning the Obvious Categorization." The event will be facilitated by Monica Scillieri and hosted by SIETAR India. The event aims to build an engaging discussion about the widespread usage of the terms "western" and "eastern" terminology in global work environments as well as by intercultural practitioners themselves. More details including dial in numbers will be provided by November 16th. If you would like to register immediately, please send an email to sietarindia@gmail.com.

UPCOMING GLOBAL EVENTS

SIETAR USA Conference: November 9 - 12, 2016 in Tulsa, Oklahoma
"Intercultural Stories of Disconnection"

SIETAR Polska Conference: November 24 - 25, 2016 in Wroclaw
"Intercultural Competence, the Key to the Globalised World of Today"

SIETAR Europa Congress: May 22- 27, 2017 in Dublin, Ireland
"Cultural Dexterity for Turbulent Times"

For more information about congresses and learning events visit the Global SIETAR event calendar at <http://www.sietareu.org/event-calendar>

EDITORIAL - FILM REVIEW

When No Means No – a review of the Bollywood film PINK by Sunita Nichani

"How do I know that my Indian colleague means it when he/she says 'Yes' ?"
"What is the place of women in contemporary Indian society?"

These two questions often come up in most trainings/seminars on working with Indians although they are not necessarily related to each other. Here comes along a Bollywood movie which unequivocally states that when a woman says no, it means no and when she refuses the overtures of a man her "no" does not require any further explanation or justification.

While this is a powerful and relevant message for women's rights in all societies, it is particularly timely in India and a welcome change in Bollywood. Culture shock arising out of differing value systems experienced by Indians from within their own country is perhaps more intense than culture shock experienced in encounters with other cultures. The film revolves around three young working women who live together in Delhi. Their independence (they do not live with their parents), their mode of dressing (shorts, trousers) and their choice of social life (drinking alcohol, sexuality) are interpreted by the young men who invite them to a party as signs of being indecent and they subject the women to sexual molestation. In a powerful court scene, the defence played by Amitabh Bachchan, the Bollywood legend, makes a case for zero tolerance towards sexual violence, irrespective of whether a woman conforms to the cultural norms of 'moral' behavior or otherwise. Bollywood cinema has always had a huge impact on Indian society and over the years, the insidious message in "romantic" Bollywood films has been that it is normal for a woman to resist and that the hero has only to continue to pursue her for her to give in. "PINK" therefore really represents a tectonic shift in Bollywood as it moves towards more woman-centric films.

So what does it feel like for women to make unconventional choices in this society?
To hear one perspective, click on: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p045z7lq>.

And to answer the question on the meaning of an Indian "yes", I would say that it really depends on the Indian person you are working with. What is important is that until you really get to know this person and understand the meaning of his/her "yes", in the particular circumstance, you must keep an open mind and have a Plan B should the "yes" not translate into your expected action.



Sunita Nichani

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