

Cultural Issues in Advising International Students

NALP Annual Education Conference

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Seattle, WA

Panelists:

Yi-An Lo Burleson, Ph.D.

Post-Doctoral Psychology Resident

University of Washington Counseling Center

Nyaguthii Chege

Director of Career Services

Peking University School of Transnational Law

Kandice Thorn

Director of International and Non-J.D. Programs

Fordham University School of Law

Moderated by:

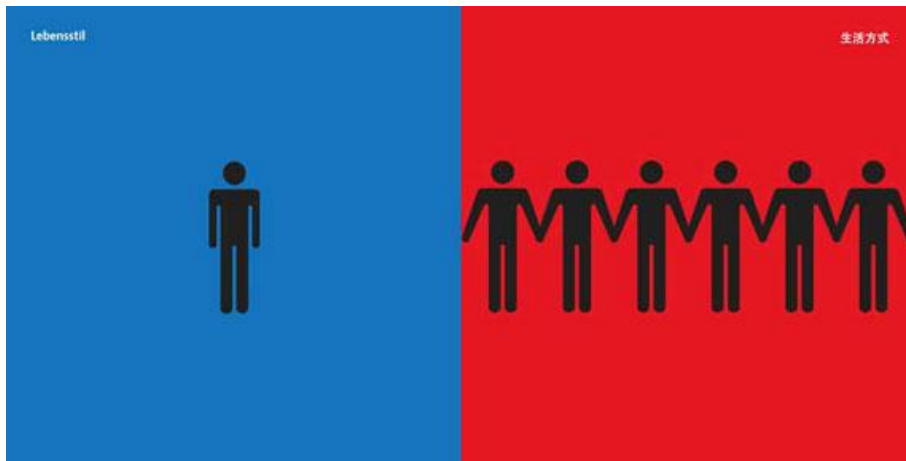
Michael T. McCarthy

Director of Career Communications & Outreach

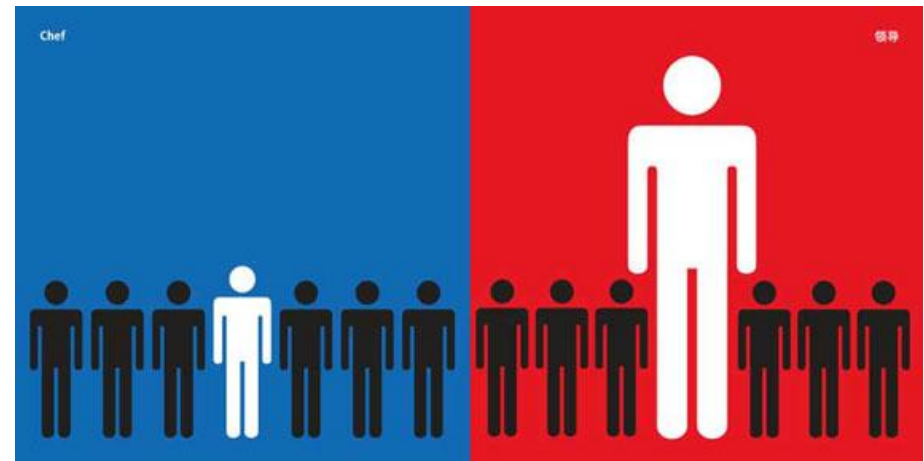
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Communicating Across Cultures: Quick Tips for Effective Career Advising

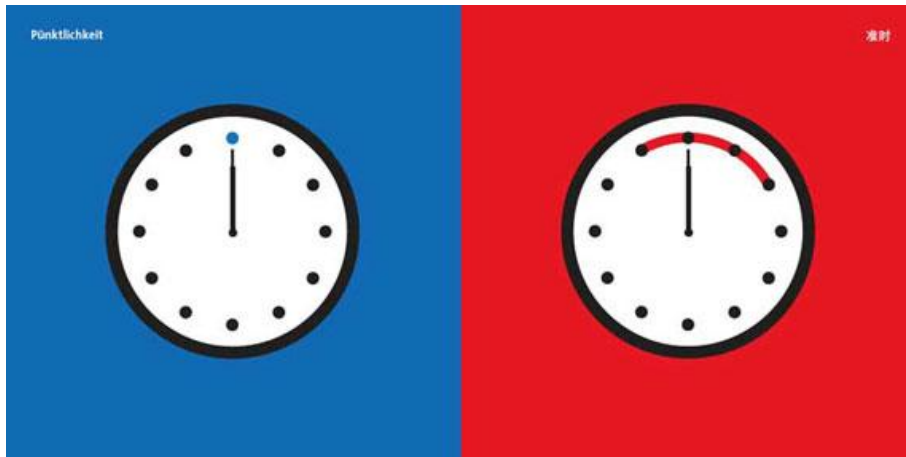
- Use repetition
- Vary the medium (live presentations, one-on-one counseling, written guides, videos, newsletters, blogs; use the social media forums that students prefer, such as text messages, WeChat, etc.)
- Vary the messenger (have important messages come from important people; use peers, alumni to deliver messages)
- Use recordings whenever possible (especially when you are dealing with language barriers); substitute recordings for live presentations where it may make sense
 - Recordings make it possible for students to navigate a presentation at their own pace so as not to miss important messages, and also to review and re-watch at crucial moments (*e.g.*, just before a job interview)
- Make your website robust, accessible, and easy-to-navigate
- Remember that nodding and saying “yes” do not always signal agreement or understanding – ask them to repeat the message back to you
- Be INCLUSIVE in all materials, presentations, etc. (do not assume that your students are domestic J.D. students)
- Understand that students from some cultures may not feel comfortable “showing off” or questioning authority
 - For networking, encourage one-on-one interactions and opportunities to collaborate as part of a team (*e.g.*, bar committee work, volunteering)
 - Practice the “Do you have any questions for me?” part of the interview and set forth the expectations clearly
- Give students opportunities to practice interacting with others in a low-stakes setting (*e.g.*, mock interviews)
- Encourage, and provide extra coaching, for self-evaluation
- Coach students on how to respond to inappropriate (from the U.S. point of view) interview questions (marital status, sexual orientation, etc.)



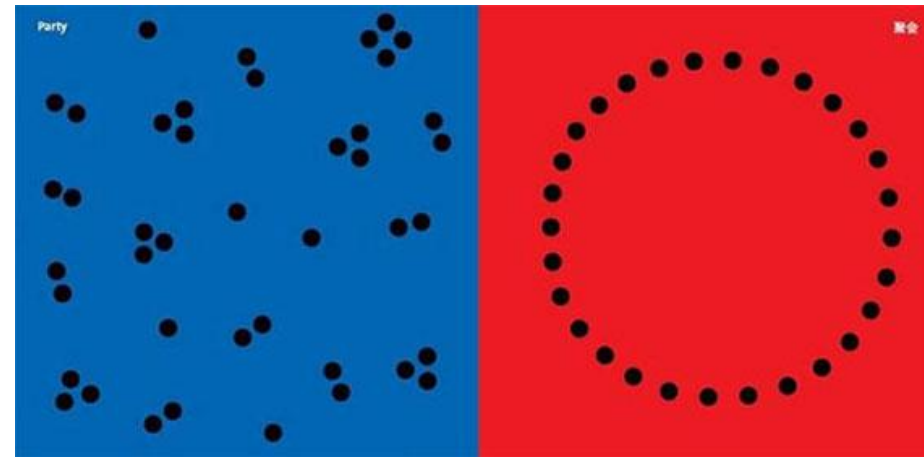
Independent v. Dependent



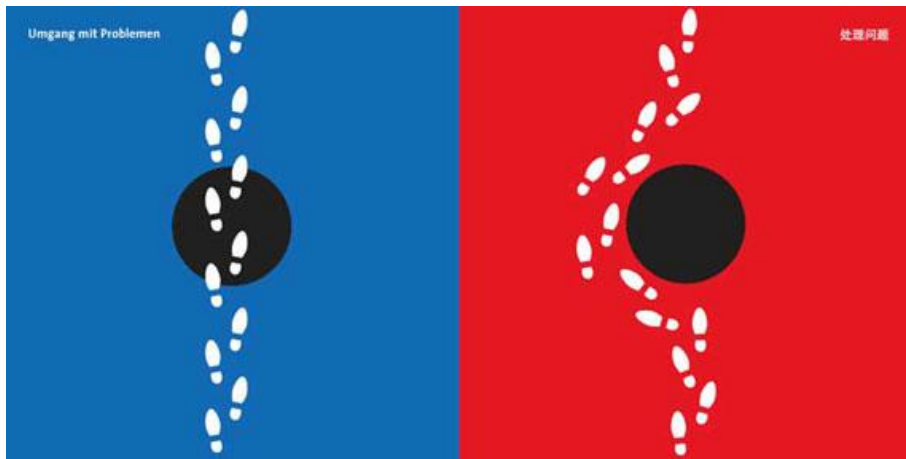
The Boss



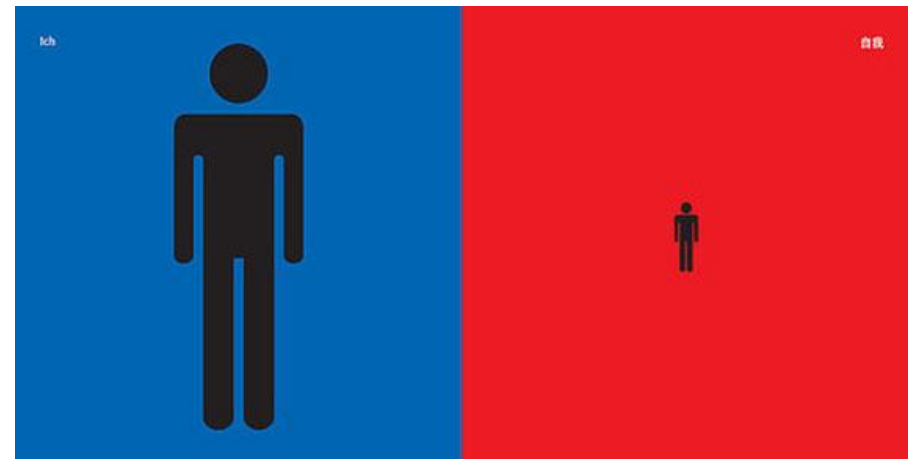
Punctuality



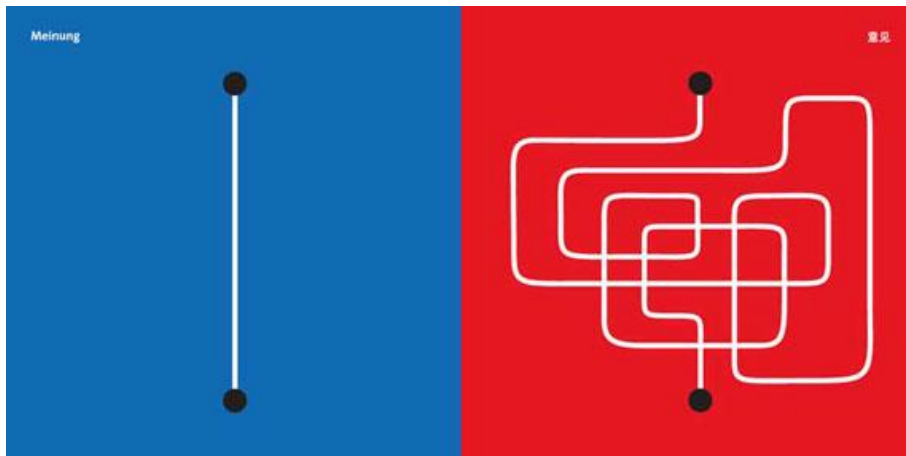
At a Party



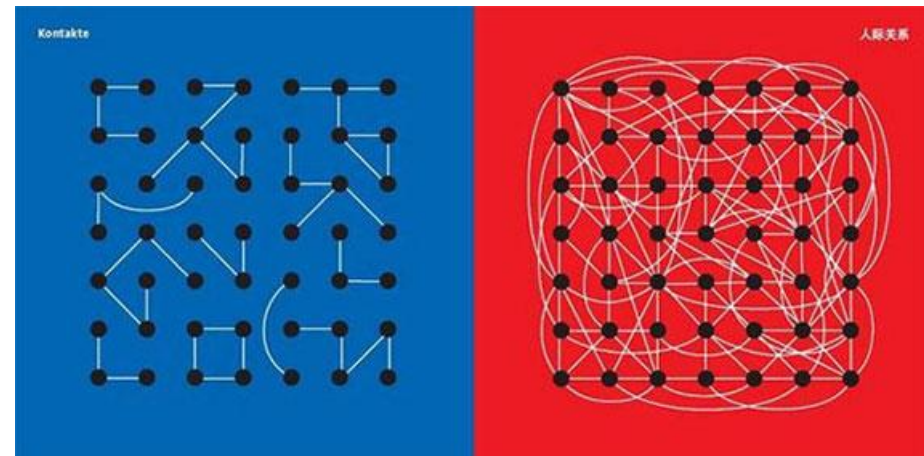
Problem Solving Approach



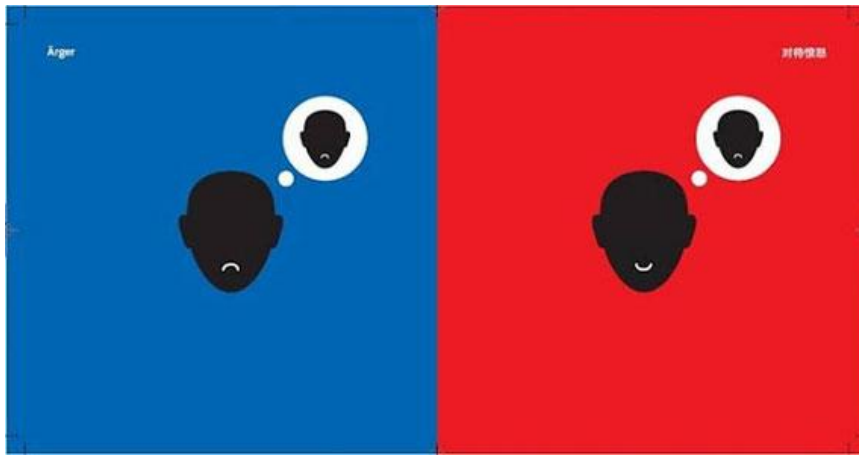
Size of Ego



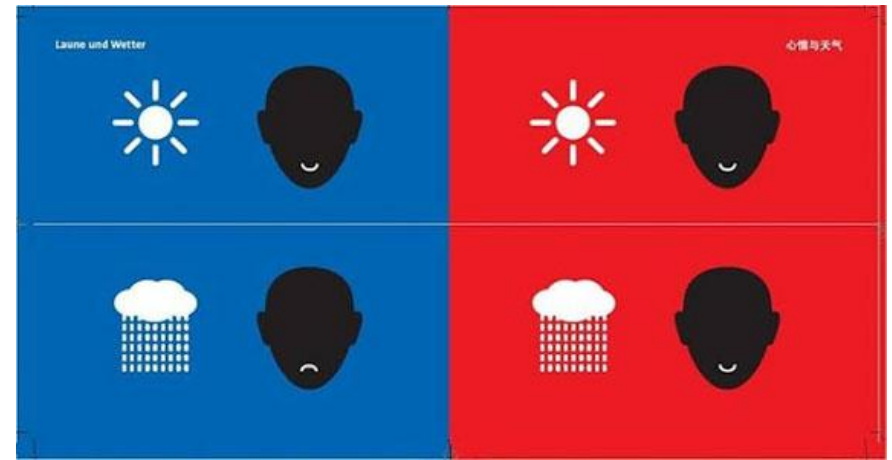
Self-Expression



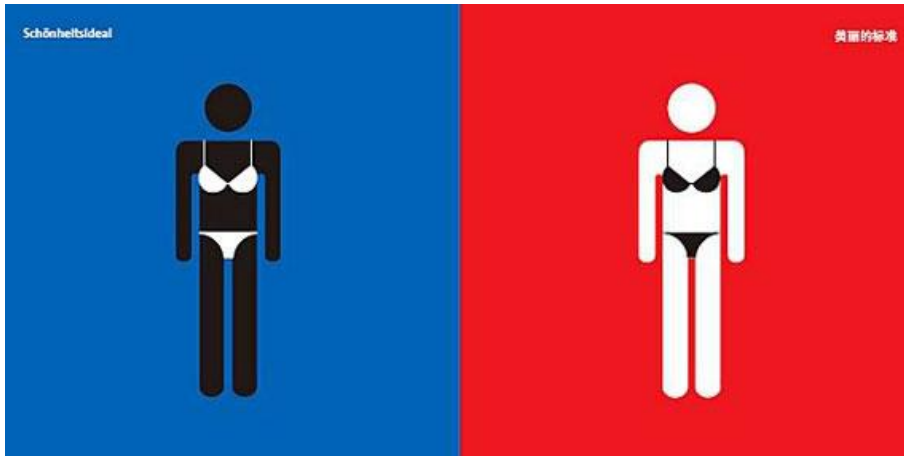
Connections and Contacts



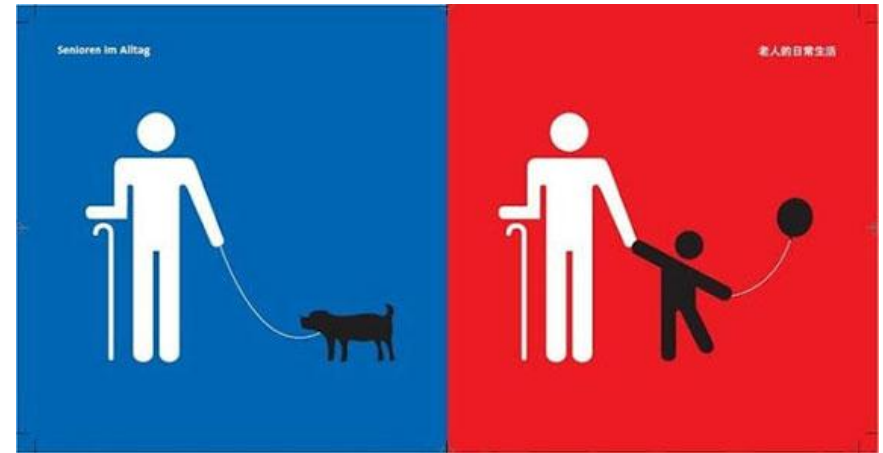
Anger



Moods & Weather



Ideal of Beauty



Elderly in Day to Day Life