



TARGET GROUPS	12+	
TITLE	VISITOR FROM ANOTHER GALAXY	
RUNNING TIME	40-60min	
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	Structural discrimination	
	Increase awareness of the subtle way stereotypes are created and reinforced and the way discrimination works. Give the possibility to take a more critical look on our own society and on the way we are influenced by different types of media.	
MATERIALS	Working sheet; one business or fashion magazine for each working group (use various magazines)	
PREPARATION	Prepare and print the worksheets.	
	Worksheet: You are a visitor from another galaxy. Your headquarter has sent you to a newly discovered planet – called Earth – to gather demographic information about the planet. Unfortunately you landed in a small cave with no exit but a magazine lying on the floor. So the only information source you have is this magazine. There is some kind of writing inside, but you are not able to read and understand this strange and new letters. So you can only concentrate on the pictures to get any information. Based on this very limited data, give feedback to the headquarter on the following topics.	





	☐ Population estimates.
	☐ Diversity of population.
	\Box Are there any species or groups, which
	seem to have different roles or jobs?
	How are they differentiated and what
	do they look like?
	\square What are your impressions about the
	different species or groups?
	☐ Who seems to have power? Who seems
	to be in charge?
	☐ Any other observations?
	Tilly other observations.
IMPLEMENTATION	Step one (working groups, 20 min.)
	Read the instructions on the working sheet, hand it out to the participants together with one magazine per working group, and ask them to write their results on a flipchart paper for presentation in the plenum. If they want, they can choose specific pictures and fix them to their presentations.
	Let them work for 20 min.
	Step two (plenary discussion; 15 - 25
	min.)
	Ask participants for their reports. What observations did they make?
	Watch out for statements like the following: *Most of them are white males in the age of 40 wearing eyeglasses (especially in business magazines) *Women wear less clothing.
	*Women or coloured people support man. *There were very few people of colour. *None has any physical disabilities.
	*All the people are very thin, maybe nearly starving.
	*Everybody looks happy/ is smiling





	*[Some participants identify objects like cars, houses and computers as inhabitants of this planet because they were so dominant in the magazines.]		
ROLE OF THE TEACHER	Facillitates the process.		
POSSIBLE RISKS & HOW TO HANDLE THEM	Some of these observations can lead to a very critical view of your own society. Encourage people to watch advertisements, TV-Shows, etc. with the same critical focus.		
	If the interpretations were very creative and fantastic, discuss also how very limited data can lead you to invent a whole picture of a society or group and how little this picture sometimes has to do with the real situation.		
FEEDBACK TOOL	Proposed Questions: What did you learn about your own society? Which groups were dominant? Which groups existing in real society are missing in these images? And why? Was there any difference between the sexes? Was there any difference between the pictures you created out of business magazines and of fashion magazines? Do you think these magazines give you a very broad or a very limited picture of a society? Do you get a realistic picture of the society out of these magazines?		





0	Who seems to have power?
0	What do you think was the purpose
	of this activity?

Source:

O'Mara, Julie 1994: Diversity Activities and Training Designs. Pfeiffer and Company. San Diego/California. pp. 201-203.