



SIETARUK

AUTUMN ONE-DAY CONFERENCE 2026

Relational Intelligence: Empathy and Trust in Intercultural Practice

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2026

LONDON

09:00–16:55

A day of keynote insight, practical workshops, research-led presentations and shared conversation for people working across cultures.

AT A GLANCE

OPENING KEYNOTE

Professor Helen Spencer-Oatey

Relational intelligence and emotional awareness:
Practical insights from psychology

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Dr Irina Chongarova-Aron

What Interculturalists Do When Nobody's Watching:
Intercultural in Private

TWO CONNECTED THEMES

THEME 1

Trust, Dialogue & Relational Intelligence

Trust, listening, misunderstanding, identity, ambiguity,
power, connection and relationship-building.

THEME 2

Empathy, Compassion & Intercultural Leadership

Empathy, psychological safety, leadership, wellbeing,
cultural complexity and relational responsibility.

FIND YOUR WAY

KIN G04 Large plenary room	KIN 206 Smaller room	COUNCIL ROOM Lunch
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ACCESSIBILITY NOTE

Unfortunately, classroom KIN G04 does not have step-free access as the building is grade 1 listed.

Conference Programme – Morning

Full session titles shown in each room.

TIME	KIN G04 • LARGE PLENARY ROOM	KIN 206 • SMALLER ROOM
09:00	ARRIVAL • KIN G04 — Doors open Arrival and welcome	
09:20	OPENING REMARKS • KIN G04 — SIETAR UK Board	
09:30–10:00	OPENING KEYNOTE • KIN G04 — Professor Helen Spencer-Oatey Relational intelligence and emotional awareness: Practical insights from psychology	
10:00–11:15	PRESENTATION — Relational Intelligence: From Theory to Practice Dr Christa Uehlinger — When the Unknown Kicks In: From Reaction to Relational Intelligence Arsenia Corcoba Santamaría — Empathy and Compassion in Intercultural Leadership Maria Koromila — Leaving the Container: Identity, Belonging and the Space Between <i>15–20 mins each + open discussion/Q&A</i>	WORKSHOP 1B — Emma Jordaan When Empathy Doesn't Feel Empathetic: Exploring the Interpretation Gap Between Intention and Impact in Intercultural Leadership
11:15–11:35	BREAK — Break & networking	
11:35–12:50	WORKSHOP 2A — Joy Wiggins When Culture Isn't the Only Culture: Navigating Legitimacy, Trust, and Power Across Difference	WORKSHOP 2B — Andy Pring Writing Across Difference: Storytelling, Trust and Relational Intelligence in Intercultural Practice
12:50–13:45	LUNCH • COUNCIL ROOM — Lunch & networking	

Conference Programme – Afternoon

Parallel sessions are shown side by side. Shared sessions take place in KIN G04.

TIME	KIN G04 • LARGE PLENARY ROOM	KIN 206 • SMALLER ROOM
13:45–15:00	PRESENTATION — Trust and Empathy in Context Vandana Das — The Invisible Cost of Cross-Cultural Misreading: When Leadership Intention and Experience Diverge Dr Jane Darvill-Evans — How Intercultural Coaching Stimulates Learning: Exploring the Experiences of Coaches and Coachees in Japanese–Western Dyads Carol McDermott MBE — When Trust Breaks Down: Advocacy, Empathy and Access to Justice Across Institutional Boundaries <i>15–20 mins each + open discussion/Q&A</i>	WORKSHOP 3B — Bernd Gibson Building Bridges of Trust
15:00–15:15	BREAK — Break & refreshments	
15:15–16:30	WORKSHOP 4A — Neil Payne Mind the Empathy Gap	WORKSHOP 4B — Dr Cheryl Forster Using the Wisdom of the Nervous System for Increased Connection in Intercultural Interactions
16:30–16:50	CLOSING KEYNOTE • KIN G04 — Dr Irina Chongarova-Aron What Interculturalists Do When Nobody's Watching: Intercultural in Private	
16:50–16:55	CLOSE • KIN G04 — Closing remarks Conference team	
17:30 onwards	SOCIAL — Pub social Details to follow	