

## Two Seminars for Professionals

(Separate or Together)



**Milton Bennett, Ph.D.**

**Seminar 1** Saturday, May 9, 2026, 10:00-18:00

### **Invigorating the Past:**

### **The Relational Roots of Intercultural Communication**

This seminar explores the original intent of intercultural communication and provides a coherent model for teaching, training, or otherwise attempting to improve intercultural communicative competence. The seminar is meant to stand on its own, but it is also a good introduction to the second day.

**Seminar 2** Sunday, May 10, 2026, 10:00-1800

### **Envisioning the Future:**

### **A Quantum Framing of Intercultural Communication**

This seminar also stands on its own, but participants should have a good familiarity with the field. The seminar shows the basic principles of the field are compatible with two foundational quantum ideas, and how that updated framing can make our work viable in a future of continuous contact among multicultural human and machine contexts.

Venue: Tokyo Garden Palace Hotel <https://www.hotelgp-tokyo.com/>

Participation Fee: ¥65,000 one day, ¥110,000 both days

(includes networking lunch)

Capacity: 12 participants (first-come, first-served)

Register here <https://forms.gle/87uB62KXkTmJQ7iP7>



These seminars are intended for professionals in education, training, and organizational contexts who wish to achieve a new level of clarity and coherence regarding intercultural communication.

The seminars are facilitated by Dr. Milton J. Bennett, whose doctorate is from the first Ph.D. program in intercultural communication (University of Minnesota, 1973-1976), who has been a theoretician, researcher, educator, trainer, and consultant in the intercultural field for 50 years, and whose current work encompasses the development of a co-ontogenic measurement of intercultural viability in organizations.

**Seminar 1** Saturday, May 9, 2026, 10:00-1800.

## **Invigorating the Past: The Relational Roots of Intercultural Communication**

Originally, intercultural communication was not mainly about culture; it was about communication. However, as the field developed, it was “anthropologized” by teaching systems of cultural comparison such as value contrasts, and it was “psychologized” by researching personality characteristics such as tolerance of ambiguity – both based on the assumption that knowledge and attitudes were central to intercultural competence. In this seminar, we will rely on the instructor’s direct knowledge of the field’s origins to retrieve the principles of relational, constructivist communication that were originally applied to intercultural relations – principles that focus more on perceptual flexibility and communicative competence.

The goals will be to:

- Understand how **constructivist communication theory** influenced Baetson, Hall, Traeger, Barnlund, and other early interculturalists, and how that influence pushed the field “ahead of its time.”
- Bypass the anthropologizing of cultural comparison by updating the original ***etic observational categories*** that support perceptual flexibility
- Bypass the psychologizing of intercultural competence by exploring and updating the original idea of **intercultural communicative competence**.
- Update the **Developmental Model of Intercultural Competence (DMIS)** to clarify application to perceptual flexibility and intercultural empathy.
- Provide an updated teaching and training framework based on the **original triad of intercultural communication**: Identity awareness, cross-cultural perceptual flexibility, and intercultural communicative competence.

**Seminar 2** Sunday, May 10, 2026, 10:00-1800.

## **Envisioning the Future: A Quantum Framing of Intercultural Communication**

Outside of physics, the term “quantum” is often misunderstood and misused. In its application to social science such as intercultural communication, quantum thinking is basically an affirmation of the inevitable involvement of our own observation in all events. In this seminar, we will rely on the instructor’s background in physics and his deep familiarity with popular science to apply quantum paradigm thinking to the evolution of practical intercultural communication theory for the future.

The goals will be to:

- Understand quantum thinking in terms of ***co-ontogenesis***, which refers to the co-construction that occurs whenever two entities (not just sub-atomic particles) interact; and ***entwinement***, which describes how co-constructed entities continue to reflect and influence each other in reality.
- Apply quantum thinking to understanding the **ongoing construction** of self/other, individual/group; and system/environment, and how that understanding is impeded by **reification**.
- Become familiar with ***boundary management***, a Western technique for bringing consciousness into the construction of social reality.
- Learn how to consciously enter the **liminal space** that exists in every co-ontogenic relationship and particularly in intercultural relationships.
- From the liminal space, learn to recreate alternative worldviews – the essence of **intercultural empathy** (self –no self – other self).