Why “Integration” is the wrong word:

Comparing French and US Study Abroad perspectives towards solutions for viable international educational inclusion and cooperation.

Sylvie Toux, Brown University & Julia Carnine, Dickinson College
How do we talk about ‘Integration’ in US Study Abroad…

For our students?

- …our students study abroad on academically substantive programs that foster cultural and linguistic integration
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• A student from ____ is enrolled in regular undergraduate courses and **integrated** into the student body and host culture.
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4. **Integration of one’s identity** which is often a work in progress

2 different socio-cultural and institutional ethos ...

French
- Higher educational ethos based on low fee paying, adult students
- Students do not expect to interact personally with instructors
- Individually arranged/assigned housing and activities

US
- Higher educational ethos based on student services
- Instructors are available to students
- Campus Life: collectively arranged residence & activities
Do students socially ‘integrate’ during study abroad?

Research says:

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- English as social capital (Dewey et al, 2014)
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• ...to expand and enrich your education with **integrated**, globally designed curriculum
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- ..an integral and coherent part of the academic program
- ...integrating international study as part of your undergraduate experience takes forethought research and planning
- ...to expand and enrich your education with integrated, globally designed curriculum
- ...to integrate study abroad into the students’ four year plan of study to the fullest extent possible
Break-out Discussion groups

10 min discussion
5 min report back
Is “integration” a word used in your institution? If so how is it used? For what purpose?
How to academically integrate study abroad...

- Redefine internationalization of US campuses beyond Study Abroad as a parenthesis, connections to coursework.
- Develop faculty and staff exchange with study abroad advisors and offices connected with our campuses.
- Encourage study within a discipline/major to expand student views on topics.
How to best prepare for social inclusion for US students..

- Clearly communicate program missions and goals including language immersion
- Review US student expectations: autonomy, responsibility & engagement
- Examine local social practices to find inroads.
...providing meaningful community integration is very often a stated objective of education abroad programming. Delivering on this objective is increasingly difficult as programming design and student engagement activities may actually shield or widen the buffer zone of student contact with the host culture.

Efkharisto, Merci, Thank you!

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