Pre-departure workshop
Stereotypes
How do we see the world?

stereotypes
A simplified portrait of a group of people, which often assumes that they are homogeneous, and that some key traits, typically derogatory, are shared by all members of the group.
A British view of Europe

Map by Yanko Tsvetkov
See: http://alphadesigner.com/project-mapping-stereotypes.html
A French view of Europe

Map by Yanko Tsvetkov
See: http://alphadesigner.com/project-mapping-stereotypes.html
A US view of Europe

Map by Yanko Tsvetkov
See: http://alphadesigner.com/project-mapping-stereotypes.html
An Australian view of the World?

Image from the ABC2 series, ‘Dumb, Drunk & Racist’
See: http://www.abc.net.au/tv/dumbdrunkracist/

Thursday, 21 June 2012
Stereotypes are a perfectly normal cognitive shortcut to understanding more complex realities.

Moreover, they are themselves a cultural resource, a set of caricatures for everything from humour to shorthand communication.

However, they can be a limit if they block deeper understanding.
What are the words or images that come to mind when you think of your host country?
From a student survey conducted with Australian students 2010 & 2011.
What is the **origin** of our images?

Do you think your impressions are **widely shared**?

Personal?

Is the image **positive or negative**?

Do you think that people from your **host country** would support the image?
positive & negative stereotypes

Overly simplified images of people can be both negative & positive.

Some research suggests students may start with overly positive views of their host countries on exchange.

Overly positive stereotypes can lead to disillusionment & disappointment.
I’ve noticed many weird things about Americans and their slightly skewed perception of Australia. The first thing is the fact that the kangaroo is the first thing that comes up in conversation.
The stereotypes about Australia are so apparent when people start asking you questions like do you have Kangaroos in your backyard and other silly stuff like that.

Americans are very gullible and believe anything you tell them which can be funny at times.
I don’t exactly represent the quintessential Australian, but I offer some diversity that could potentially educate Americans about Australia, and relieve some of the simplistic views they might have of us.

I think that a country is more than just the image it projects, but sometimes the image is all people care to consider.
Australia Gets Drunk, Wakes Up in North Atlantic

May 5, 2009, SatireWire.com

Tired of Being Isolated and Ignored, Continent Isn’t Bloody Moving
‘stereotype’ & ‘culture’
what’s the difference?

- Overly-homogenising
- Derogatory (*not always*)
- Essentialising
- Superficial
**consensual stereotypes**

*Why consent to a stereotype?*

- Vested interest
- Representation
- Internalisation

**Photo from the UK by Luke B.**

Anthropologist Michael Herzfeld calls ‘cultural intimacy’ the ‘self-stereotypes’ that insiders express ostensibly at their own collective expense.’
‘cultural intimacy’

When is it okay for people to consider themselves ‘insider’ enough to have a go at us?

Why is it alright for us to make fun of ourselves in ways that would offend us if someone else said the same thing?
Stereotypes
pre-departure workshop

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For more information: ozstudentsabroad.com or http://www.tlc.murdoch.edu.au/project/btlh/
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