

# MODUL 2 GLOBAL EDUCATION AND DECOLONIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE

## LESSON 1 PERSPECTIVES

Read the following text slowly, imagining it as vividly as possible.

*Imagine you have been growing maize all year round. First, you prepared the soil, planted the maize and hoed it until it was ripe. Now it's time to harvest it. Head out to the field with a nice wicker basket to collect the ripe corn cobs. You'll have nice, big cobs to take over the winter, as this will be your main source of food. When the basket is full, you return home and pick the corn cobs. Then put them on the table in front of you.*

*What is your maize like?*

*Try to picture it as vividly as possible in your mind.*

*Make a mental picture of that maize...*

*Now tell us the colour of the maize you pictured, out loud.*

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**[NOW OPEN THE FOLLOWING PHOTO.](#)**

*Was maize like this one in your mind?*

Using the example of maize, consider the following:

- What colour was your maize?
- Why did you picture it in your mind the way you did? (Most people in our environment usually picture yellow corn.)
- What else do we see in a similar way, through our "yellow glasses"?
- Why and how do we imagine the world differently?
- How many relationships, phenomena and occurrences we do not even know or understand because of our "yellow glasses"?
- Are our "limited" thoughts bad or the message behind this short exercise could be something else?
- What is the difference between the words "difference" and "diversity"?

We have just dived into module 2 with **Vanessa Andreotti's corn experiment** and saw the yellow corn that is in most people's minds on this side of the world; it helps us to talk about how our imagination has been "colonized" by the images, narratives that we get through the media, school, through our relationships with society and how difficult it is to think outside of this narrative. Vanessa Andreotti uses the corn analogy to draw our attention

to the fact that our imagination may be more limited than we thought. Our social, historical, cultural and also class origins have a strong influence on our capacity to imagine. Awareness of this fact is very valuable as it encourages us to be more open to people and challenges around us and simply makes us more humble.



In module 1 you learnt about climate driven migration. We encourage you to read the 3min long article by Alex Randall, related to climate linked mobilities from the perspective that is usually not addressed. Read it here: [Article](#).

**FURTHER THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS:**

*What do the article and yellow corn method have in common?*

*What is the mainstream story about environmental crisis, migration and climate driven migration? How is this story reproduced in our society?*

We are at a point where - truth be told - for the survival of humanity and the other species with which we share our only home, it is imperative that we become aware of all the connections, interconnections and interdependencies of our own positioning and interconnectedness with other parts of the world. We need to become aware of systemic and historical causes of global inequality, environmental devastation, climate crisis/collapse and entrenchment in an unjust and often bloodthirsty system that does not operate for the good of nature and people. Einstein said that the same mindset that created a problem cannot solve it.

Therefore, a radical change of mindset, and with it of the system that has brought us to this state of the world, is needed. But how, in fact, can we change the mindset in the first place?

