



The Lens

Hello Intercultural Pioneers!

We're looking for Kurds and Turks to participate in a social experiment project called *The Lens*.

Part workshop, part video project, the aim of The Lens is to transform dysfunctional collective narratives into life-affirming stories that recognize the needs, feelings and aspirations of all cultures involved.

We use drama therapy and moviemaking to achieve that goal. Drama therapy uses acting improvisation and psychodrama as therapeutic tools. *No prior drama therapy or acting experience is needed though!* You'll just need to bring your perspectives and beliefs about your culture, and those you hold about the other culture.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS AND VIDEO SERIES

The workshop uses improvisation, re-enactment, role-playing, role reversal and other interactive, experiential methods as well as video technology to explore intercultural conflict relationships. To deepen empathy and gain behavioral awareness, wearable video cameras will be integrated into short parts of the process to assist with the "mirroring back" of interactions between participants.

Later in the process, participants will also be called upon to collaboratively re-envision and "re-story" their intercultural relationship dynamics. By using scenarios and embodiment techniques, the participants will create and dramatize a 3-5 minute short film. A crew of video production professionals will assist with all of the technical aspects of the short film's creation.

ABOUT THE MINI-WORKSHOP

Participants will engage in a conflict transformation drama therapy mini-workshop held in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. The mini-workshop will be facilitated by [Armand Volkas](#) of [Healing the Wounds of History](#). The entire process will take about three hours. We'll be filming the mini-workshop and using the footage in a video trailer for *The Lens*.

Obviously, an important requirement to participate is that you're willing to share your perspectives and emotions in front of other people and cameras. If you're like most

people, you seldom appear on camera. Mostly likely though, you'll experience that the camera and video crew quickly "fade into the background" within a short period time. We also select video production people who, like us, believe in the power of peacebuilding through the arts and are sensitive to the process.

If you're at all concerned about your confidentiality by participating in this project, we plan on using first names only in the video. You may also opt to use a pseudonym, if preferred. The point of the project is that we would like participants to help us pilot this social experiment project as well as experience the culturally and personally transformational benefits so others can witness and gain from them too.

ABOUT THE THREE-DAY WORKSHOP

After the mini-workshop, we'll be selecting six or seven participants from each culture, a total of 12 or 14 participants. The selected participants will attend a three-day drama therapy workshop also facilitated by Armand Volkas. The workshop will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. It will be a residential workshop so accommodations and meals will be provided. You'll be responsible for travel to and from the workshop location. We'll have sign-up lists for carpooling as well.

The Lens' video production team, headed by video producer-director [Tamara Gurbis](#), will be filming the workshop as well as a 3-5 minute short film for which you'll be creating the scenarios. The workshop video footage and the short film will be part of the pilot video for *The Lens* video series.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to attend the workshop(s), you'll need to meet the following requirements:

1. Be willing to share your perspectives and emotions in front of a camera.
2. Be available to attend one of the two mini-workshop sessions at a location in the San Francisco Bay Area (probably in the East Bay).

Session 1: Saturday, November 21, 2015 (1 PM - 4 PM)

Session 2: Sunday, November 22, 2015 (1 PM - 4 PM)

If selected as a potential participant, we might notify you for a follow-up interview on Sunday, November 22, 2015. If you're unable to come to the follow-up interview, other scheduling arrangements may be made to accommodate you. We may also be able to do the follow-up interview via online video conferencing such as Skype.

3. If selected as a participant, commit to attending all three days of the drama therapy workshop and filming from Friday morning to Sunday evening, January 22 -24, 2016.
4. In advance, sign an appearance release giving *The Lens* and its representatives permission to use the recorded video from the mini-workshop in the video trailer and the three-day workshop's footage for the pilot video episode.

CONTACT

Healing the Wounds of History's Administrative Director and Strategist for *The Lens*, [Nermin Soyalp](#) is heading the participant recruitment initiative in the San Francisco Bay Area's Kurdish and Turkish communities. She's also looking for outreach representatives in each of the communities to help with this endeavor.

If you're interesting in becoming a participant and/or an outreach representative, please contact Nermin at info@thelens.world.

Also, you can find out more about the project at [The Lens website](#).

We'd also appreciate if you'd spread the word about participation in our project to other Kurds and Turks. Thank you for your interest in *The Lens* and we hope to collaborate with you!

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