

Bio Anne Ferrier

Anne Ferrier has worked in the field of human change and development for 20 years, as a clinical psychologist in private practice in the Netherlands and Spain and as a certified Executive Coach and workshop facilitator in the U.S.

Anne spent her childhood in Surinam, a former Dutch colony in South America, where people from all over the world live harmoniously together. This formative experience became the inspiration for her quest to identify what we as humans need to build the capacity for deeply hearing and seeing each other's cultural perspectives, to create space for trust and effective and meaningful communication.

Anne's approach, as the current Cultural and Linguistic Competence coordinator for the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health, focuses on the concept of the "Observer," on how our cultural assumptions open or limit our interactions with others.

To demonstrate this concept, using Art as the medium, she designed and produced a documentary "The Observer and The Observed," a community project about diversity and stigma around families with children with mental health challenges. The documentary received great acclaim and was chosen to be part of two international 2011 film festivals: the Sarasota Film festival and the Movieville festival.

She also designs and facilitates World Café's around a variety of issues, with the goal of building a diverse community where different points of view can be heard, respected and celebrated and where participants can discover and share their strengths. At the World Café, spontaneous art, live music, food and drink create a container for intimate and generative conversation.

Anne is inspired by the question "How can we as humans increase our compassion for ourselves and others, and thereby embrace the unity in diversity?"