Ethics

During this semester we played the diversiRISK game in which we answered questions about cultural difference and imagined how we would react/think/feel ourselves in multiple different situations. In this document I will work out a couple of the situations sketched in the game and give my personal takes/opinions.

## Situation 1

**You are chairing a meeting of French and German managers. When the session ends you are surprised to learn that the French all believed that decisions were in place and had been properly aired in the meeting, whereas none of the German’s thought any decisions had been taken.**

This would show to me that there are stark differences in mindset between French and German people when it comes to making a plan. I expect the French want a general direction with some freedom attached. Meanwhile German probably expect a very strict and precise outline of what the next step is going to be.

I would probably lean to a more German mindset in following meetings because the German’s felt the decision weren’t taken at all. This would lead the French to think that perhaps more strict or decisive decision where taken.

I feel that this would be a better solution than having people feel like no decisions were made.

## Situation 2

**You are quite shocked to see your British colleagues arrive at a meeting without having reviewed the reports that were to be the subject of the meeting. Even worse, they have strong opinions about what they have not read.**

I would feel fairly annoyed if I turned up to a meeting prepared and found out other people were not. Especially if they then continue to fire off strong opinions without having a good fundamental understanding of the subject.

During the meeting I would try and keep the argument civil and not bring it up as to not derail the objective of the meeting. Instead I would focus on making strong logical arguments. I would be hopeful that other people who did do their preparation would back me up.

I would bring the issue up after the meeting (perhaps to some superior/meeting leader) as to prevent it from happening again in future meetings. If it were to happen multiple times then the only remaining option for me would be to have a conversation about it during the meeting.

## Situation 3

**It’s not surprising you find it hard to make “small talk” in Sweden. In Swedish such conversation is called “cold talk” or “dead talk”. Swedes are far less likely to engage in it than are numerous other ethnic groups.**

For me personally this wouldn’t be a big issue as I also don’t particularly enjoy making small talk. Being naturally introverted and fairly shy especially in larger groups this attitude would fit me quite well.

Having been to Sweden once to visit some friends I have myself experienced this general attitude. I felt that having a silence in the room was quite normal whereas here in the Netherlands people often feel they have to “fill” the silence.