The global world is one in which cultures and religions increasingly meet and mix, engage in various ways, and where groups advocate the recognition of their cultural and/or ethnic identity. *Enhancing* Understanding - Advancing Dialogue: Approaching Cross Cultural **Communication** aims to facilitate encounters with other cultures and their members by examining how it is approached in the West. The books asks: What are some taken-for-granted assumptions brought into attempts to understand members of other cultures? What are some of the basic premises used when we meet someone from another culture, or see they behaviour on TV, or read about their perspectives in the print media? While engaging the author's western counterparts rather than cultural interlocutors, the book explores some adverse assumptions which tend to be smuggled into cross cultural understanding, including those from popular views about science and social science, postmodernism, tolerance and neutrality. Enhancing Understanding - Advancing Dialogue argues that a first step to an increasingly sympathetic awareness and understanding of others, their cultures and religions, can be aided by examining and challenging entrenched social claims and values.

Dr Rodney Fopp is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology in the School of International Studies at the University of South Australia. His primary teaching areas are social and political theory which he teaches at undergraduate and post graduate levels.

ATF Press





Contents

	Acknowledgments												vii	
	Ι	n	t	r	0	d	u	c	t	i	0	n		
ix														
	Approaching cross-cultural understanding: questions and reactions												1	
	Should we 'be understanding' when approaching cross-cultural understanding and how can we defend such a stand?												35	
	Can science contribute to cross-cultural understanding?												65	
	Can postmodernism facilitate cross-cultural understanding?												101	
	Do	Do absolute objective values lead to political absolutism and intolerance? Does relativism lead to understanding and tolerance?											133	
	6.	6.											Is tolerance enough?	167
	Do relativism, neutrality and impartiality impede cross-cultural understanding?												61	
	Why should we understand and how can we justify it?												71	
	Is there a method of social inquiry suitable for cross-cultural understanding?												81	
	What are some of the features of optimal cross-cultural understanding?													
	Conclusion													
PA	1 <i>GE</i> 1	vi							C	Conte	nts			

PAGE 5

'God is Dead, Anyway. Anyway—Thank God—in Australia.

v