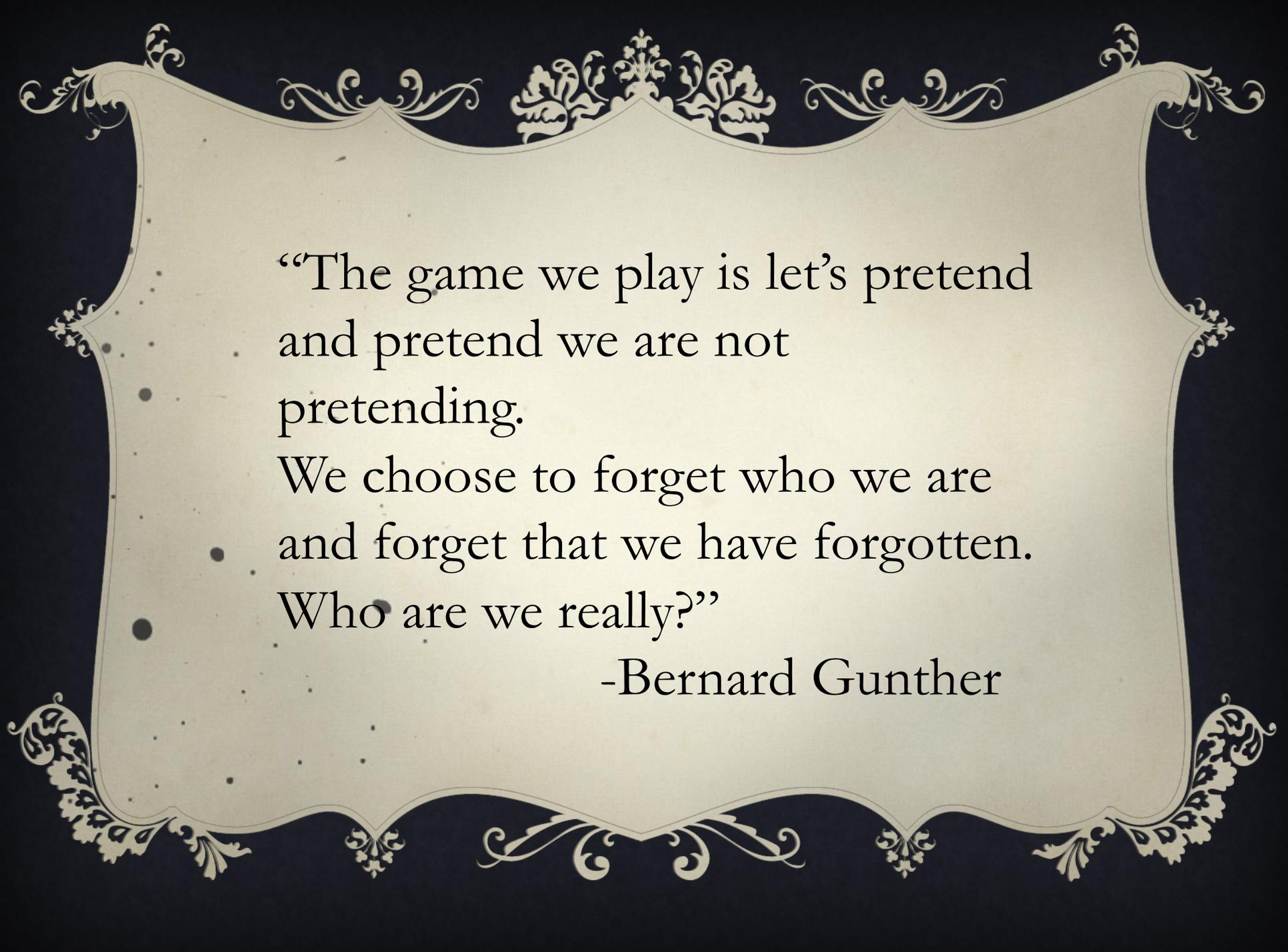


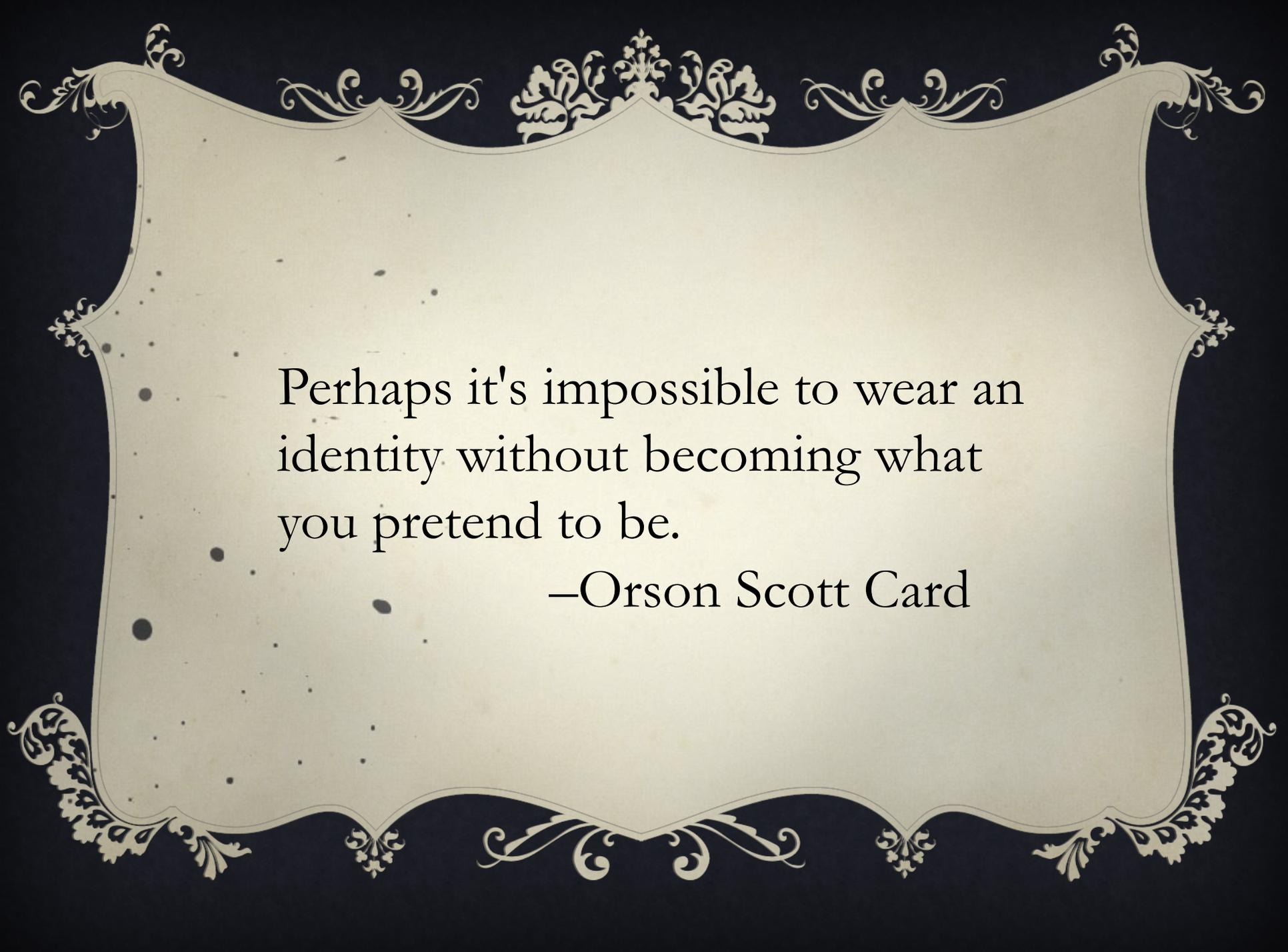
**DRAG RACE:  
PERFORMING  
IDENTITY IN  
EDUCATION ABROAD**



“The game we play is let’s pretend  
and pretend we are not  
pretending.

We choose to forget who we are  
and forget that we have forgotten.  
Who are we really?”

-Bernard Gunther



Perhaps it's impossible to wear an  
identity without becoming what  
you pretend to be.

—Orson Scott Card



# CHECKLIST ITEMS

- VISA AND PASSPORT
- NUTS AND BOLTS
- CULTURE SHOCK
- BLENDING IN
- YOUR OWN CULTURE?



**MY CULTURAL DRAG**



**YOU ARE  
BORN  
NAKED,  
THE REST  
IS JUST  
DRAG**









M Butterfly,  
Eugene O'Neil  
Theatre, 1988

















# PERFORMING LANGUAGE

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*Mark Lenhart*

*Of academic programs*

**CHINESE LANGUAGE  
IMMERSION  
BEIJING, 1987**





**INSTRUCTION AND  
PERFORMANCE**



ARTICLE 04.12.12

THE DAILY  
BEAST

Benjamin F.  
Carlson

# Foreigners Become Unlikely Chinese TV Stars

Move over Snooki. A growing number of expats are making their mark as accidental entertainers on network television in China.

*I was usually able to get away with looking Chinese until I had to speak.*

*Outside of the classroom, I felt that the locals also viewed and treated me different than my Caucasian friends. I distinctly remember going out to dinner with a couple of Chinese college-aged girls and two other Caucasian guys. Perhaps for reasons other than being impressed by his Mandarin, the Chinese girls were fascinated with one of the guys and would clap and congratulate him greatly whenever he spoke any word in Chinese, regardless of his accent, tone, or grammatical correctness. I wanted praise as well. Moreover, my Caucasian friends would get stopped by the locals, asking to take a picture together. While some of them complained about all of the stares, I secretly wished I were viewed as special and received the same amount of attention. However, I soon came to understand that I had an advantage to being able to blend in. I realized that the locals would go about their daily routines or normal habits around me because they assumed I was one of them. I could essentially observe or experience authentic and typical behavior. Whereas a person might change their actions or speech if they sense an anomaly in their environment, I would try to hold onto the illusion that I was just another Chinese person for as long as I could (usually until I opened my mouth to speak) in order to observe “normal” life as it were.*

*Melinda Lee (CET Perspective Pieces)*

# MIMICRY

**mim·ic·ry**

**/ˈmiməkri/** 

*noun*

noun: **mimicry**; plural noun: **mimicries**

the action or art of imitating someone or something, typically in order to entertain or ridicule.

"the word was spoken with gently teasing mimicry"

*synonyms:* **imitation**, imitating, **impersonation**, copying, aping

"the bird's mimicry amazed us"

- **BIOLOGY**

the close external resemblance of an animal or plant (or part of one) to another animal, plant, or inanimate object.

# Dear White Gays: Stop Stealing Black Female Culture

Sierra Mannie @SKEEerra | July 9, 2014



**You are not a black woman, and you do not get to claim either blackness or womanhood. There is a clear line between appreciation and appropriation**

I need some of you to cut it the hell out. Maybe, for some of you, it's a presumed mutual appreciation for Beyoncé and weaves that has you thinking that I'm going to be amused by you approaching me in your best "Shanequa from around the way" voice. I don't know. What I do know is that I don't care how well you can quote Madea, who told you that your booty was getting bigger than hers, how cute you think it is to call yourself a strong black woman, who taught you to twerk, how funny you think it is to call yourself Quita or Keisha or for which black male you've been bottoming — you are not a black woman, and you do not get to claim either blackness or womanhood. It is not yours. It is not for you.

Let me explain.

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU



Watch John Oliver Get Mad About March Madness



This Is Why You Overshop in Ikea





**TUNISIA, 2014**



REENTRY:  
IMPLICATIONS



**INDIA, 2015**



**WEARING *SHEMAGH*,  
JORDAN, 2014**



OSAKA, 2012



AMMAN, 2013



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the implications of this session on your daily work?
  - If we want to foster cultural exchange, how do you properly prepare students for the performative aspects of education abroad?
  - How can you challenge and support students during their reentry with their cultural drag?
- .