



EPISODE 1: BRADLEY AND BILLIE

In this episode, we hear from **Bradley Nguyen, an international student from Vietnam** who came to BC in Grade 11, and his friend, **Billie Brown, a domestic student**. Bradley shares how microaggressions and the pressure to "whitewash" his behaviour led to social isolation and trauma. We learn why celebrating Lunar New Year with Billie and colleagues was meaningful for Bradley and hear advice on how to avoid treating minorities as cultural experts.

FAST FACTS

- There are around [200,000 people of Vietnamese descent in Canada](#).
- Pre-pandemic, [BC's K-12 schools hosted 24,000 international students](#).
- [Lunar New Year](#) is celebrated by 2 billion people including those of Chinese, [Vietnamese](#), South Korean, Japanese, and Malaysian ancestries.
- "[Whitewashed](#)" is a derogatory term used to "describe those who have assimilated to the white mainstream and retain few ethnic practices." Learn about the term and its relationship with internalized racism [here](#).

BRADLEY AND BILLIE'S ADVICE TO FACULTY

Don't skip the resource page when presenting your syllabus

How seriously and honestly you present these resources signals to students whether you are likely to be open and understanding of their situations. Not sure how to make sure students are really listening when presenting the syllabus? Try the activities here: [How to get students to read your syllabus](#)

Remember that international students are not their country's politics

According to this [research](#), when minority students are called on to act as cultural experts based solely on their language, skin colour, or country, it discounts their complex identities and unfairly asks them to speak on behalf of an entire cultural group. Did you just realize that you have done this in the past? Check out [this article](#) on what to do next.

What is Ekta?

Ekta, pronounced "ay-k-ta," is a Sanskrit word meaning **unity, togetherness, and solidarity**. The Ekta podcast features student stories that highlight what is needed to foster Ekta at UFV.

Spotlight on Vietnamese

Bradley shared the following phrase with us.

🔊 gia đình

"family or home"

Acknowledgments

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Music by Saint Soldier 🔊

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