



Content Workshops FRIS Festival, 28 March 2024

Workshop 1: Diversity Matters Matter

Organizer: Ceren S. Abacioglu with support from Sneha and Chei

This 1-hour workshop is designed to foster dialogue and deepen understanding. Herein we invite you as a participant to embrace the richness of your identity while engaging with diverse perspectives. Using interactive techniques and compelling video-based cases, you will gain a foundational understanding of key diversity concepts. We'll delve into topics such as how individuals interpret and evaluate phenomena differently, as well as the intersectionality of identities encompassing ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and ability.

At the heart of the **Diversity Matters Matter** workshop is the creation of a safe and inclusive environment. Here, both students and colleagues can freely share their experiences and viewpoints. Through guided discussions, as a participant you will reflect on personal barriers and societal challenges encountered by those from diverse backgrounds.

Workshop 2: Deep Democracy: Throwing arrows and how to use polarization

Organizer: Neeltje Huijning-Schrofer

This workshop will use Deep Democracy tools related to polarization. Neeltje Huijning-Schrofer is trained in Deep Democracy-the Lewis method and during this time, she will introduce you to tools and techniques which are especially relevant when there is a differing in meaning and when the classroom is becoming polarized.

We will go into depth with the technique called "Throwing arrows". We will simulate a discussion in the workshop which has potential to become polarized and in practice learn how to deal with these tensions with help from Deep Democracy. As educators, we can experience challenging moments and this workshop will give you some tools on how to turn it into a moment of learning for both educators and students. This workshop is useful for all people, both those who have some experience with Deep Democracy and those who are new to this.

Workshop 3: The contact zone

Organizer: Blandine Joret

In this workshop you will experience transdisciplinary education using principles from "The Contact Zone". This workshop is set-up as an experiment in transdisciplinary pedagogy and communal learning. We will open our conversation by collectively watching a short science



film by the pioneering biologist and surrealist filmmaker Jean Painlevé (1902-1989). Using specific film aesthetics, his documentaries turn scientific reality and common knowledge wondrous, surreal, estranged. From the very first screening of his films at the Académie des sciences in the late twenties, his work has sparked intriguing debates within academic and educational circles: documentary film can make us “unlearn”, he argued, which facilitates a kind of knowing that is broken down, fragmentary: made “fragile”.

Film is often used in classroom settings, but its function of “unlearning” is quite unexplored, as is the necessity of fragile knowledge in inclusive classrooms. The intention in the workshop is to put film at work in soliciting our various scholarly backgrounds as partial knowledges within a larger, transdisciplinary encounter. What is the role of film or cultural objects more broadly in facilitating cross-cultural and disciplinary experiences? How can film in scholarly settings contribute to transdisciplinary learning, or facilitate various perspectives on complex subjects?

The exact format of the workshop takes inspiration from previous experiences in organizing inclusive film-discussions, and fits within a broader educational project that looks at the educational value of a “contact zone” (Pratt), “fragile knowledge” (Glissant) and “unlearning” (Painlevé). Since we are all participants in this workshop, please indicate your disciplinary background during the registration process.

Workshop 4: Diversity in and around the UvA classroom - The Good, The Bad, and The ... Best practices

Organizers: Irene van Driel and Sindy Sumter

In this workshop we will present findings from focus groups with UvA students. They shared how they perceive diversity, inclusion, and equity (DEI) at the UvA, focusing on their in-class experiences. We will present examples of good and bad DEI practices according to their experiences.

In the second part of the workshop, we will co-create a few "best practices" based on the input of these students and your own experiences as faculty members. We hope to inspire new ways of creating inclusive classroom experiences.

FRIS Quiet Space

You can also use the time reserved for workshop to do quiet reflection or participate in a guided meditation, recorded by Dr. Mieke Lopes Cardozo. We will reserve space for this purpose. Feel invited to do what feels best in that moment.