

Title:

The Sociocratic Circular Methodology (SCM) as a methodology of the educational commons: Workshop

Workshop related to:

- Educational commons and socio-political transformation
- Alternative pedagogies, heterotopias or real utopias in education: advancing freedom and equality
- Peer to peer learning and governance
- Active social inclusion via informal and non-formal learning pathways
- Active listening and conflict resolution in educational commons
- Discourse, power, and subjectivation in educational commons

Names:

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Abstract

This workshop will attempt to actively engage the participants with the Sociocratic Circular Method and address it as a methodology in the field of educational commons. An opening round will be the introduction of the session and it will be followed by a mapping process of the participants' experience in 'problems and needs regarding inclusion, equality and participation in the educational process'. Following, a smaller group of participants (max. 20) will experiment, from their various standpoints, parts of a Sociocratic Circle with facilitation. A visual Agenda will support the collective common comprehension of the topics and decisions. The aim is to reach a decision making by consent and an open election, within a heterogeneous group of people with little prior experience in such procedures. Within the workshop, the participants will experience, through the SCM, the various personal and collective transformations regarding: i. active listening and the culture of communication and facilitation, ii. equal participation in the 'circle', iii. inclusion of all voices and needs, iv. distribution of roles and tasks, v. challenges in power relations, v. decision making by consent, vi. alternative open processes for election. In the closing round, all participants will share their insights for the challenges and contributions of the SCM as an impactful tool in educational commons and a forerunner to personal and collective empowerment; power structure's disruptions and; emancipation actions.

Prerequisite: Time needed 2 hours.

The workshop is open to all. However, its experimental part (the Sociocratic Circle) can host max. 20 participants; the rest can watch as observants.

Key words:

educational commons, Sociocratic Circular Method, school circles, governance, active listening, facilitation, consent, open election