

Dealing with uncertainty and open futures - an intercultural approach from design, art and engineering.

A workshop with Anad Emam (design), Margit Schild (art and engineering)

Languages: English, German, Arabic, French

Uncertainty is intrinsic to the human experience - even if advanced industrial societies are adept at omitting its existence. Contemporary life, with the pandemic being its most pressing example, is a living, breathing test that challenges the dogma of certainty. Accelerated digitalization, precariousness of labour, globalization and climate change - to name just a few - are causing rapid change in our environment and have a profound effect on every aspect of human life: how we work, how we live, how we feel and how we interact.

Providing the condition for transformations, this uncertainty is the starting point. It lies at the beginning of a dynamic process whose outcome is undetermined. As a state of undecided potentiality, its outcome may be productive as well as unproductive, it demands personal agency and involvement.

Learning to deal with uncertainty and open futures productively is an essential upcoming skill for gaining empowerment. The approach can only be radically interdisciplinary and must use tools that bypass traditional categories.

Groups that would most benefit from this approach are:

People in transition, graduated students, people with changes in their career, people who seek for orientation in open futures, secondary school classes in ethics, political science or art, et cetera.

Methodology

- Intercultural Storytelling, listen to migrants as actors in uncertainty and other risk-takers
- Dialogue is mixed with interactive sequences and / or film scenes
- Methodical variety, working in small groups with discussion and participative elements
- Discussion in small groups to address the topics/problems that the participants bring
- Application of artistic/design approaches and methods, individually and in groups

Conditions

Half-day, full-day, weekend workshops,

Full-day workshop: 6.5 hours of seminar, 1.5 hours break,

Half-day workshops: 3.5 hours of seminar, 0.5 hour break,

Weekend workshop: 10-12 hour of seminar, 2-3 hours break

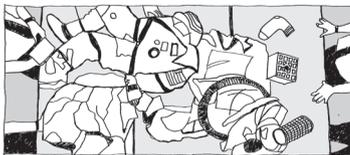
Workshops as in-house training and as part of the curricula of educational institutions

Anad Emam: Born and raised in Cairo (Egypt), Anad has lived in Milan, Paris and Greece before settling in Berlin in 2016. Well-versed in several areas of design including Visual Communication and Fashion, she is a Product Design graduate with a keen interest in multidisciplinary collaboration and the cross-pollination of divergent knowledge. Fusing her interest in the latter with her design training in her professional experience, she has worked in both the private and public sectors on livelihood initiatives aimed at empowering artisan women from remote areas and connecting them to international markets whilst promoting cultural heritage preservation through handicraft. Fluent in four languages, she is passionate about intercultural communication and has recently been venturing into art through the mediums of pencil and charcoal drawing, painting and sculpture.

Margit Schild is a graduate engineer, filmmaker, artist and author. After studying landscape and open space planning and completing her doctorate at the University of Hanover, she worked as a lecturer and visiting professor at various universities, such as the University of the Arts in Berlin and Emily Carr University in Vancouver, Canada. She also taught as Guest Professors for "Artistic Transformation Processes" at the Berlin University of the Arts in a team of eleven artists and academics (2007- 2009). In 2015 she made her first documentary film on the main topic "Flight and Migration". In addition to her work as a director, she is co-founder of the "School of the Provisional" and in 2017 was the artistic director of the international symposium "Out of the Blue" on the subject of "Improvisation" at the HKW House of World Cultures, Berlin.



„I suggest you invent a way to put a square peg in a round hole. Rapidly.“



„Using nothing but that!“



„We have an unusual procedure for you here.“



„One sock.“