

Resources for integrating Dialogue and Deliberation into Communication Courses

"[Dialogue] is a stream of meaning flowing among and through us and between us, in the whole group, out of which may emerge some new form of understanding or shared meaning."

- David Bohm

*"The goal behind **deliberation** is not merely to draw a crowd and fill a room with opinionated people. The purpose is much bigger and more powerful. When citizens deliberate about an issue and when a community has a habit of asking citizens to make choices, the directions that are chosen often are better and they have a legitimacy that simply doesn't exist otherwise. Citizens take ownership of problems. They talk about what they can do, not what others ought to do. They act out of a sense of mission and passion. Communities in a democracy are healthier when citizens are doing the work of citizens."*

- Kettering Foundation

Texts that help illuminate these ideas – some chapters would make for good class readings

Dialogue

Anderson, R., Baxter, L. A., & Cissna, K. N. (Eds.). (2003). *Dialogue: Theorizing difference in communication studies*. Sage Publications.

Black, L. W. (2015). Dialogue. In K. Tracy, C. Illie, & T. Sandel (eds.), *The International Encyclopedia of Language and Social Interaction*. Boston: John Wiley & Sons.

Bohmian Dialogue **Dialogue: A Proposal** - www.infed.org/archives/e-texts/bohm_dialogue.htm

David Bohm was a well-respected contemporary physicist whose contributions to science and philosophy include a kind of free-form, sustained dialogue. Bohm's introduction to dialogue is featured on this website.

Isaacs, W. (1999). *Dialogue and the art of thinking together*. New York, NY: Currency. (Great for organizational and group communication connections.)

Deliberation

The Deliberative Democracy Handbook, (2005) Gastil & Levine. Jossey-Bass

Dialogue and Deliberation (2013) Makau & Marty. Waveland Press

Deliberative Democracy

Democracy in Motion (2012) Nabatchi, Gastil, Weiksner, & Leighninger (eds.) Oxford

Keith, William M. *Democracy as Discussion: The American Forum Movement and Adult Civic Education*. Lexington Books/Rowman and Littlefield, 2007.

Organizations and Websites –

Take some time to pursue – these are rich with background as well as excellent resources for discussions about dialogue and deliberation and resources to conduct dialogue and deliberation.

- National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (NCDD), <http://ncdd.org/>
- Kettering Foundation Resources, <http://kettering.org/>
- The Interactivity Foundation, <http://www.interactivityfoundation.org/>
- Deliberative Democracy Consortium, <http://www.deliberative-democracy.net/>
- International Association for Public Participation, <http://www.iap2.org/>

National Issues Forums – www.nifi.org

NIF is a nationwide network of educational and community organizations that deliberate about national public issues. NIF publishes deliberation guides on such topics as “Racial and Ethnic Tensions: What Should We Do?”, “Money and Politics: Who Owns Democracy?” and “Alcohol in America: What Can we do about Excessive drinking?”

Conversation Café – www.conversationcafe.org

Vicki Robin, a pioneer in the voluntary simplicity movement, came up with the idea of using the "conversation café" model in attempts to take her ideas of simpler living to a higher level. Her organization has more than 60 trained café hosts and has spread internationally after a tremendous start in Seattle.

Public Conversations Project – www.publicconversations.org

In addition to their groundbreaking grassroots dialogue work, PCP provides trainings, presentations, and workshops on such things as the power of dialogue, inquiry as intervention, and the architecture of dialogue. PCP's website offers a variety of great tools and downloadable resources to help you organize and facilitate a dialogue.

Everyday Democracy - <http://www.everyday-democracy.org/>

SCRC promotes and supports study circles (small-group, democratic, peer-led deliberative dialogues on important social and political issues). Their website provides downloadable copies of many of their top-notch dialogue guides and other resources.

World Café - www.theworldcafe.com

Juanita Brown and David Isaacs from Whole Systems Associates use the model of the café setting to create a warm, inviting environment in which people can converse. Participants gather informally at small tables and are encouraged to map out the ideas generated from conversation onto the paper table cloths covering the tables.

Advancements in Deliberation and Dialogue

Rebecca Townsend, RTownsend@mcc.commnet.edu
Lori Britt, brittll@jmu.edu