

Open University of the IIHU

Course: Embracing Dialogue as Professional Identity  
And Saying Goodbye to Mantels of Authority

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Course description: This eight week course portrays dialogue as preferred mode of inquiry. Dialogue should not be confused with inter-disciplinary discourse. Educators and health-related professionals have long practiced inter-disciplinary discourse and sharing of talent. However, dialogue occurs in public and on common ground, where many people have no professional identity and might want to engage in inquiry if professional identity were not the key to the door of every dialogic occasion. By considering dialogue as inquiry, the chances are great for change in person and profession to occur. Multiple definitions and perspectives of common ground will occupy the first part of the course, which will be illustrated by employing film and music clips to identify the dialectic of isolation, first, and alternative approaches to dialogue, second. Therefore, the focus of this course is on establishing common ground for dialogue in hospitals and health-service organizations, schools and universities, non-governmental organizations, journals, newspapers, television, and other places where persons are ascribed professional authority, but where many people still remain voiceless as far as their "ascribed" authority. In the second part of the course, multiple examples from the Internet will illustrate and illuminate course themes about what is being said and how people are saying it. It comes as no surprise that dialogue shifted from professional camps and identity-persuasions to the Internet, thus having turned the Internet into an ancient Athenian *agora*, a *mercado* in Lima, Speaker's Corner in London's Hyde Park, a traditional *souk* of Baghdad, or the produce market in Bangkok. Everyone comes to buy or sell. Everyone must eat.