Core Conditions of Collaboration : a shared reflective inquiry

Introductions

// Use a post-it note to capture how you feel right now //

Padlet QR code

https://padlet.com/plal0220201/cltg11eqxhkchgqn

Our background

Poojitha Lal

MA Innovation Management
C&E Changemaker for CSM

Exploring how design thinking
could be applied to policy
making to account for cultural
diversity

Nora Beckman

MA Applied Imagination
Arts SU School Rep for CSM

Exploring topics of cross-
disciplinary exchange and
community building

Adam Ramejkis

Supporter of learning
Intercultural communication
UAL-wide Academic Support

Opening spaces for shared
creative and critical inquiry.

What this SESSION is about?

Reflecting on collaboration

It is something that is widely spoken about at a university level, something all of us experience during our programs. But, little time is spent reflecting on it and understanding it as a skill and concept.

What does collaboration mean to you?

// Brainstorming activity //

Use words, diagrams, stories, line drawings…anything that you are comfortable with as a medium

What are the core conditions of good collaboration?

// Brainstorming activity //

Use words, diagrams, stories, line drawings…anything that you are comfortable with as a medium

KEY ELEMENTS OF COLLABORATION

Collaborations vary enourmously depending on their goals, settings, teams and resources. Yet all collaborations are a human activity, and the following six elements play an imporant role in all of them. These elements also play an important role in the questions of the interactive structure tool.

Motivation

The driving force for collaboration is motivation. In order for a collaboration to succeed, everyone involved needs to feel that they gain something from the collaboration or feel that they are doing a meaningful thing and working towards a valuable end result.

Communication

In order to find the right people to collaborate with, the project needs to be communicated clearly. Giving information about the project and its goals helps people decide whether to participate or not.

Diversity

Collaboration benefits from a wide range of skills and expertise in the pool of participants. A diverse group of participants is often the best way to ensure that this is achieved.

Sharing

For a successful collaboration it is important to be flexible with the ownership of ideas. This does not mean that a team should not give credit to individuals where credit is due, but any issues of ownership of ideas or concepts need to be agreed at the onset.

Support

The support of the other collaborators in the process is important, especially at times of crisis or unforeseen difficulties. Even when no hardships are expected, the collaborative group needs to work on the basis of the trust that if someone were to need the support of others in the group, that support would be available.

Problem solving

The group must be able to solve problems together. High tolerance for uncertainty is needed when the project changes direction or something does not go as planned.

Discussion

Is this relevant?

Is this relatable?

Open conversations

// Discussion //

Q. What have your experiences with collaboration been like?

Q. What were your expectations from collaboration in the university?

Q. Forced v/s chosen collaboration

OUR EXPERIENCE

- **Forced collaboration in silos**

  Isolation is a form of siloization: community-building is a way to create transdisciplinary exchange leading to deeper and more nuanced engagement

- **Absence of networks to access community in the university**

  Closely guarded programs and spaces leaving gaps to access and build on community

Visual model of your collaboration style

// Individual Activity // Pause and reflect //

Use words, diagrams, stories, line drawings…anything that you are comfortable with as a medium

REFLECTION

// Post-it check outs //

Use post it to capture how you feel right now, after the session

Thank you

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