Rhizome guide to

Stages of Open Space

Aims of the Open Space

The organisers and people coming need to have an understanding of what they're getting into and the likely outcomes of the event.

Organisation

Logistics and coordination between the facilitator(s) and the conference or meeting organisers.

Introduce

The facilitator explains both how the event runs and the principles embodied in the process.

Co-create the agenda

Participants decide what they want to talk about and when, creating the agenda for the Open Space.

Conversations

The Open Space goes live and the conversations begin.

Reports

Each discussion group produces a report outlining who was there, what they talked about and what action they thought they could take to create positive change.

Real time publicity

Each group's report is posted on a 'news' wall as it is produced, for all to read. Alternatively reports are typed in the 'news room' and uploaded to a website.

Renewing the agenda

In a longer Open Space new topics for conversation may emerge from previous rounds of discussion. This may necessitate a formal session to create a new agenda for these conversations.

Goodbyes and final words

A final session to air anything that people think is important.

An open space agenda using washing lines when no wall space is available

After the event

- All delegates get a copy of all the conversation reports, as one larger report.
- A smaller group produces a 'manifesto' (aka your reports for policy makers and the wider field).
- Press launch and other publicity.
- Evaluation of the event for future reference.

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