



# Open Space Learning Workshop

8-10 September, 2015 - Kraków, Poland

*Before the World Open Space on Open Space - a conference for users of Open Space*

**Facilitated by Lisa Heft**

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Columbia University's Center for International Conflict Resolution,  
Visiting Expert, Sonoma State University Organization Development Program*

## For those of you new to this process for facilitating groups:

Imagine using a dialogue process to...

- carry a face-to-face conversation across a nation as participants access shared notes from their diverse discussions
- enable soil, water, environmental and building scientists, engineers and researchers to share knowledge across disciplines and geographic regions in their passion for sustainability
- help six governmental agencies and their Mozambique partners share thoughts on how to spend a billion dollars worth of HIV/AIDS funding in Mozambique over the next five years
- engage technology licensing executives in exploring their concerns and hopes for a constantly changing industry where both knowledge ownership and open source / Creative Commons exist
- invite hundreds of tobacco control advocates, researchers and policy makers to share their conflicting points of view (is the end goal safe tobacco? elimination of tobacco?) without having to change each other or agree
- involve every employee of a global Information Technology division in their company's strategic planning process - from the administrative assistants to the Chief Technology Officer
- design a pavilion at the Olympics, a new way of using the internet, or an airplane door

Imagine a dialogue process that cannot be broken by someone standing up and going on and on, by someone leaving or returning to a discussion, or by only one person sitting in a breakout session.

You may have heard of Open Space or participated in something called Open Space or 'an unconference' and wondered why it did not work - or whether it was really this complete and effective form. Or you may have experienced something that sparked your interest as you watched a group self-organize in a highly productive process - and wondered if it was this thing called Open Space.

Hear stories of...

- a client hosting a youth event who wants to stop youth convening their own amazing sessions
- only one participant showing up - or 3,000 people engaged in dialogue - both events resulting in breakthrough thinking, intimate conversation and a full record of proceedings
- conflict resolution work in world conflict zones with participants facilitating their own discussions
- holding space when all the participants leave (will they return?), when the police are approaching to shut the event down, or in the middle of a war

**All of these are stories of Open Space.**

Join Lisa in this 2.5-day interactive workshop for mutual learning about preparing for, facilitating and supporting productivity and effectiveness for this dialogue process used around the world. Take the workshop on its own or begin here and then dive even deeper by also joining Lisa directly afterwards at the World Open Space on Open Space on September 10-13. Separate registration and pricing for each event.

Pricing for this workshop - as with all of the workshops Lisa hosts - is flexible - custom tailored to what you as an individual can contribute and afford. **For more information on content and pricing and to register, contact Lisa directly at [lisaheft@openingspace.net](mailto:lisaheft@openingspace.net)**

For those of you who already facilitate Open Space or who have attended other workshops, Lisa will share best practices and lessons-learned from around the world to deepen your learning.

**This workshop includes the following topics to support your understanding and application of Open Space:**

- Deliverables of different-length OS events
- When is OS the right tool: questions for you and your client
- Finding more time for OS
- Morphing? Hybridizing? Adding to? Which changes affect human dynamics?
- Actions? Next steps? Decisions?
- Creating the Theme
- Power dynamics
- What about using OS for conflict transformation? What about conflict during the OS event?
- What could go wrong?
- Invitation text and strategy
- Use of site
- Documentation design
- Variations
- Lessons learned about dialogue and engagement
- An Open Space meeting for you to work on your own issues and opportunities as someone who works with groups
- Reflection on your learning edges as an Open Space facilitator