

Radical Imagination Workshop #1

Radical Imagination Workshop, WeCreate Wed 18th May 8-10pm

Goal: Create a space of dialogue and possibility, sparking the radical imagination towards a radically different future with focus on sustainability and the EcoVillage.

Materials needed:

- Paper & colour pens, different kinds
- Flipchart paper and colour markers
- Audio tape recorder (digital)
- Laptop & beamer to show future news video (2:01 min)
- Speakers

[Total time: 100 min!]

5 min Welcome & intro

10 min: Introduction:

5 min **What 'is' radical imagination:**

- based on The Radical Imagination Project (Haiven, Khasnabish)
- radical (lat. Radix: roots): change from roots, fundamental, systemic, unconventional
- imagination: forming mental images or concepts of what is not actually present
- capacity to project how world might be
- something we do together (not something one individual 'has')
- grows through overlap, conflict, contradiction, communication
- around stories, images, practices, beliefs, values, relationships, ideas, institutions

5 min **Connecting 1916 with radical imagination**

30 min: Part I: Imagining the ideal

5 min: **Intro to Part I**

2 min: show future news from wedeclare.ie:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/FCHgWTYafeE>

- **It's about the process, not an outcome, no need to finish**
- As basis for later discussion
- Alone or in pairs

- think about your ideal society, local or global, in 2050
- How does the 'world' now feel like, smell like, look like? How do we interact with others and with our surroundings? What values are important?
- Start creating a short story, a drawing, a little poem, a short radio news item, or a poster, front page of newspaper (headings)

20 min **to start create**

5 min to **share** with the group

40 min: Part II: Radical imagination & the EcoVillage

5 min: **radical you** (short round OR open round)

- What does radical mean to you?
- Do you think imagination is important to achieve goals?

35 min: **radical we: Discussion**

- What is radical / imaginative / revolutionary about the EcoVillage?
- Where / How could the project be more radical / imaginative / revolutionary?

15 min: where do we go from here?

How can the radical imagination be fostered in the future (in the EcoVillage)?

END

Radical Imagination Workshop #2

Radical Imagination Workshop, Summer-Camp Fri 1st July 3-6pm

Goal: The goal of the workshop is to introduce utopian thinking and radical imagination as an activist process and enthuse people to incorporate it in their work within their groups.

Overall goal of the process is to improve activism, make it more creative and successful, be better in achieving what we want, by giving it direction and by inspiring change!

Materials needed:

- Paper & colour pens, different kinds
- (Flipchart) paper and colour markers
- bluetag or similar
- tape for names!
- Camera to archive stuff
- space in common area to showcase results

[Total time: 160 (180) min!]

15 min Welcome & introduction round

who am I, what's the workshop (it's in development process), aims of the workshop
(proposed outcomes, learnings to take home with
explore why utopian thinking / RI is important
overcome fears and difficulties around imagining alternatives, about using artistic
methods,
discover what you want
get inspired by other people's imagination
learn a process on how to foster the RI
a stronger sense of hope, understanding that there are many alternatives

)

who are they, why did they come, what do they expect?

15 min: Introduction:

10 min: **radical you** (short round) – put answers on mind-maps

- What does radical mean to you?
- What does imagination mean to you?
- Is imagination important for activism?

5 min **What 'is' radical imagination: (only add if missing)**

- based on The Radical Imagination Project (Haiven, Khasnabish)
- radical (lat. Radix: roots): change from roots, fundamental, systemic, unconventional
- imagination: forming mental images or concepts of what is not actually present
- capacity to project how world might be
- something we do together (not something one individual 'has')
- grows through overlap, conflict, contradiction, communication
- around stories, images, practices, beliefs, values, relationships, ideas, institutions

30 min: Values in ideal world

Which values do we want to see in your ideal world? (Recognize how that is influenced by what we don't want)

5 min: intro and set-up

/ groups of max 4 people – each gets flipcharts and markers

Draw a rough map of a planet

place on it in writing or images/sketches the positive values existing in this utopian world. Only positive. Recognize what you don't want, use it as direction giving, to formulate positive wish.

20 min: for the exercise

5 min: sharing

Every group: 3 values → noted down on a flipchart → put worlds on wall wall

60 min: Imagining the ideal (take break at half time. Announce after 25 min over)

5 min: **Set up and intro**

people sit at tables, with paper and colours ready

Alone (2 min)

- Ask to close eyes. Then think about the values. **Then: How does the 'world' now feel like, smell like, look like? What can you hear?** Ask to put anything down on paper. A colour, anything abstract, be free!

Alone or in pairs:

- Now imagine aspects of your ideal society that you are most interested in, local, regional, or global, in 2116, drawing from values from previous step

- *How do we interact with others and with our surroundings? What does activity look like? How do we live? How do we eat? Envisage strategies and tactics, what does activism look like?*
- Start by creating
 - a short story (ie 'a perfect day in my life'),
 - a drawing (ie 'my perfect neighbourhood'),
 - a little poem, a poster,
 - ...
- **It's about the process, not an outcome, no need to finish**

25 min: sharing results from previous step (creations & process)

10 min: ask for few volunteers to present what was created (10 min)

Offer to make a little exhibition for the duration of the camp in some common area, if people want that.

15 min: (go around in a circle) **Insights about/ through process**

comments on what it made people think of, any insights, inspiration, new thoughts, revelations, feelings etc they had, be they personal or on topic.

15 min: Conclusion & feedback (quality of workshop)

10 min: feedback (written) Ask to go around, and to come back to circle when finished.

What was good?

What could be improved? What could be added?

What are you taking home / what did you learn?

5 min: Thanks & goodbye!

END