

THE EMPTY ISLAND

Mediator guide

Phase 1

display *narration* rules

The board is displayed on the table, all the participants should sit around at an equal distance from the board so that everyone can see and access it easily. As the moderator, you are also sitting with the other participants. You have all the material that is necessary to do the workshop with you.

Present yourself and the reasons for which you are organizing this workshop. Explain to everyone that this is a workshop and that its purpose is to reflect and investigate topics presented here. There are no right or wrong answers, no winner or loser, so please feel free to give your opinions.

The map in front of you is empty, you can ask the participants to close their eyes and to carefully listen.

“You have been navigating on a small raft looking for an island to settle on for weeks. You have all decided to escape from current modern society. You feel like you don’t matter. That society has given you no hope for a better future and you are desperate to take action of your own life. You are all looking for an occasion to start again from scratch. You don’t know each other so well, so, as you navigate you decide to share a little bit about your history and why you want to start a new life.”

Why did you leave home? What things did you wish were different in the life you have just fled?

One by one, each participant can express the reasons for his departure into this new life.

*“As soon as [name of the last participant to speak] finished his/her speech, you begin to hear seagulls, excited, you all look around. An island looms on the horizon, you decide to reach its shore...
...Your feet are finally on solid ground. There no signs of human life, it seems very quiet yet intriguing but weirdly you feel safe. You finally found the island of your dreams. It seems that you have finally found your home. [Name of*

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one participant] manages to light a fire, [name of another participant] and [name of another participant] are gathering rocks and wood trunks so that everyone can sit around it. It's time to start. Time to build our society! The first thing we must build upon is our values...the foundation of our community, the thing that binds us all."

Place the boat on the island's shore and display all the value cards on the table.

A value is: The beliefs people have about what is right and wrong, and what is most important in life. These values influence their behavior.

Please collectively choose the values that you feel are the most important to you (5 participants = 5 values, 6 participants = 6 value, etc.), everyone should approve the final choices. There is a blank card in case you feel that a value is missing.

Let them organize and create their own methodology for exchanging, communicating and debating with each other. If you feel like someone isn't taking part during the workshop, invite him/her to speak, ask him/her what he/she thinks. For this approach him/her with a question like: What do you prefer between ...? Which one would you pick? Who do you agree with?

When the collective choice has been made, they should distribute the chosen cards between each other. It is time to fill in the brainstorm sheet. The participants 15 minutes to fill the sheets.

Invite them to switch their sheets in the process to get an understanding of everybody's perspective on their value by adding on to them.

An example of a filled-in bubble could be :

Power would maybe bring ambition so people would work harder and then produce more supplies but it could also bring inequalities and dominance over one another.

Now that the values have been chosen and defined. Each of you embraces the role of representing one value and is in charge of applying it to the island.

The participants can then display the card of their value in front of them, by using the small holding brick. They should keep their brainstorming sheet in front of them for phase two.

Phase 2

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You can ask them to close their eyes.

“This night was hot enough to sleep on the sand, however this is not a viable situation for the participants that have decided to live permanently on the island. The sun rises, it is the participant’s first morning on the island. You decide to get right into it and not lose any more time, you want to start building. Some constructions might be more urgent than others, depending on the participant’s collective needs. As you are all in charge of a value, you decide to split the material between all of you. When someone wants to build something, he needs to find an agreement with another participant in order to get access to the material needed.”

You distribute the bricks to each participant depending on the color associated with their value.

Those bricks represent the material, they are precious, as resources are limited on the island. Therefore the choices you make in your constructions and distributions will have an impact on the viability of your civilization.

Who would like to become the construction pioneer of the island by proposing an initiative?

If you wish to propose an initiative, you must then pitch the reasons you feel your construction is important to the community. Then you will have to convince your peers that their values will be taken into account by explaining how they will become a part of your infrastructure. Constructions are built out of values. When being pioneer you can demand and exchange with the representatives of other needed values. The participants have the right to refuse if they feel that your proposal is not convincing. I will give you the initiative sheet that you must fill in if the other concerned participants have agreed to your construction.

Here is an example with a silly idea: « We have to solve our need for surveillance so my proposal is: to build an Airport. I think it is very relevant because the urgency is to protect the

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island and this way we'll be able to make rounds so I give one brick of safety because my airplane will be secured with large belts, I need a pound of generosity because one free plane trip will be offered to everyone on the island each week and I need one brick of honesty because the trips during the day will all be communicated in a transparent way to everyone. >>

The pioneer participant gets control of the boat in order to show that he is in charge while he builds his construction. Only one participant at a time can be a pioneer. The boat gives him the lead, so during this period he organizes the debate around his construction. He will be given the final word as far as where he places and how he distributes the material on the board.

The construction can be placed in any square of the grid. You may display the materials in any position you want as long as they fit in the designated square. Two constructions cannot be built within the same square. You can think about the display of constructions and whether they are close to each other depending on their purposes.

To make a building you need at least 2 materials but you can go up to 5. The construction's importance is determined by the number of materials it requires. It is important for the pioneer to make a stand and attempt to answer important needs for the community. Each participant can only give one material at a time.

Depending on the number of bricks you gathered, you will make a more or less important building for the island.

The participants decide when they wish to end phase 2, either because there is no material left or because the participants consider that their society fulfills their expectations accordingly to their values.

Before becoming a pioneer a second time, you must wait for everyone to have been pioneer at least once.

Phase 3

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“A year has passed since you first arrive on the island on your small raft. You have enjoyed the sun, the clear water, the people. You have shared your stories and experiences. You have made use of your constructions and have evolved in your new society.”

Now can you share what has worked well and what hasn't?
What was a success, and what lacked?

Give the assessment sheet to all the participants so that they can fill it in individually. They have 15 minutes.

Let's take a moment to share your thoughts on the experience, feelings and share the successes and failures of our society.

Make sure each of them has the time to shares his opinion and feelings.

Don't forget to keep the sheets in order to share the results on the online platform.

“The participants take this time to reflect on their accomplishments. They have learned much from this experience, and tomorrow will be another day full of new challenges”

You can thank everyone for their participation and say goodbye.

