

MAKING NEEDS, AMBITIONS AND DESIRES VISIBLE



PURPOSE

Become aware of and visualise your own and your closest allies' major needs, ambitions and desires. By spelling them out and making them visible to yourself and others, you are producing a map that can be used to devise interdependent tactics and strategies for nourishing ecological and empowering modes of production and life.

KEYWORDS

collaborative thinking, making visible, opening up a discussion, taking stock

TIME

2.5 hours

DESCRIPTION

Round one

Each person starts out on their own with a large sheet of paper (at least A3). Write the following four questions onto the sheet and start to map your answers to these questions on the sheet.

- What are my urgent needs?
- What are my long-term needs?
- What are my short-term ambitions and desires in terms of living a good life?
- What are my long-term ambitions and desires in terms of living a good life?

Take 30 minutes for this individual work.

Round two

Once everyone has made their own map, take each 10 minutes to share it with the others. As everyone speaks in turns, the person facilitating this moment of collective thinking makes a map that brings together inputs from everyone. One person acts as a time keeper to make sure everyone gets at least 10 minutes to speak. Everyone else just really listens and gives the person speaking the space to be heard.

During the round of sharing, it can be helpful to use the following questions as prompts when speaking about your needs, ambitions and desires:

- What would be the effects of fulfilling my needs, ambitions and desires – for myself, the people I care about, my peers and the world more generally?
- How do my needs, ambitions and desires connect to the bigger picture of where the world is going?

Round three

Take an hour to reflect together on what new knowledges have emerged and where needs, ambitions and desires line up as well as where they diverge. Are there things you would rather not want in your map because they come from a socialisation process that is against your liking? Do you have the feeling that some ambitions and desires might be tight to forms of cruel optimism, where success, achievement or satisfaction constantly seems around the corner but continuous to escape? Are there any step(s) can you imagine together from here?

MATERIALS

Big sheets of paper (A3 size and A1), pens, sound object, watch, drinks, snacks

REFERENCES

- Berlant, L., 2011. *Cruel Optimism*. Duke University Press, Durham.
- Brand, U., Wissen, M., 2018. *Imperial Mode of Living*. *Krisis Journal for Contemporary Philosophy* 75–78.