

Key Concepts to Global Community Dialogue

The GCD uses two complimentary techniques as we try to balance opening up to ourselves and others while creating a safe space for us all as a community. Below are the "bullet point basics" of each process with additional web references and books for those who want to explore these concepts in more depth.

* **Open Space Technology (OST)** is a method for organizing a meeting or conference where participants have been invited to focus on a specific important task or purpose. Unlike pre-planned conferences, its agenda or topics of conversation are driven by the desires of the participants after they arrive at the live event space.

OST is:

- energetic and invigorating
- growing (in importance, detail, and depth) more of what works by focusing attention on them
- continually practicing letting go - finding things not to do
- passion bounded by responsibility to take action
- a practice in invitation and an inviting practice to carry the work into the larger world
- fully present and invisible (an OST facilitator holds the space open)
- a way to get people, information & organizations moving - letting go and getting things done now
- asking what do you really want to do + why don't you take care of it?
- the four basic mechanisms at work: marketplace, circle, bboard, breathing
- works best where conflict is present, things are complex, there is urgency and a diversity of players
- the invitation (purpose) is transmitted to the invitation list, is organized in the event, and followed through with action
- the law of two feet: if you find yourself in a situation where you are neither learning nor contributing, move somewhere where you can
- the 4 Principles of Open Space Technology: whoever comes is the right people, whatever happens is the only thing that could have, when it starts is the right time, when it's over, it's over

More info: <https://openspaceworld.org/> or *Open Space Technology, A User's Guide*, Harrison Owen, 2008.

* **Bohm's Dialogue** is a group conversation (not a discussion or debate) which creates a stream of meaning flowing among, through, and between the participants. It requires that participants let go of their fundamental assumptions (opinions) to experience everyone's point of view fully, equally, and non-judgmentally. Out of this practice will emerge a new and deeper understanding. This free exchange of ideas and information is of fundamental relevance for transforming culture and freeing it of destructive misinformation, so that creativity can be liberated.

Bohm's 4 principles of dialogue are:

1. The group agrees that no group-level decisions will be made in the conversation, creating open and free space.
2. Each individual agrees to suspend judgment in the conversation.
3. As they "suspend judgment," they simultaneously are as honest and transparent as possible.
4. Individuals try to build on the other people's ideas in the conversation.

More info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohm_Dialogue or *On Dialogue*, David Bohm, 1990.