

Title: **Dialogue days**

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Appreciate how dialogue can be used to promote shared understanding between staff and students
- Reflect on how collaborative staff and student engagement in dialogue can promote effective curriculum change.
- Understand the challenges of facilitating dialogue days
- Plan a collaborative staff and student dialogue day.

Session Outline

Key issues to be addressed are:

Bohm (1996) suggests that for something new to emerge from communication, people must listen and be prepared to change views and opinions; otherwise “the problem of communication” just becomes exacerbated. Dialogue should therefore be conducted through “connected knowing” as a means to understand, without prejudice or pre-judgement, another individual’s perspective as they experience it (Brockbank and McGill 2007). Increasingly across the sector, staff are exploring ways in which they can engage students in the design of curriculum and at York St John University we have a growing tradition of using “Dialogue days” to facilitate shared understanding between staff and students. This session will explore the underpinning rationale for using Dialogue Days and provide an opportunity to discuss the growing concern of “the problem of communication”.

The session will encourage participants to consider differences between dialogue and other forms of communication between individuals; how dialogue can be used to facilitate change in the curriculum; and how it helps staff and students explore their assumptions about each others’ views as they relate to assessment and research. Finally the session will give participants an opportunity to plan a dialogue that will be relevant for their own context.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

Introduction Outline and rationale for the use of dialogue days 10 mins

Discussion: “Lets talk about Dialogue” 5 mins

How they work in practice at York St John, the benefits and the challenges 10 mins

Activity: Designing your own Dialogue Day 10 mins

Summary and Feedback: Sharing ideas 10 mins

References

Bohm D (1996) *On Dialogue* Routledge, London

Brockbank A and McGill I (2006) *Facilitating Reflective Learning in Higher Education* 2nd ed. Society for Research into Higher Education and Open University Press. London