

EcoDialogues: Space as Metaphor, Dialogue as Method

EcoDialogues is not a service or a solution. It is a philosophical approach to change—rooted in the belief that transformation begins by reimagining the spaces we inhabit: within ourselves, between one another, and within the systems through which we move daily.



EcoDialogues

A program of UYM Charities



A Philosophical Approach to Transformation

Guided by the open-source conceptual framework [Space as Metaphor](#), EcoDialogues draws from a transdisciplinary foundation: organizational development, moral philosophy, ecopsychology, leadership theory, Taoism, Buddhism, Ubuntu, depth psychology, Indigenous thinking, and consciousness studies.

As both a practical application and research initiative, EcoDialogues serves to validate and expand the theoretical foundations of Space as Metaphor through structured dialogue and participatory inquiry. This work offers more than content—they offer ways of being. EcoDialogues brings them into living conversation through dialogue.

Who It's For

Individuals

Navigating change, contradiction, or identity realignment. No prior experience is needed—just a willingness to pause, reflect, and enter into dialogue.

Organizations and Teams

Seeking to move beyond performance culture toward cultures of shared meaning, presence, and integrity. Participating organizations contribute to the empirical validation of Space as Metaphor while developing their own adaptive capacities.

Outcomes: Transformative Dialogue

EcoDialogues creates structured spaces for transformative dialogue, with outcomes that can be both experienced and measured:

1

Perspective Transformation

2

Relational and Collective Intelligence

3

Space-Making Competencies

4

Contribution to Research

An aerial view of a person standing on a road that splits into multiple paths, symbolizing perspective transformation. The person is standing on a central road that branches out into several other roads, creating a star-like pattern. The scene is illuminated by a bright light source, creating a strong shadow of the person on the road. The roads are dark with white dashed lines, and the surrounding landscape is green and hilly.

Perspective Transformation

- Participants report measurable shifts in how they understand complex challenges, moving from individual to systemic perspectives
- Development of what Mezirow (1978) calls "perspective transformation"—fundamental shifts in meaning-making structures
- Enhanced capacity to hold multiple, even contradictory, perspectives simultaneously

Relational and Collective Intelligence



Psychological Safety

Increased psychological safety scores within teams (measurable through validated instruments)



Collective Sense-Making

Enhanced collective sense-making capabilities, particularly around complex ecological and social challenges



Radical Listening

Improved capacity for radical listening and dialogue across difference



Shared Language

Development of shared language and frameworks for ongoing adaptive work

Space-Making Competencies



Making Space

Participants learn and practice the three core moves of Space as
Metaphor: making, mapping, and maintaining space



Adaptive Learning

Ability to recognize and shift from performative certainty to adaptive learning



Somatic Awareness

Development of somatic awareness and embodied leadership practices



Creative Tension

Skills in holding creative tension without premature convergence



Contribution to Research

- Each dialogue session generates qualitative data on how space-making practices facilitate transformation
- Participant reflections contribute to the evolving Spaciology Encyclopedia
- Pre/post assessments provide empirical data on the framework's effectiveness
- Documentation of emergent practices enriches the open-source framework

Philosophical Foundation and Research Design

At its core, EcoDialogues engages three interwoven philosophical strands:



Axiology

What matters here? What values shape how we act, relate, and decide?



Ontology

Who are we becoming? What kinds of selves are present—and what is being denied?



Epistemology

How do we know what we know? What knowledge is honored, and what is dismissed?

Rather than impose an outcome-oriented process, EcoDialogues uses dialogue itself—in the spirit of David Bohm and depth psychological traditions—as the field in which insights arise, assumptions soften, and transformation of perspective becomes possible.

Research Methodology

As a research initiative, EcoDialogues employs:



Mixed-methods assessment
(qualitative dialogue analysis and
quantitative pre/post measures)



Participatory action research
principles where participants are
co-researchers



Iterative refinement based on
emergent findings



Contribution to the validation of
Space as Metaphor as a
transformative leadership
framework

Session Details

Session One: Internal Space

Through guided questions, somatic awareness, and reflective silence, the first session invites participants to slow down and investigate the internal spaces that shape their actions. Participants practice "Active Receptivity" and document their experience of making space within themselves.

Session Two: Shared Space

This session brings participants into relational dialogue—not to debate or align—with a focus on how different internal spaces interact, intersect, or resist one another. Here, we operationalize "Dialogue as Method—Witnessing Without Forcing," gathering data on how space-holding practices enable collective insight.

Session Three: The Field

The final session expands the view with a focus on how internal and shared spaces participate in a larger field—organizational culture, social systems, and collective memory. Participants map systemic patterns and practice "Accountability Over Accuracy," documenting insights that will inform both their ongoing practice and the research base.



Post-Program Integration

- Follow-up assessment at 3 and 6 months to measure sustained impact
- Optional contribution of insights to the Spaciology Encyclopedia
- Access to emerging best practices from the growing community of practice

Connect With Us

About UYM Charities

EcoDialogues is a program of UYM Charities, a 501(c)(3) organization with Tax ID: 16-1635726.

Support Our Mission

Your tax-deductible contribution helps us continue providing transformative services to individuals, teams, and organizations in need while advancing research on space-based approaches to transformation.

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Research Foundation

EcoDialogues is a dialogical, transdisciplinary approach that operationalizes Space as Metaphor across internal, relational, and systemic domains. This initiative contributes to the empirical validation called for in recent scholarship on transformative leadership and space-making practices.

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