



Overview

Uncomfortable topics such as politics, social equity, and climate change naturally generate differing viewpoints. Many of us lack the basic tools that are necessary for safely navigating these topics in a professional setting without disrupting the day-to-day needs of a modern organization. This workshop will provide your team with a few simple methods navigating hard conversations in a way that is empowering for all parties involved.

Practical Outcomes

1. Gain interpersonal tools to leverage differing opinions into opportunities to improve your organizations products, culture, and efficiency.
2. Improve team cohesion to cultivate compassion and curiosity in place of fear, anger, and judgment.
3. Learn the essential skills for engaging with Climate Paradigm's work.

Workshop Flow

- 20-minute talk conveying the relevance of polarization to design, the climate crisis, and corporate culture.
- Container setting exercise – setting mutually agreed upon guidelines for discussing challenging topics
- 20-minute talk on techniques for managing polarization relevant to the group taking part in the workshop and the activities of their organization + baseline communication skills.
- Compassion & Curiosity exercise – Practicing with the techniques in a controlled setting.
- Invitation for continued work

Business Value

The world is in a challenging position socially, economically, and environmentally. This naturally results in a wide range of ways humans react to these global circumstances that are foundationally based in fear and a desire for connection and safety. These differing responses (including anger, denial, apathy, and activism) are the root cause of a societal increase in polarization – which has a subtle but real effect on business productivity, culture, and success.

Turning against each other as opposed to addressing the root cause of our apparent differences in opinion is one of the fundamental pitfalls of why humanity appears to be 'stuck' on a trajectory towards climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecological collapse. Learning to constructively work with the differing opinions inside an organization as opposed to tip-toeing around sensitive issues is a critical component of addressing the climate crisis (polycrisis) from at a foundational level.