In a democracy, everyone has a voice. As we build a world where we all belong, we can also ensure everyone has an equal voice in deciding how our society is structured and how systems, communities and institutions function.
Cultivating civic infrastructure and civic participation for healthier communities

Civic participation

The way that people participate in the life of a community to improve conditions and shape the community’s future
Why does civic participation matter to equity?

We will make progress toward health equity when all people can be heard and have meaningful involvement in decision-making processes.

Fostering civic participation
Bridging

The practice of two or more individuals or groups coming together acknowledging their differences affirming their unique identities building new shared one identity.

Bridging

Rejects the idea of “those people”. Embraces the idea of “us and we”.

Illustration credit: Sakina Saïdi for OBI x Fine Acts
Bridging

Allows us grow.
To learn more about others and ourselves.
Makes space for civic participation.

Please welcome Caroline Mehl
Co-founder and executive director
Constructive Dialogue Institute
What does the research say about how humans process information?

What is needed to engage in constructive dialogue?

What are the resources to start constructive dialogues?

Questions we will explore...

Constructive dialogue can organize stakeholders around advancing equity.
Join Us!
Discussion Group

When: Immediately following the webinar

What: Interactive learning experience, opportunity to share ideas and ask questions

How: Zoom

Why: Deepen the webinar learning, allow further exploration

The Problem

In recent years, schools, campuses, and workplaces have been torn apart by ideological differences.
Our Approach

Engaging
Interactive and adaptive program.

Evidence-Based
Built-in pre and post-assessment measures outcomes.

Practical
Teaches practical behavior-change techniques.

Scalable
Efficient delivery model.

About CDI
The Constructive Dialogue Institute (CDI) is a national non-profit that builds educational tools to equip Americans with the skills to communicate and collaborate across differences.
Communities We Serve

We help build cultures where people recognize our shared humanity, embrace differences as strengths, and work together to solve collective challenges.

1. Higher Education
2. High School
3. Workplace
4. Religious Communities
5. Local Governments

Our Reach

1,000+ Institutions
60,000+ Learners
48 States

100+ Disciplines
1,000+ Educators
95% of Users Recommend
Our Ancient Brains

Our minds are divided between two parts that sometimes conflict
Two systems in the mind

Automatic Thinking
- Fast
- Unconscious
- Automatic
- Emotional

Controlled Thinking
- Slow
- Conscious
- Effortful
- Logical

The Rider and Elephant

Controlled Thinking

Automatic Thinking
Intuitions come first, reasoning second

Confirmation Bias

FACTS & EVIDENCE

OUR BELIEFS

What we discredit & ignore

What we look for & recall

What we want to be true
A form of conversation where people with different perspectives try to understand each other — without giving up their own beliefs — in order to work together.

The Five Principles of Constructive Dialogue

- Let go of winning.
- Share your story and invite others to do the same.
- Ask questions to understand.
- Make yourself and others feel heard.
- When possible, seek common ground.
Power Imbalances

What are the limits of constructive dialogue?

“You challenge them. But you don’t challenge them rudely or violently. You do it politely and intelligently. And when you do things that way chances are they will reciprocate and give you a platform.

So [Roger Kelly, the Klan leader] and I would sit down and listen to one another over a period of time. And the cement that held his ideas together began to get cracks in it. And then it began to crumble. And then it fell apart.”

– Daryl Davis
Dialogue & DEIB

- Treat others with dignity and respect
- Make others feel heard
- Connect in authentic ways
- Identify areas that are shared

CDI’s Suite of Tools

We offer a suite of tools that help institutions build open and inclusive cultures. Our tools include:

- E-Learning
- Professional development
- Analytics
Research

Research from more than 50,000 learners and two randomized controlled trials — the most reliable and valid form of scientific research — have demonstrated the effectiveness of Perspectives.

Case Study

1 Leadership Development

TEKsystems, a company of Allegis group, has included Perspectives in its leadership development programming since 2018.

2 Company-wide Access

TEKsystems included Perspectives as its first external partner to be offered through its new company-wide professional development offering to employees "Best U."

3 Employee Onboarding

TEKsystems' sister company, Allegis Global Solutions, has begun implementing Perspectives in its new employee onboarding.
Visit our website:
www.constructivedialogue.org

Contact us:

Kourtney Bradshaw-Clay, Director of Partnerships
kourtney@constructivedialogue.org

POLL

Do feel you could adapt the strategies shared during the webinar to use within your community?

Yes
No
Maybe
Questions?

Click on survey link in the chat
The power of narrative to influence civic health
May 23, 2023

Gloria Dickerson
Founder and CEO
We2gether Creating Change

Jeanette Raymond
Public Health Practice
Assistant Section Manager
MN Department of Health

Understanding Public Health 3.0
June 20, 2023

Special Guest
Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH
Dean and Robert A. Knox Professor
Boston University
School of Public Health
New County Health Rankings released
March 29

countyhealthrankings.org

Join Us!
Discussion Group

When: Immediately following the webinar

What: Interactive learning experience, opportunity to share ideas and ask questions

How: Zoom

Why: Deepen the webinar learning, allow further exploration