

We live in a polarized world where politics and ideology from both the left and the right wing spectra permeate our professional, educational and private worlds. We are left in either echo chambers, bubbles of like-minded individuals or choirs we preach to...or we are left frustrated by our inability to reason with those from the opposing side who are espousing unacceptable views.

Applied Debate consists of multiple exercises and skills-building activities that seek to empower individuals to seek out, engage with and enter dialogue with people whose views (radically) differ from their own. In the process we generate a deeper understanding of polarization and cuts across cultural contexts to build on the core of polarized discussions - the questions of identity, belonging, discrimination, globalization and power inequalities.

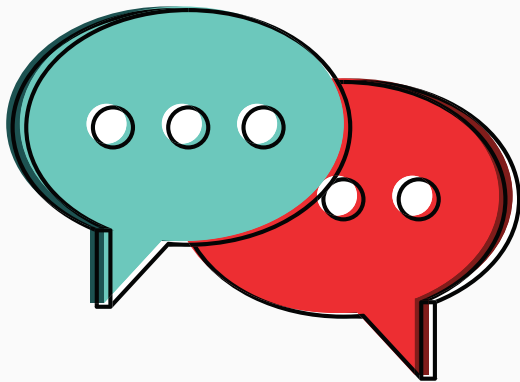
APPLIED DEBATE

Training Workshops for
Depolarizing Communication



About the Methodology

Applied Debate is a collection of approaches that foster depolarization communication skills. The Applied Debate methodology was developed and tested in the field through a series of workshops and dialogues with both those using discriminatory and hate speech rhetoric, and those targeted by it.



The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.
- George Bernard Shaw

WORKSHOPS

Rhetorical Self-Defense

Rhetorical self-defense is an interactive workshop that builds resiliency and the ability to respond to discriminatory remarks. Distress, heightened emotional state or plain shock can sometimes leave us tongue-tied. The rhetorical self-defense class teaches preparedness and different methods of responding, to replace the self-esteem damaging silence or the knee-jerk conflict-escalating response.

Rhetoric of Discrimination

...teaches the basic mistakes in argumentation by using everyday examples of hate speech and discriminatory remarks. Often we know something is wrong with an argument, but have a hard time pinpointing the exact issue - this workshop raises awareness & helps identify and respond to logical fallacies.

Talking to 'Racists'

...consists of multiple exercises and skills-building activities that seek to empower the participants to engage with and enter dialogue with people whose views differ from their own.

Applied Debate has been taught in various forms and settings, in cooperation with civil society organizations, international organizations, universities, political parties, teachers, youth workers and informal groups, in:

Albania	Poland
Bangladesh	Qatar
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Serbia
Croatia	Slovenia
Czech Republic	South Korea
Egypt	Tunisia
Georgia	UK
Germany	USA
Hungary	
Jordan	
Kosovo	
Libya	
Mexico	
the Netherlands	

