

SYLLABUS

course description

The course belongs to the class “catterizzante” alternativa in the MA in Eco-Social Design (LM-12). This course is a compulsory optional subject in the area “**Observe, analyse & apply**”

Course title	Moderation & Participation Area: Observe, analyse & apply
Course code	96113
Scientific sector	M-PSI/05 – Psicologia sociale
Degree	Master in Eco-Social Design (LM-12)
Semester	I
Year	1st and 2nd
Credits	6
Modular	No
Lecturer	Sabina Frei e-mail sabina.frei@unibz.it , https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/29908-sabina-frei
Scientific sector of the lecturer	-
Teaching language	English
Teaching assistant (if any)	-
Office hours	One hour after each lecture; other days by appointment
Teaching language	English
Total lecturing hours	30
Total hours of self-study and/or other individual educational activities	about 120
Attendance	highly recommended
Prerequisites	-
Course page	tbd

Course description

The course will give a general overview of scientific contents related to participation and is also designed for acquiring professional skills and knowledge in designing and facilitating participatory processes and in moderating conferences and meetings.

Educational objectives

Students will be able to:

- take into account the socio-economic aspects that characterize a territory, a community and a group of people;
- facilitate and promote the participation of different social actors;
- work with interdisciplinary, international and multidisciplinary teams;
- organize, manage and motivate a team;
- develop an individual way of thinking, leading to critical judgements and self-assessments;
- design by taking into account the needs and desires of a given territory, of a situation/set of circumstances, of a specific group of people, thanks to the ability of observing, listening, interacting and mediating amongst various social actors involved in the project;
- set up participatory and decision making processes which will contribute to the project development and the design, as well as to designing instruments and devices which will facilitate participation and decision making (in collaboration with experts);
- discuss and work with facilitators and experts in participation;

Knowledge will be acquired in the following fields:

- Fundamentals of public participation and the interplay between different dimensions of democracy
- Core elements of (and differences between) moderation and facilitation
- Skills for facilitating negotiation and decision making processes between different social actors

List of topics covered

Participation in the social sciences: **theoretical discourses** and practical implications (phase models of participation, participation as democratic vs consumerist practice, fields of participation)


Participation as a way of “designing the social” along the central question: Who is currently (not) involved? Critical reflection: Participation as “an instrument of domination”?

Participation **concepts and formats** are presented, analyzed and discussed in detail (objectives, target groups, degree of participation, suitability for different process phases and group sizes ...).

Critical reflection: How can we distinguish genuine participation from tokenistic practices and mere facilitation?

Different **moderation tools** for different target groups and contents are explained, analysed and tested: basic distinction between community, large-group, team and small-group facilitation in the context of participatory processes on the one hand and the moderation of public events on the other.

Teaching format

Frontal lectures will be interwoven with exercises and connected to the students’ project work, thereby also integrating the annual theme “hope”.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Students will gain knowledge on theoretical frameworks and concepts on public participation, also with reference to the field of participatory design.

Applying knowledge and understanding

Students will learn to design participatory processes and to properly apply facilitation and moderation tools.

Making judgments

Students will learn to critically reflect different modes and levels of participation and their impact on maintaining or changing power relations between so called “experts” and users or citizens and to judge also their own contribution to social change.

Communication skills

Students will learn how to get in contact and communicate with different stakeholders and how to present and negotiate their ideas and concepts with them.

Learning skills

Students will learn to identify the productive tension between theory and practice and how to interconnect them in a mutually enriching process

Assessment

Project work and oral: students have to design the **participatory process** related to a (current or past or possible future) project work with reference to the content of the classroom lectures and the required readings and discuss it during the oral exam.

Assessment language: English

Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks

Completeness and coherence of the participatory process concept

Clarity in the presentation and proper use of moderation/facilitation tools

Mastery of course related language

Ability to critically reflect the concept of participation with reference to the required readings

Required readings

Arnstein, Sherry R. (1969). A Ladder of Citizen Participation. Journal of the American Planning Association, Vol. 35, No. 4, pp. 216-224.

Bratteteig, T., Wagner, I. (2014). Disentangling Participation. Power and Decision-making in Participatory Design. Cham: Springer International Publishing AG.

Creighton, J. (2005). The Public Participation Handbook: Making Better Decisions Through Citizen Involvement. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Supplementary sources and readings

“Art of Hosting” Handbuch (2014). Download: http://aoh-spes-schlierbach.weebly.com/uploads/3/1/0/4/31043665/handbuch_aoh_schlierbach_2014.pdf

Bächtiger, A. (2018). The Oxford handbook of deliberative democracy (Oxford handbooks). Oxford New York: Oxford University Press.

Many voices one song: Shared power with sociocracy. (2018). Amherst, MA Sociocracy For All.

Sandfort, J., & Quick, K. (2017). Deliberative technology: A holistic lens for interpreting resources and dynamics in deliberation. *Journal of Public Deliberation*, 13(1), *Journal of public deliberation*, 2017, Vol.13 (1).

Additional readings and sources will be announced during the course and integrated in the digital Reserve Collection