

From: Peter Seyferth
To: Seminar Participants
Sent: 29 June 2011 17:03:42 MESZ
Subject: Democracy and Governance: Plan for the Session at 5 July 2011

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

enclosed you find the plan for the next session, at which I will be present and also announce the time, but, apart from that, contain myself mostly. I will sit down at this and that desk and listen curiously. I will have read the complete Sitrin book. But I intend to contribute as sparsely as possible in my role as teacher. Format and content shall coincide: the session on horizontalism should be organized horizontally.

This might be of good use for you, too—I can imagine. As I approached the most difficult academic test of my life, the MA intermediate examination (the final examination and the PhD were comparatively easy!), some classmates and I founded a learning group. This went fair to middling; what was lacking was a structure that ensured on the one hand that we really learned and on the other hand that what we learned was correct. I imagine that a structure like the one of the next session would have helped us very much. Maybe it will be useful for you in other contexts, too.

For the next session to work out you have to read your part of the text by all means. I know that at the moment it is much too hot outside for that—but in winter it is too cold, in fall it is too rainy and in spring it is too horny. Eventually you have to read all the study texts. Maybe this evening it will rain already, then you can read the first 20, 30 pages!

The next Tuesday will be very intensive again. If this gradually gets too much, too tiresome, or too anarchistic for you, be calm: In the following two sessions there will be a traditional course instructor, three paper presentations, and a discussion with just those who are well-prepared and who have paid attention. The others will be left alone, as is usual in other seminars. How the very last session of our seminar will look like will have to be decided yet. You can start to think about that. I could conceive of different things: another thematic session (e.g. concerning democratic education/school/university, or any aspect you feel the need of); or a reflective session to compile, sort, and evaluate what we have learned; or a session to present and discuss possible seminar paper topics. I would really appreciate you thinking about what you want to do with the last session and then democratically deciding on a plan that satisfies everyone and excludes no one. Since yesterday we all should know how to do that...

Enough said, you should read Harguindeguy and Sitrin instead of my lengthy e-mails...

Best wishes,
Peter Seyferth

Plan for the session „Case Study: Horizontalidad (Argentina)“**A horizontal session on horizontalism****Motto: Order through structure, not through leadership**

Although there will be only little professional input, much can be learned.
 You are not dependent on external experts but will become experts yourselves.
 One's weaker self will be disciplined through social control on an equal footing.

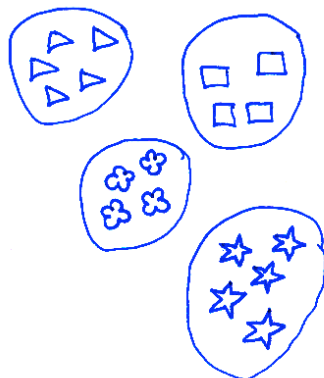
It is crucial that all of you cooperate actively in three steps:

1. **Reading** (not more than 80 pages)
 - a) Introductory text by Laura Collin Harguindeguy (2009)
 - b) Certain passages from Marina Sitrins book *Horizontalism* (2006)
 It is essential that you write down the most important statements you find in the eyewitness reports, focused on your respective topic.
2. First grouping: **Deliberation about the basics** of the respective topics
 Goals: Overcoming of individual perspectives on the eyewitness reports and producing a canon of central things to know about the topic.
3. Second grouping: **Sharing of knowledge**, opening up to other topics.
 All group members share their respective canons with the others.
 Goal: Gain comprehensive knowledge on central aspects of horizontalism.

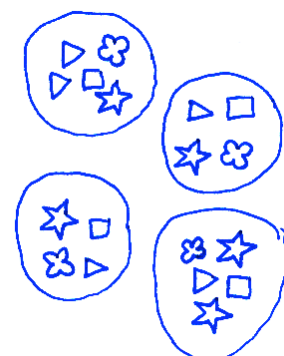
You will have to make the first step **at home**. Luckily, the eyewitness reports are easy to read because they originate from normal people using everyday language; unfortunately, there will be some redundancy. Your workload will be less than the ECTS expects from you, but you will have to read the texts like a political scientist—this is different from reading a political scientific text, because this time you are the scientist who has to analyze raw data.

Steps 2 and 3 will be made **during the session**. At step 2, the thematically homogenous groups I–IV will form. At step 3, the participants mix up so that in each group A–D there are delegates from all groups I–IV. (See diagram)

Groups I–IV (Step 2)



Groups A–D (Step 3)



It may be possible that there will be two people well-informed on the same topic in one group at step 3, but generally, no one is replaceable. Your classmates count on you!

Group assignment, reading assignment:

Group I (53 pages of eyewitness reports; don't forget to read 23 pages Harguindeguy!)

Topics: Context and Rupture (21–36), Autonomy (107–130), Women (199–214)

Members: xxx

Group II (56 pages of eyewitness reports; don't forget to read 23 pages Harguindeguy!)

Topics: Horizontalidad (37–66), Creation (131–158)

Members: xxx

Group III (55 pages of eyewitness reports; don't forget to read 23 pages Harguindeguy!)

Topics: Autogestión (67–105), Power (159–176)

Members: xxx

Group IV (54 pages of eyewitness reports; don't forget to read 23 pages Harguindeguy!)

Topics: Repression (177–197), Protagonism (215–237), Dreams (239–251)

Members: xxx

The splitting into groups A–D will happen dynamically. On each of the four desks lie four cards, labeled “I”, “II”, “III”, and “IV”. Example: A member of group I has to look for a desk where a card “I” still lies; they sit down and put the card into their pocket. Only when this card does not lie on any desk any more they may freely choose where to take a seat (Hint: go to the smallest group). The same goes for all other groups. This ensures that in each group A–D there are experts for all topics, so all participants can learn the complete canon.

Timetable:

When	What
4:00 PM	Arrange desks to four groups (eight seats each).
4:15 PM	Welcoming of seminar participants (Seyferth)
4:17 PM	Course evaluation, official form (This is mandatory once in each seminar)
4:27 PM	Groups I–IV take a seat, compare their perspectives on the eyewitness reports and agree upon the most important messages that should be shared with other groups. Average time: short topics 10min, long topics 15min.
4:57 PM	Groups A–D build (see above). One by one, the delegates of groups I–IV share their topics with the other participants. Average time: 4 x 8min (including questions)
5:29 PM	Quiz (you will not be graded, this is just to see what you have learned) The topics are drawn by lot; who has “won” a topic has to explain it very quickly (30sec), the audience decides on right/wrong using hand signs. Those who have drawn a blank can act as phone-a-friend for topics from their first group.