



Welcome! We're excited you're here!

**Take a moment to reflect on your intention
& put in the chat:**

Where are you calling in from?

What brings you here?

What's your connection to the theme of worldviews,
transformative learning, or deep change?

The Worldview Journey

**A new transformative learning approach to
explore, exchange, and expand worldviews**



Utrecht University



**Worldview
Journeys**

Annick de Witt, Ph.D.

Director Worldview Journeys Foundation

Researcher & educator Utrecht University

Why the WJ? At this time of existential, planetary crisis, we need a different kind of learning

- Our *poly-* or *metacrisis* brings awareness to the underlying cause of all our crises. It's us!
- More than just knowledgeable experts, the world needs wise humans!
- (Young) people need support to sense-make and thrive in this challenging time.

"Education is the most powerful weapon we have to change the world."

~ Nelson Mandela





What is the *Worldview Journey*?

This scalable, transformative program consists of 3 short learning journeys (\pm 4-6 hours in total):

Explore your worldview (~ individual)

Gain perspective on your perspective

Exchange across worldviews (~ collective)

Learn to learn from other perspectives

Expand your worldview (~ systemic)

Cultivate a planetary perspective

Developed and researched in collaboration with UU

- Sustainability education at Utrecht University
- Using *educational design research* (2020 - now)
- Iterative design process of conception, testing, evaluation, & improvement. w/ \pm 2000 students
- Successful at both Bachelor and Masters level, with big and small groups, online and on site.

De Witt et al. (under review). *Designing Transformative Interventions for a World in Crisis: How the 'Worldview Journey' invites learners to explore, exchange, and expand perspectives.*



We use a transformative learning approach

Look at the *eyes with which we see* rather than just at *what we see*.

“Learning within a paradigm does not change the paradigm, whereas learning that facilitates a recognition of paradigm ... is by definition transformative.”

~ Stephen Sterling



The program has been received well by students

"Illuminating!" "Interesting" "Fun!" "Engaging" "Intriguing" "Enlightening"

"It was different and refreshing!"

"It was intriguing and self actualising."

"I have gained more respect for the different worldviews. This has been very valuable."

"I liked the Worldview Journey. It is different than usual ... you get the opportunity to discuss more. I also liked that you get ... to think about your own worldview and reflect upon it, and that you hear about others' worldviews."

"... to solve [climate change] you need different perspectives and ways of doing this. This journey can help understand and implement these different views and manners."


Success factor 1: The topic of worldviews explored transformatively rather than (just) theoretically

"The test ... allows you to immediately apply it to yourself, which makes it much more interesting."

"I learned a lot of new things and my awareness of my own worldview really grew."

"...the worldview test was really interesting and helpful. There were a lot of deep questions I had never thought about, ... [that] helped me learn more about myself and my perspective on the world."

Take the Test
What's your worldview?



TAKE THE TEST

Success factor II: The seven-step learning journey

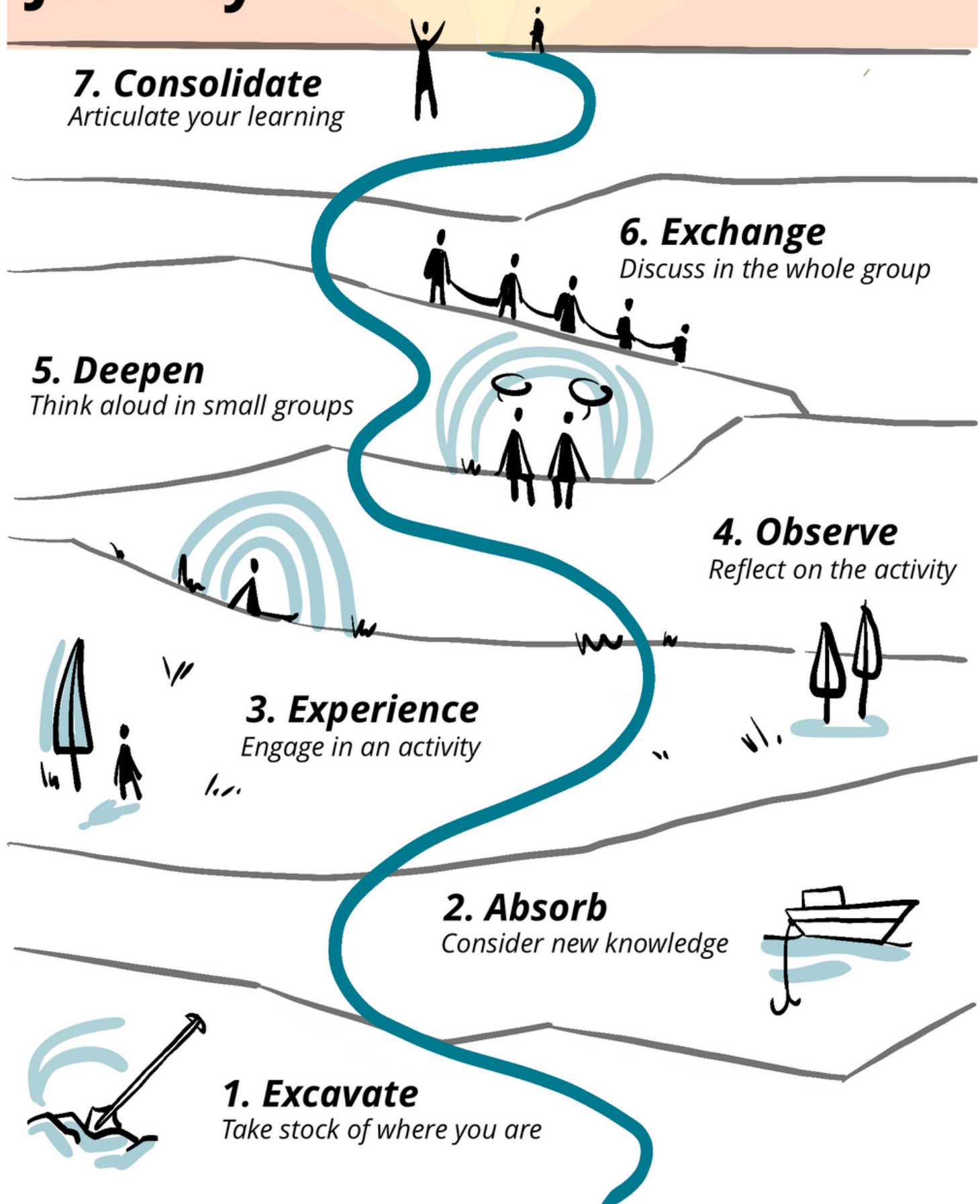
"It's such another way of learning and it will 'stick' more."

"I really liked the 7 steps structure of the journey. It was a good combination between self-study, testing and discussion. I learned a lot from it."

"I thought the preparations at home were interesting. I could take my time for them and have the peace to absorb everything and let it settle."

De Witt et al., 2023. *The Seven-Step Learning Journey. A Learning cycle supporting design, facilitation, and assessment of transformative learning.*

Seven-Step Learning Journey



Success factor III: Stream-of-consciousness dialogues

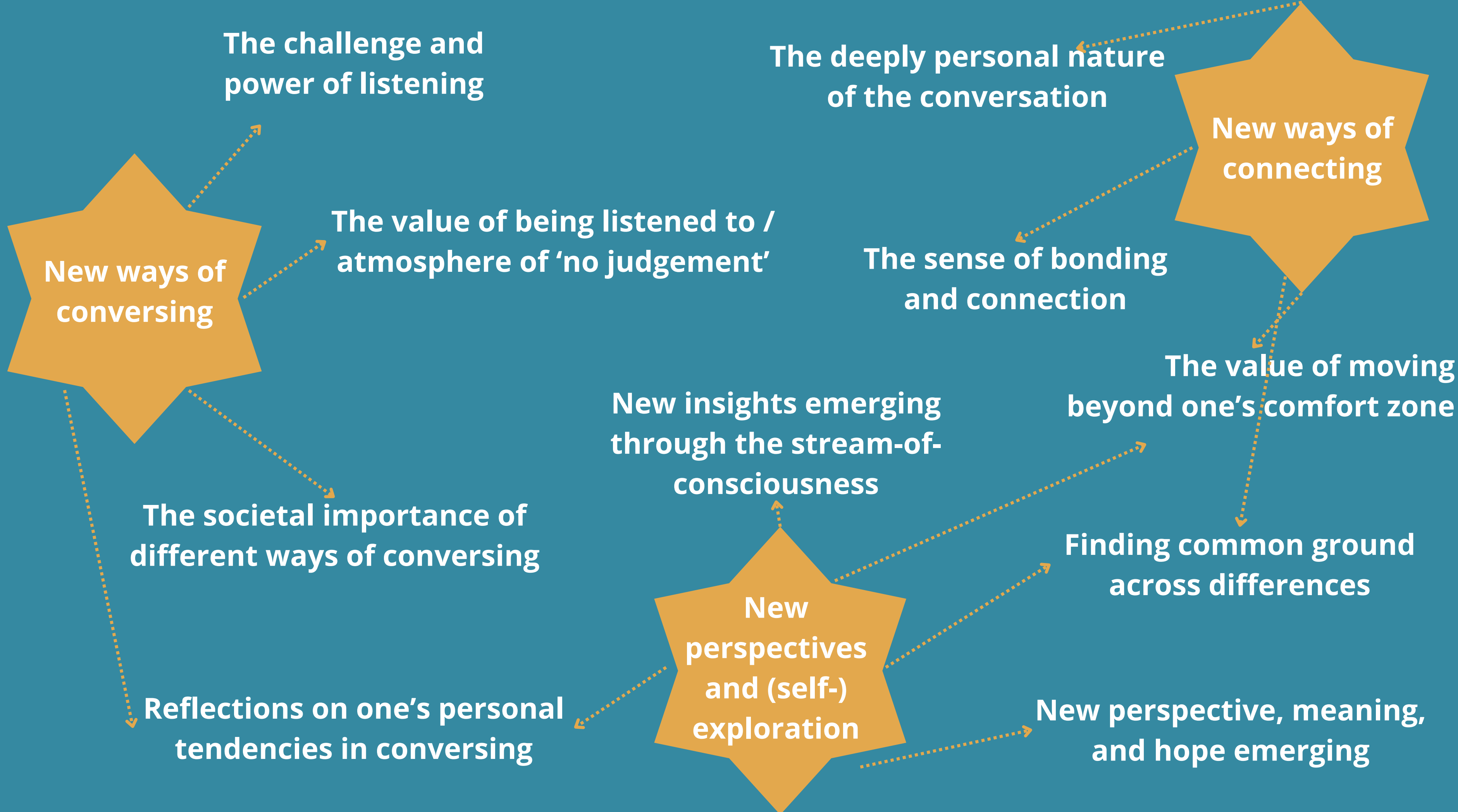
"Intense but beautiful. I was dreading talking to a stranger in such a personal way for 45 minutes, but we could have talked together for hours in this special way."

"It was a very nice conversation that made me very happy!"

"Very interesting to ... think together about deeper questions and points of view, I really liked it and I had never had such conversations with anyone before."

De Witt, forthcoming. *Facilitating transformative conversations: Stream-of-consciousness dialogues offer new ways of conversing, connecting, and (self-)exploration.*





The challenge and power of listening

The deeply personal nature of the conversation

New ways of connecting

New ways of conversing

The value of being listened to / atmosphere of 'no judgement'

The sense of bonding and connection

The value of moving beyond one's comfort zone

New insights emerging through the stream-of-consciousness

The societal importance of different ways of conversing

Finding common ground across differences

New perspectives and (self-) exploration

Reflections on one's personal tendencies in conversing

New perspective, meaning, and hope emerging

Overview of the Educational Worldview Journey



Seven-step learning journey <i>Rough duration</i>	Level 1 – EXPLORE <i>Explore your worldview: Gain perspective on your perspective</i>	Level 2 – EXCHANGE <i>Exchange across worldviews: Learn to learn from other perspectives</i>	Level 3 – EXPAND <i>Expand your worldview: Cultivate planetary perspectives</i>
1. Excavate <i>± 10 min.</i>	Journaling exercise	Journaling exercise	Journaling exercise
2. Absorb <i>± 30 min.</i>	Video-lectures What are worldviews; how do they relate to the issues of our time; and why explore them?	Video-lectures Why exchange across worldviews; what to be aware of; and how to do so constructively?	Video-lectures What are planetary perspectives; why are they crucial at this time; and how to cultivate them?
3. Experience <i>± 20-60 min.</i>	Activity Take the Worldview Test	Activity Do the Worldview Interview	Activity Do the Worldview Walk
4. Observe <i>± 10-30 min. individual ± 30-60 min. plenary</i>	Reflect Reflect on test results	Reflect Reflect on interview	Reflect Reflect on walk
5. Deepen <i>± 60 min.</i>	Stream-of-consciousness Explore your worldview and its biographical roots	Stream-of-consciousness Explore your relationship to other worldviews and perspectives	Stream-of-consciousness Explore your relationship to nature and our planetary crisis
6. Exchange <i>± 30-60 min.</i>	Group discussion	Group discussion	Group discussion
7. Consolidate <i>± 10 min.</i>	Journaling exercise	Journaling exercise	Journaling exercise



About the teacher training

- This is a pilot!
- 5 live sessions on Zoom - starts April 23rd
- The training leads you through the Journey, while supporting you to use (parts of) it in your own contexts, and strengthening your facilitation skills
- Some prep in your own time for session 2, 3, 4.
- You don't need to be a teacher!
- We're expecting a lively mix of people with different backgrounds.



**THANK
YOU!**



Stream-of-consciousness dialogues

- 2 people x 3 prompts x 3 min = \pm 20 min + few min for open dialogue
- Decide who starts and who keeps the time.
- Talker speaks *stream-of-consciousness* style, until the time's up, repeating and completing the prompt (go with the flow, verbalize your experience).
- Listener practices *deep listening* - without interruption or reaction! Listen to understand, be present, offer your full attention.
- Then shift roles (and you can change up who starts too).
- Commit to having a confidential conversation.

The 3 prompts

- **What I'm grateful for in my life is...**
- **What stood out to me in the presentation we just heard is...**
- **What I'd like to learn, understand, or develop with respect to the theme of worldviews, transformative learning, and deep change is...**