

Globalisation and Identity

The old forms of finding who one is as one goes through childhood and youth into adulthood have gone. No longer does one belong to a tribe or extended family, nor even to a certain town or country, but to an entire global community in which what happens on one part of the earth may existentially affect your daily life somewhat completely different. Issues of wealth and poverty, climate change and environmental destruction, war, racism, marginalisation of communities are all results of global control being in hands that do not recognise what is beneficial to the human being or to humanity as a whole.

Where then does a young person stand in trying to find some meaningful future, some course of study, profession or simply a philosophy of life that makes some sense? How did the world come to be in this situation? What is the point of possessing human rights one cannot, in practice, exercise?

But in what kind of society do you then wish to live? What changes do you want to see happen, or do effect in the world? Would you be able to make a meaningful difference or simply make things worse than they are already?

The idea of this workshop is to begin with the final three questions and at the same time gain some real insights into how the global economy and political interests function. Through specifically designed globalisation game discussions and a few presentations we shall try to establish what initiatives each member of the group has and how he or she could go about realising these. The feeling that we can become active, that small changes can gradually become larger changes, is fundamental to being able to identify with the world – to know who we are and what we want.

Day 1

First questions – getting to know one another.

What do you want to change in the world?

The World Trade Game – introduction and rules.

The basic global powers and institutions:

UNO, UN Security Council, World Court, NATO, WTO, World Bank, IMF, TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnerships) etc.

Day 2

In what kind of society do you want to live?

The four pillars of happiness as defined by the Kingdom of Bhutan.

- Care for the Environment
- Fair and Equitable economy
- Introspection and Spirituality
- Good Governance.

Further questions to globalisation and the international economy

What is my initiative and how can I realise this?