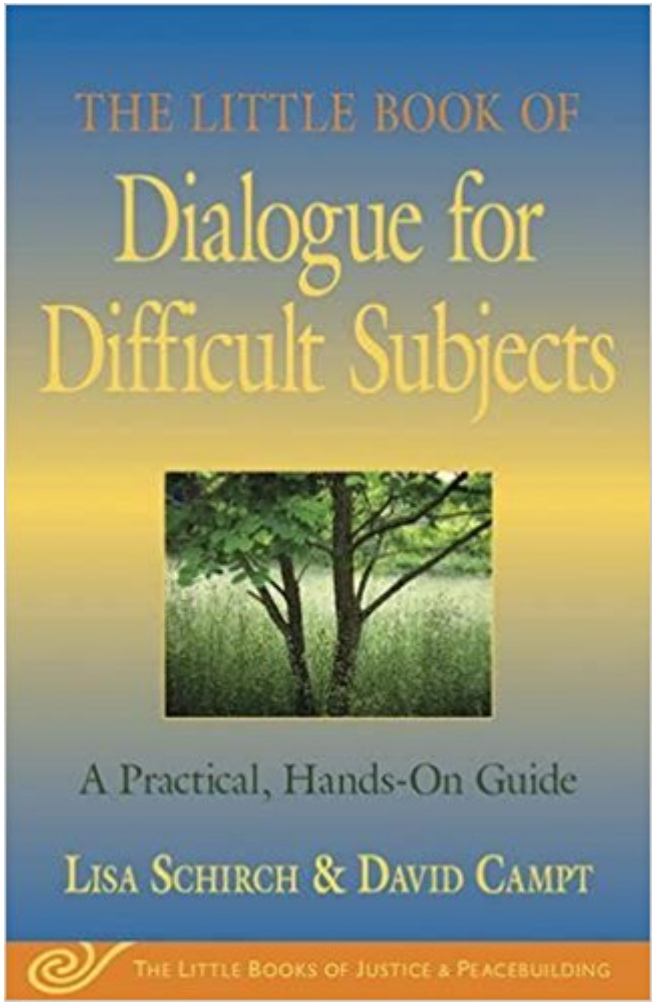
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The Little Book Of Dialogue For Difficult Subjects: A Practical, Hands-On Guide (Little Books Of Justice & Peacebuilding)



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Synopsis

Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â The word "dialogue" suffers from over-use, yet its practice is as transforming and as freshly hopeful as ever. Authors Schirch and Campt demonstrate dialogue's life and possibilities in this clear and absorbing manual: "Dialogue allows people in conflict to listen to each other, affirm their common ground, and explore their differences in a safe environment."Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Schirch has worked throughout the Southern hemisphere in peacebuilding projects. Campt has focused on racial and class reconciliation in American cities.

Book Information

Series: Little Books of Justice & Peacebuilding

Paperback: 92 pages

Publisher: Good Books (November 25, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1561485519

ISBN-13: 978-1561485512

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.3 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #38,271 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÃ Â Books > Law > Business > Arbitration, Negotiation & Mediation #18 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > War & Peace #95 inÃ Â Books > Law > Rules & Procedures

Customer Reviews

Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Lisa Schrich is a professor of peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and prgram director of the 3D Security Initiative (www.3Dsecurity.org), which promotes conflict prevention and peacebuilding in U.S. security policymaking. With colleagues in the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at EMU, Schirch consults with a network of organizations involved in peacbuilding activities throughout the U.S., Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. She has worked in over 20 countries.Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â A former Fulbright Fellow in East and West Africa, Schirch has written four books and numbrous articles on conflict preventions and peacebuilding.Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â She is a frequent public speaker and has TV and radio experience discussing U.S. foreign

policy.Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â She holds a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Waterloo, Canada, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University.

This little book is essential for groups dealing with difficult subjects. We use it in racial reconciliation work. Very effective! by Reconciliation Eagles.com

I loved how accessible and actionable the concepts in this book are. I am a facilitator who is new to intentionally designing content. This book is essential.

This book was very helpful dor professional and personal dialogue.

Very good

Concise and thought provoking. Excellent read for those who hope to help those in pain

Not read yet, using it Spring semester for class on Interfaith skills at Hartford Seminary. To date I am a student and have not read the text! I am looking forward to the text and the class.

I needed this book and a few others for my class in college. We haven’t got around to read them yet, but they came in great condition.

My expertise in facilitating difficult dialogue has been earned mainly through hard experience, but reading this book made me feel more equipped, and even excited, about the possibilities of facilitating more dialogue in a systematic way in my personal and professional lives. I am a counseling psychologist who has worked with individuals, couples, groups, and organizations in improving communication and resolving conflict. Within organizations and within families there are often many stakeholders with different perspectives. Everyone is working to take action or make changes, but often the important dialogue about different perspectives is absent - and can lead to larger conflicts, misunderstandings, and impaired productivity down the line. This methodology could help in so many different work settings and communities, not to mention within families.The practical, step-by-step style of this book is its most significant strength. That the book was able to evoke a feeling in me of desire to approach, rather than avoid, difficult discussions, is truly inspiring.

This book lives up to its title of being the "little" book - it’s a quick 90-page read. I appreciated this given the bookshelves of half-read books in my office. It occurred to me upon finishing the book that the authors have done a great service by giving readers a digestible chunk of a large topic. Because facilitating dialogue is a skill, readers are best served initially by having the process simplified and explained with concrete examples.Lest you think my comments imply that only laypersons and novices will find this book helpful, let me point out that the book places the methodology within the context of social change processes. The book’s reach is ambitious and will allow people from all ends of the spectrum - those who have been trained in facilitation to those without any prior exposure to communications skills training - to find something of interest.Counselors, psychologists, social workers, meeting facilitators, and corporate trainers will recognize some topics covered in the book, such as setting ground rules. The methodology presented will be familiar in many ways, but will also present new perspectives. The authors have impressive experience facilitating dialogue successfully with groups both large and small. They make their points using case examples throughout the book, which made the material come alive. Professionals who read this book will see the value in adding dialogue facilitation into their repertoire of skills.One area where this book could be better concerns the pre-conditions the authors mention as necessary for effective dialogue - enough shared perception of language abilities, cultural differences in expressiveness (verbal and emotional), and openness to learning and changing. This book is designed to be little so I didn’t expect it to go into detail on how to foster these pre-conditions or work with their absence, but in the future I would love to see more from these authors in another book on those topics!Another warning is that it takes experience, training, and some talent to be a good facilitator of difficult dialogue - this book is a great start, but people who feel called to this line of work will want to get training and not go it alone initially. The book emphasizes the value of teams of facilitators working together to support the dialogue process and one another and I couldn’t agree more. These authors have worked well together in presenting a wonderfully useful set of guidelines for an important and underutilized skill set. I recommend this book highly.

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