

Permaculture in Community

Social Permaculture & Community Facilitators Masterclass

A six day intensive post PDC Permaculture Course.

Empower yourself to empower others.

Social permaculture with course leader **Robyn Francis** exploring the space where people care meets cultural ecology and social design and how skilled facilitation can harness community energy for collective action. Anyone involved in community gardens, permaculture groups, transition initiatives, ecovillages, teaching or sustainable development work, needs good facilitation and participatory planning skills. Discover new tools and processes for strategic and action planning, to develop community resilience, respond creatively to change and preparedness for disasters and system collapse.

Through this short intensive course, Robyn Francis shares over 3 decades of international experience in community design, facilitation and participatory process in diverse situations, cultural and climatic landscapes.

This intensive course aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of permaculture community initiatives and project work through social design and inclusive facilitation— empowerment for building resilient community.

Topics include: • Social permaculture design, social and cultural ecology; • ESM, social catchments and strategic planning for communities, bioregions and transition initiatives; • identifying and nurturing sense of place and community spirit • Facilitation skills for inclusive processes; • Participatory processes for consultation, decision-making & design; forums, affinity matrix, imagineering, milling, visualisations, popcorn, speak-out, conversation cafes and many more... • Creating community contracts, protocols, procedures, accountability, governance and decision-making processes; • Program logistics, planning, team building, developing networks, promotion; • Adapting to ethnic, cultural and human diversity in the community; • Communications, dealing with difficult people and situations; • Holmgren's principles for activists; • Conviviality, creativity, fun, and community glue; • Connecting with indigenous and traditional wisdoms, reframing our cultural ecology.

Course activities will include presentations, discussion, role play, group project work and participatory processes, you will learn many of these processes by doing them through your course work.

Robyn Francis, internationally renowned permaculture designer, educator and pioneer, has been working in community facilitation and design for over 35 years. Her range of experience includes intentional communities and ecovillages; community-based transition, sustainability and bioregional initiatives; community consultation and participatory design for community groups, government, corporate clients and developers, plus work with indigenous communities and overseas development programs. Robyn Francis was founding director of Permaculture International, Djanbung Gardens and Permaculture College Australia. She lives in Nimbin, NSW Australia, a community with 4 decades of experience in social innovation, community development, sustainable lifestyle and non-violent activism. More information about Robyn visit www.permaculture.com.au and www.robynfrancis.com

COURSE PROGRAM 2015

Day 1.

Introductions

Protocols

What is Social Permaculture?

Cultural Ecology

Social and Cultural Diversity
The power of story-telling
ESM Eco- Social Matrix
Social catchments and human- scale design
Design for human life- cycle
Social planning and design
Icebreakers, thermometers & human matrix

Day 2.

Community Facilitation in Permaculture
Participatory facilitation: Aims, Advantages, Disadvantages
Qualities of a facilitator
Designing a program/ process
Components of a facilitated program
Facilitators Tool Kit:
•Team building •Energizers
•Creative Expression
•Problem Solving
•Experiential
Facilitators Tool Kit:
•Information Gathering
•Discussion & Exploration
Trust Games – about facilitating trust games: Reflection & feedback

Day 3

Inclusive approaches for Shy & dominant participants
Active listening,
Adjusting for Cultural & Human diversity
Planning a project and
intro to strategic planning
Practical small group project – draft a strategic plan
Me to we, why are people in denial.
Society in transition & facilitating
Transition Workshop
Milling, visualisation, group work,
questioning
reflection
Disadvantages
Exploration
Qualities of a facilitator
program
Solving •Experiential
feedback

Day 4

Inclusive approaches for Shy & dominant participants
Active listening, questioning
Framing questions
Roleplay
Adjusting for Cultural & Human diversity
Planning a project and logistics – resources, venue, costs
intro to strategic planning
Practical small group project – draft a strategic plan framework
Feedback & Discussion
Me to we, why are people in denial.
Society in transition & facilitating change – personal & collective
Transition Workshop

Milling, visualisation, group work, reflection

Day 5

Facilitation, inclusive process, participatory planning & community consultation

Case studies – Nimbin Sense of place, Sustainable Nimbin,

Meeting facilitation

Discussion, Negotiation and Decision making processes

Dealing with group politics, difficult personalities,

Conflict resolution approaches & Role play

Governance systems

Holmgren's principles for activists

Council of all beings

Day 6

Plan a facilitation process for practical, planning or learning activity

Group facilitation activity

Group facilitation activity

Course Review & Feedback

Certificate presentation

Ancient wisdoms, patterns and cultural ecology

Eightfold Year, seasonal calendars and festivals

Seasonal sharings, ceremonies & events

Bringing the best from the past into the future.

DATES: Participants arrival 29th August, final registration and evening meal. Course begins 30th August with six full days including evenings . It concludes on the evening of the 4th September. Departure after breakfast on the 5th.

LOCATION / HOSTS: This course will be held at a new community just outside Brasov in Romania, about 200 KM north of Bucharest. The name of this community is "Armonia Brassovia" and you can find out more about them on the english version of the webpage here: <http://armoniabrassovia.ro/?lang=en>

Armonia Brassovia is a recently developing community, that has grown to more than 50 families since this great project started in 2012, and the members have been active in a number of festivals already, like this one: <http://www.permacultura.ro/blog/2014/11/25/festivalului-comunitatii-autosustenabile-din-romania/>

COSTS: This is a fully inclusive live in course with all accommodation and food included in the one fee. It also includes a full Course Handbook with the whole curriculum detailed. Travel is not included. However assistance for any internal travel could be supported with respectful requests.

This all inclusive fee is 700 Euros. Scholarships maybe available. A deposit payment of 350 Euros to ensure your space in this course is required by 1st of May.

CONTACT: Address all communication to the hosting group from Armonia Brassovia through email:workshops@armoniabrassovia.ro