





**FROM THE
ROOTS UP:
THEORETICAL
FOUNDATIONS OF
INTERGROUP
DIALOGUE**

ABOUT THE FOUNDATIONS

This section describes the theoretical foundations of intergroup dialogue. There are four groups of theories that inform intergroup dialogue:

- * Dialogue foundations
- * Social engagement foundations
- * Social justice foundations
- * Social work foundations.

This section includes:

-  A schemata integrating the frameworks
-  An in-depth examination of each theory and how the theory relates to IGD.

DIALOGUE FOUNDATIONS

The dialogue foundations draw from communication and education models. Bohm's dialogue building blocks, Freire's dialogic education, and the spiral model of active learning describe what dialogue is and what needs to be in place for dialogue to be effective.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT FOUNDATIONS

Social engagement models, such as intergroup contact theory in social psychology and group development, offer guidance on the conditions under which positive interactions and relations can be fostered among diverse groups.

SOCIAL JUSTICE FOUNDATIONS

The dialogue is intended not only to transform the way participants think about themselves and social issues, but to help them take action to transform our society. Theories related to social justice offer a way to understand oppression and the path to transformation.

SOCIAL WORK FOUNDATIONS

The social work foundation explains the importance and utility of intergroup dialogue for culturally competent, socially just and empowerment-oriented practice.

If you are in a field other than social work, identify theoretical models in your area that tie in with intergroup dialogue.

***EMPOWERMENT APPROACH TO
INTERGROUP DIALOGUE***

Together, these foundations inform the *Empowerment Approach to Intergroup Dialogue*. This model, described in the next section on pp. 24-25, brings together the four elements of intergroup dialogue:

- * Raising critical social consciousness
- * Fostering competencies for sustained dialogue
- * Building a sense of connection and community
- * Envisioning change and taking action.

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF INTERGROUP DIALOGUE

This figure illustrates the four theoretical foundations of intergroup dialogue:

- * Dialogue foundations
- * Social engagement foundations
- * Social justice foundations
- * Social work foundations.



These theories help facilitators:

- * Understand the theories informing IGD
- * Appreciate the design and structure of IGDs
- * Draw useful lessons for facilitating IGDs
- * Make informed decisions about whether and how to deviate from the curriculum.

