How to talk with “the others”?



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Lukáš Zorád, lukas@pdcs.sk

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We work on the capability of people to talk to each other.

We educate people in the areas of conflict and development; we conduct community meetings and processes of participatory decision-making. We focus on three main areas:



WORKING WITH CONFLICT



SUPPORTING PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING



GLOBAL AND CIVIC EDUCATION

Lukáš Zorád, Lukas@pdcs.sk

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Program:

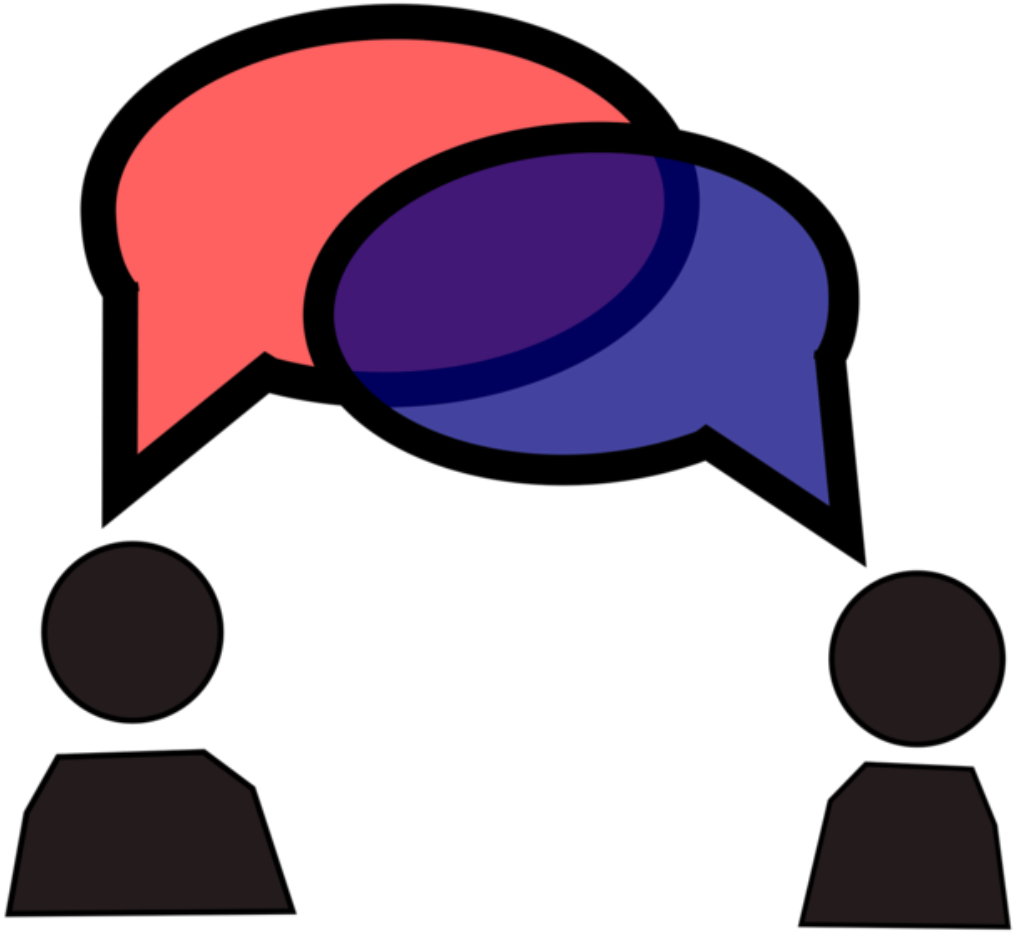
- Pick your own case study (ideally)
- Simulated dialogue (7x7 minutes)
- Analyses and discussion what works and what doesn´t
- People who did it well

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What brough you here?

- **What motivated you to come to this workshop?**
- **Do you have practical example of where you met (or can meet) someone who holds strongly different opposing values/opinions? Please share the most concrete example you can!**

Dialogue exercise



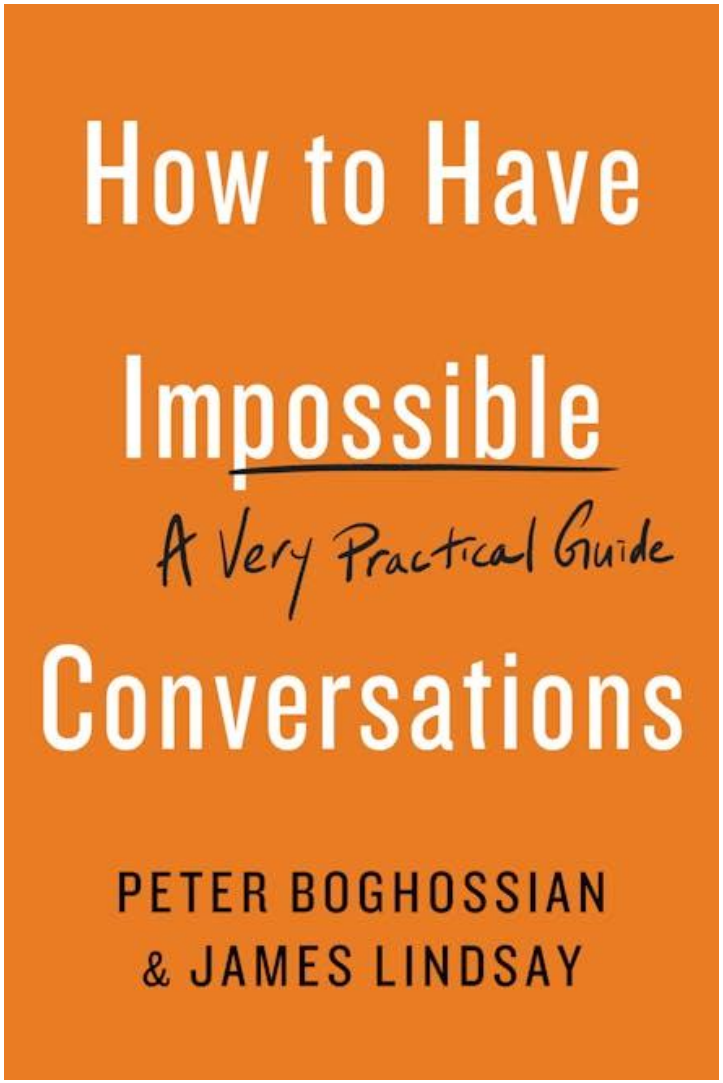
Dialogue

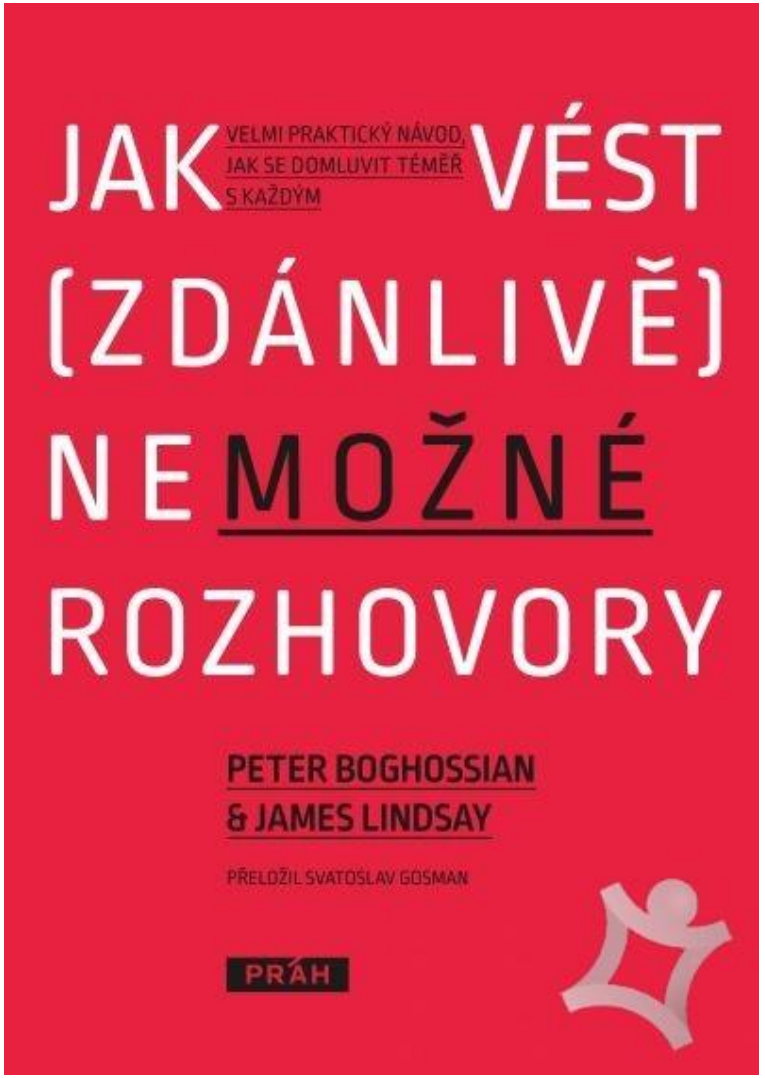
1) Think of a person that you do not like, or that you think hates you (or you hate them).

2) Imagine, you have met them and you must stay in the conversation for 7 minutes!

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OK, but now… how to carry out that dialogue / Discussions?





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Seven points for successful difficult conversations

- **The goal of the conversation** (Do we want to change the opinion of the person or to understand them?)
- **Partnership** (Are we looking for a partner or enemy?)
- **Mutual relationship** (Do not reduce the person to one area of their opinion)
- **Emphatic listening** (are we interested in the other person or in defending our own positions?)
- **Don´t give unsolicited advice** (avoid moral high ground)
- **Intentions** (Do not expect negative intentions)
- **End of conversation** (the right to leave)

Peter Boghosian and James Lindsay

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Who are these horrible beasts?

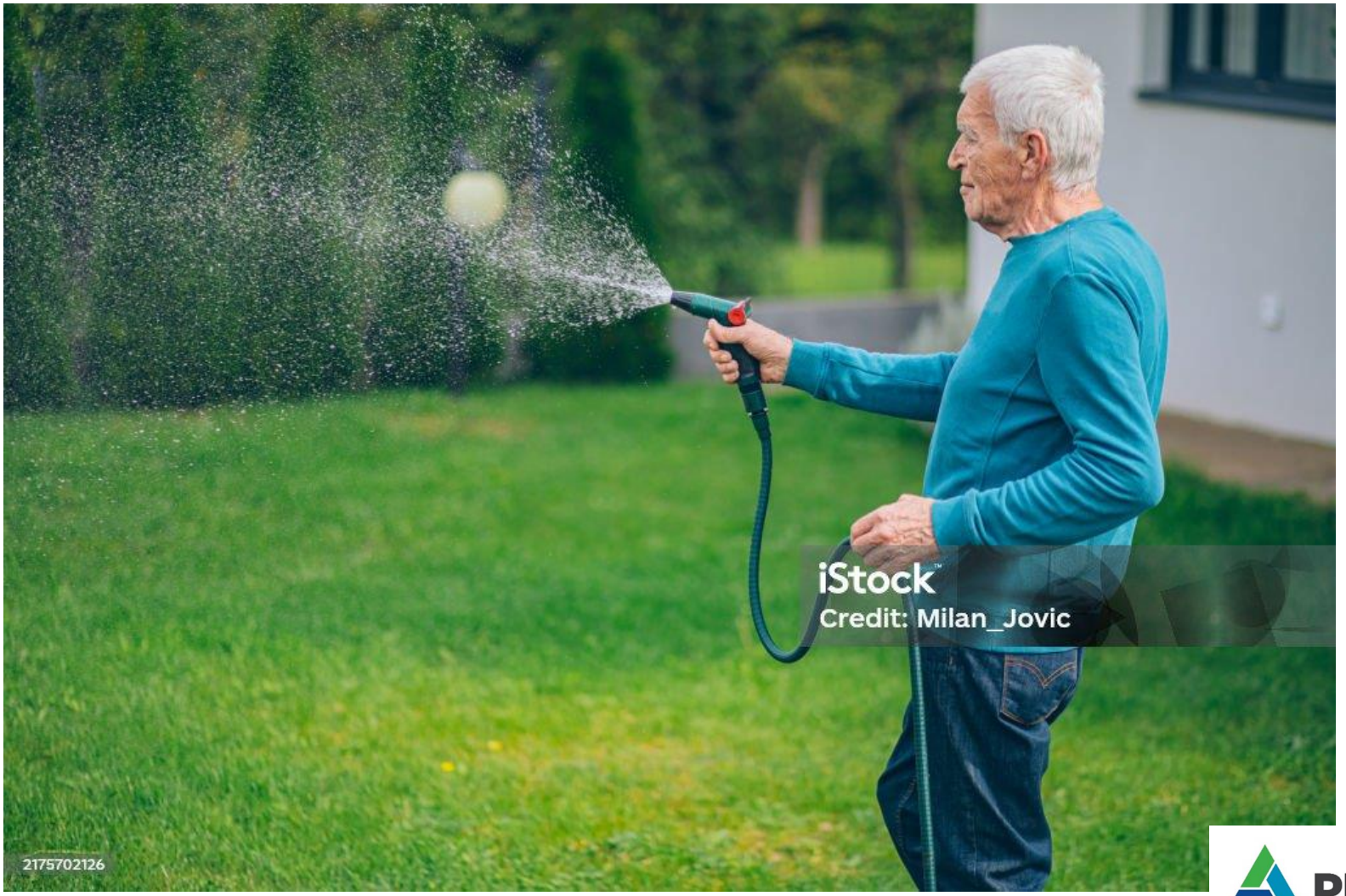




Danish MP OZLEM CEKIC

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Expected beasts and found people more like this (Illustrative picture)



Would you approach your hater in person?

If you do…Ozlem advices

A) Don´t give up if the person refuses at first – it can take a year until they agree to meet up
B) Acknowledge their courage to meet up
C) Do not judge during the conversation – focus on what you have in common,
D) Bring food
E) Finish the conversation in a positive way – bridge can´t be built in one day

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How to build trust and break barriers?



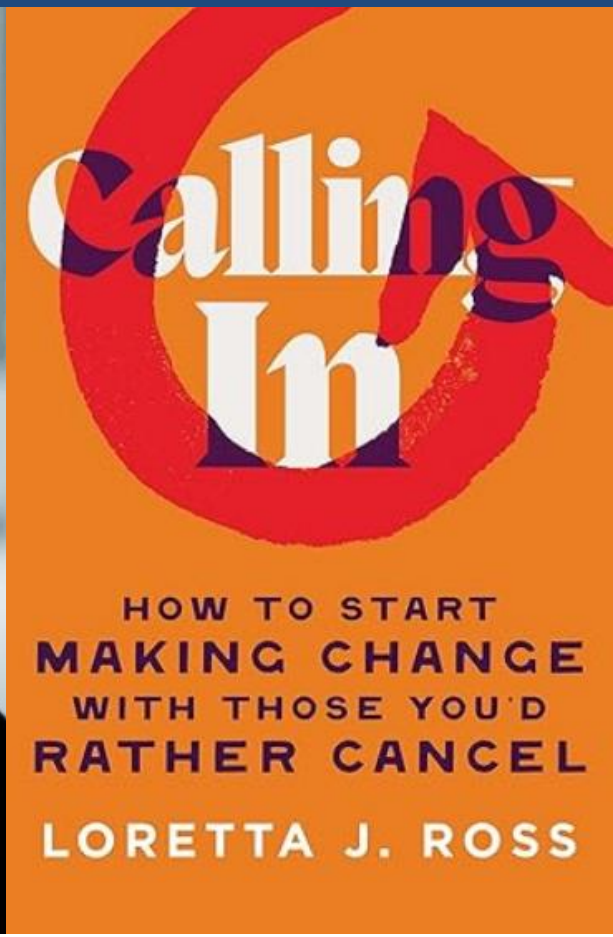


Sergeant of Metropolitan police in LA, Braden Schrag

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Loretta J. Ross





90% - 75% - 50% - 25% - 10%

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DARYL DAVIS

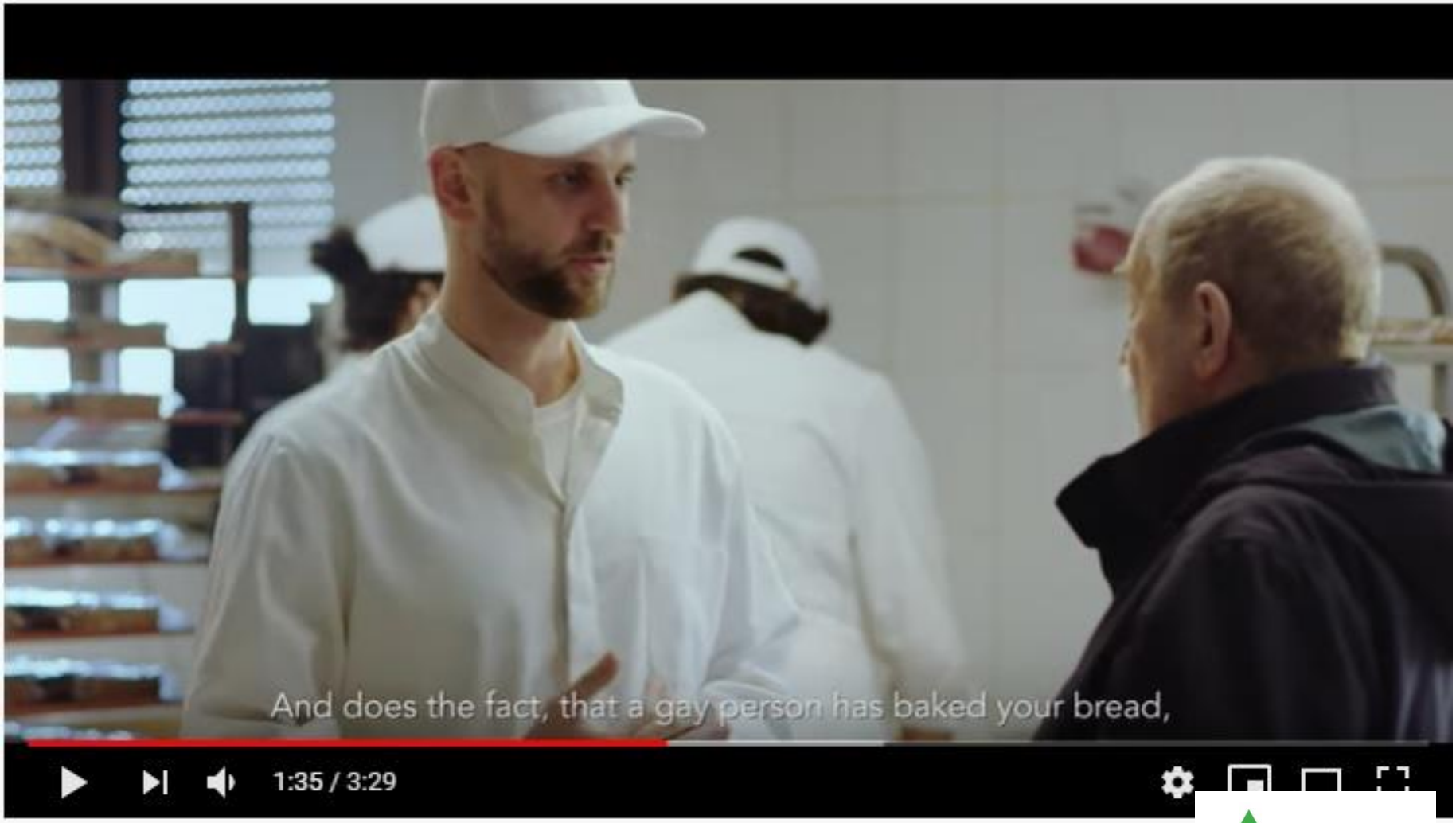


"How can you hate me when you don't even know me?"

Daryl Davis

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Trust again (and food/traditions)



Our daily bread

Dialogue: Peace Sofas



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What factors can create barriers to engage with people I disagree with?

- Cognitive dissonance
- Identity protection (Our identity might be challenged)
- Confirmation bias
- Emotional reactivity
- Fear of social repercussion) “What will my own people think of me?”
- Moral superiority
- We think it is pointless,
- Lack of skills (dialoge skills, empathy, active listening)
- Lack of knowledge

Picked from more studies: the list is in the footnotes

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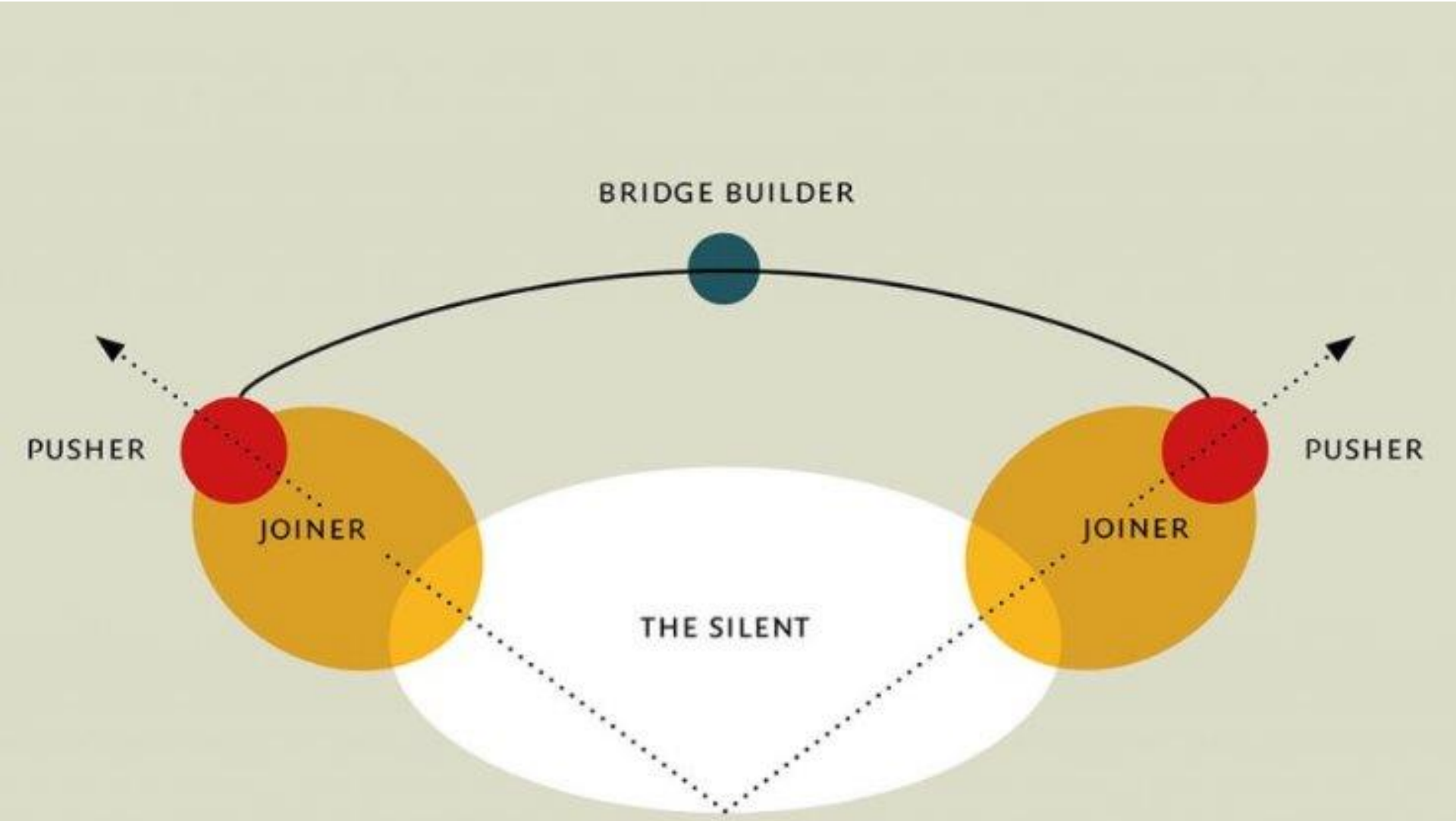
What can help us to overcome the barriers?

- Common interests or goals, often happens during crisis spontaneously,
- Personal relationships,
- Structured dialogue: with agreed rules, all parties want to be there, are interested, (works only when groups have similar status and power)
- Informal events without the pressure on the polarizing topic,
- Neutral ground and neutral activity (e.g. in schools),
- Interaction with people from the other side who do not fit our prejudiced picture,
- Sharing of common problems,

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Collected from studies listed in footnote

Actors in poalrisation (Bart Brandsma)



Bridgebuilders



Firemen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApFyvNt9O-U

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