

INDEV 617 Field Course

Research in Practice – MDP Field Visit

Living Sustainably – Everyday life in Mexico

WINTER TERM, 2020

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EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CONTEXT

The purpose of this field trip is to gain exposure to the Mexican development context. Our approach to the field experience is through a 'sustainability lens'. By looking at society through this lens, we have the potential to gain insights on how sustainability is, and can be, woven into everyday lives. Our field trip is designed to expose us to the 'everyday', and to see in the daily rhythms of life the complexity of the human-environment ecosystem. We will challenge ourselves to reflect on the idea of 'development' and what this might mean in the context of sustainable development in the 21st Century.

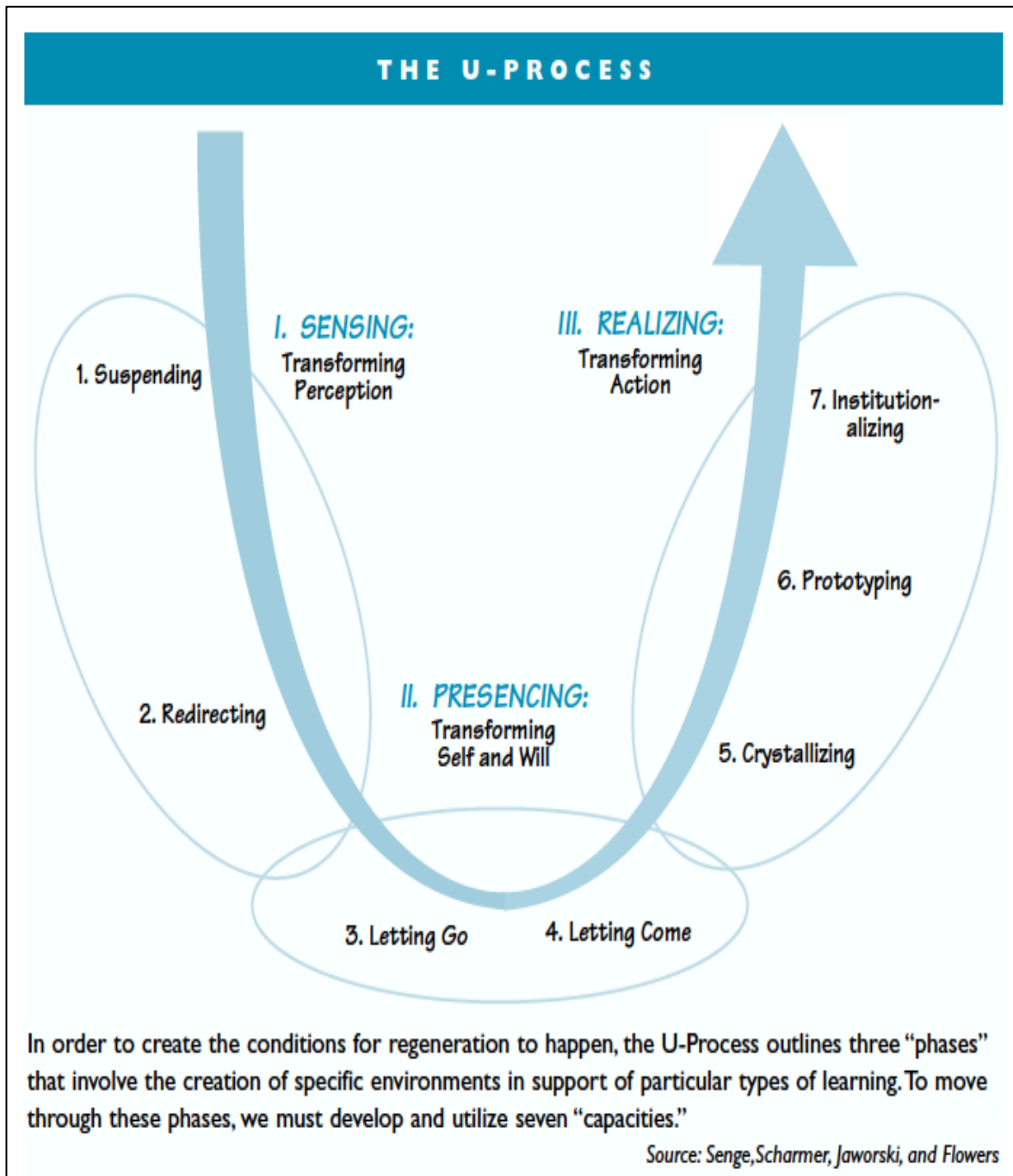
LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course is designed to provide the following learning outcomes:

1. Understand the basics of transformative scenario planning by using the U-Method in practice. This method is a useful tool in development practice, where complex, system problems are at the core of the issues under consideration.
2. Understand elements of the Mexican human-environment ecosystem and how these interact to create the societal and ecological outcomes observed in the field.
3. Reflect on what 'sustainable living' might mean as a development objective and practice.

FIELD METHOD

The methodology we will use is known as transformative scenario planning. In real life, this innovative methodology is used to help diverse groups of stakeholders find ways to positively influence complex development problems. On this field trip we will employ the U-process as part of transformative scenario planning. This U-process helps us to focus on development questions through the sustainable living lens and is structured around three learning phases and the development and utilization of seven capacities.



LEARNING BY DOING

We will experience this method as we implement it in the field.

ITINERARY

The itinerary for the field experience is structured to reflect the U-process' three learning phases and the development and utilization of the seven capacities.

- 1) SENSING Transforming perception
- 2) PREENCING Transforming self and will
- 3) REALIZING Transforming action

DATE	ACTIVITY
Fri 14th	Arrival at 12:30pm at Mexico City Airport on Air Canada, AC 1980
	Lunch at the airport
	Take the bus directly from Mexico City to Xalapa city and get to the hostel
	Dinner in Xalapa
Sat 15th	Visit agroecological market
	Visit Agrosol Project (lunch included)
	Spend the evening either in Coatepec or Xalapa
	Dinner either in Xalapa or Coatepec
	Go back to Xalapa
Sun 16th	Visit SENDAS' NGO project on "organic traditional Milpa System"
	Lunch either in Xico or in SENDAS initiative
	Go back to Xalapa
	Dinner either in Xico or Xalapa
Mon 17th	Leave from either Xalapa 7:30 am and head to Coscomatepec
	Coscomatepec traditional market and get to know around
	Lunch in Coscomatepec traditional market
	Go back to Xalapa
	Dinner in Xalapa
Tues 18th	Leave Xalapa early and get to La Mancha community initiative
	optional activity (kayak, boat tour for bird watching, horse back riding etc)
	Lunch in La Mancha
	Enjoy the beach
	Dinner in La Mancha
	Sleep in La Mancha
Wed 19th	Quiahuiztlan archeological site on our way to La Mancha Beach
	Lunch in Jalcomulco (there is the option to do river rafting)
	Optional river rafting experience
	Go back to Xalapa
Thurs 20th	Visit Native Bees project in La Gloria Town
	Lunch in La Gloria. Meal prepared by the family that will receive us
	Go back to Xalapa

	Dinner either in Xalapa or in Teocelo (a town we will pass when heading back to Xalapa)
Fri 21st	Get to know Xalapa City: Down town, archeology museum... etc
	Lunch in CASA NARAN (an initiative on community networking and educational centre)
	Dinner in CASA DE NADIE cultural place
	Go to Pulque Place "La otra" (traditional alcoholic drink made from agave)
Sat 22nd	Take the bus from Xalapa to Mexico City
	Visit Mexico City Historic centre
	Visit San Juan Food Market and have lunch there
	Go to a cultural event in Bellas Artes Palace (FOLKLORIC BALLET... I will check the 2020 as soon as it is published)
	Dinner in Mexico City
Sun 23rd	Depart Air Canada from Mexico City Airport to Toronto, Air Canada AC1981

RESOURCES

In preparation for the field trip, please review the following resources:

Organization <http://reospartners.com/>

To get a better sense of how transformative scenario planning works, familiarize yourselves with Reos Partners' work around the world as examples of this method in action (hint: Reos has done scenario planning for Waterloo).

Readings

Hassan, Zaid. 2006. Connecting to the source: The U-process. *Systems Thinker*, 17(7), September. Available on Learn as a PDF.

[The Urban Food System of Mexico City](#). Hungry Cities Partnership.

Talk

[How To Change the Future](#) - Adam Kahane

For those of you who become interested in this methodology, you should get a copy of the following book:

Kahane, Adam. 2012. Working together to change the future: Transformative scenario planning. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc.

CONTACT DETAILS

Location	Xalapa, Veracruz State, Mexico
Dates	14-23 February 2020
Travel	Air Canada outbound flight AC1980; inbound flight AC1981 14 February Friday Depart from Pearson International Airport, Toronto 8.20 am from Terminal 1 [check in at 6.20am] Arrive at Mexico City Airport at 12.20pm Bus transport to Xalapa 23 February Sunday Uber to Mexico City Airport at 10.30am Depart Mexico City Airport at 1.20pm Arrive Pearson, Toronto, Terminal 1 at 6.45pm
Travel Agent	Sonia Rooymans, Frederick Travel, 572 Weber St., North, Unit #1 Waterloo, Ontario - 1-800-578-8958
Leader	Prof. Bruce Frayne Office 4251, SEED, EV3, Faculty of Environment Mobile phone 226 339.4439 bfrayne@uwaterloo.ca
Co-Leader	Marion Brown SERS, EV3, Faculty of Environment Mobile phone 516 497.0338 ma4brown@uwaterloo.ca
Emergency Contact in Mexico	Leader and Co-Leader (Frayne and Brown, details above) Mariana Sanchez m4sanche@uwaterloo.ca
Emergency Contact in Waterloo	Cheri Oestreich, SEED Administrator University of Waterloo, EV3 4211, phone 519-888-4567 X 32796 Mobile 226 929.9305 cmoestreich@uwaterloo.ca OR Tracey Beirness, MDP Administrator, 519-888-4567 Ext 38154 tracey.beirness@uwaterloo.ca

IMPORTANT

- Each participant is responsible for their own travel documents, including visas as required.
- Travel to and from Pearson International Airport is the responsibility of each participant.
- One checked in bag (20kg) is allowed per passenger – a happy traveler is a light traveler.