

## **Welcome to Our “Workshop-within-a-Workshop”: Non-Degree Higher and Adult Education to Advance Human Dignity**

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In considering the potential roles of the World Dignity University initiative (WDUi), Evelin Lindner and others have invoked the original origins and meanings of the term “university,” harkening back to a time before institutions of higher learning were organized around departments, credits, and degrees. These examples trace back to ancient times, when prominent philosophers would create their own schools and develop followings of eager students.

Now, of course, we have multiplicities of both highly structured universities built mainly around degree programs and an array of non-credit, higher and adult education offerings in a variety of settings and formats. Our workshop-within-a-workshop will examine the latter types of learning opportunities. **Our focus will be on how we can foster non-credit, lifelong learning experiences that enhance human dignity.** We will do so by asking what people wish to learn and teach, the settings and formats are available for such learning, and how we can access and create these opportunities.

**This workshop-within-a-workshop captures one of our core objectives for WDUi:** We invite members of the Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies community to find ways to advance human dignity through lifelong learning by:

- (1) Creating independent learning experiences through self-designed educational programs;
- (2) Discovering formal continuing education opportunities;
- (3) Creating and hosting discussion groups on topics of shared interest; and/or,
- (4) Developing and offering continuing education courses, seminars, and workshops.

***To facilitate these opportunities with limited resources, we are fostering a philosophy and practice of self-guided learning and DIY program development.*** With these objectives as a frame, this workshop session will take the following approach, **which emphasizes exploration and participation:**

### **Workshop-within-a-Workshop Agenda**

**Part I – Introduction (15 minutes):** Discuss how members of the HumanDHS community can plan, partake in, and create non-degree learning activities to advance human dignity, and explain WDUi’s role in supporting members of our community who wish to create learning activities for others (15 minutes).

**Part II – Guided Web-Surfing, i.e. (30 minutes):** Invite workshop participants to do some guided web-surfing, by exploring schools and programs that might provide examples and inspiration for participating in or creating such offerings, *using the “Resources” links below and sites of their choosing.*

**Part III – Breakthrough small group discussions (45 minutes):** Participants will share and discuss their new discoveries and ideas, with each participant invited to discuss a dignity-enhancing learning activity that they would like to participate in or create (45 minutes)

**Part IV – Reconvene, summarize, and look ahead (15 minutes):** Wrapping up and looking towards future discussions and exchanges

### RESOURCES FOR GUIDED WEB-SURFING

*These links will lead you to information about ancient famous schools, historic learning institutions, adult education centers, universities offering substantial non-credit course offerings, informal and self-directed learning initiatives, and platforms for hosting online courses.* Here they are:

- Plato’s Academy [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platonic\\_Academy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platonic_Academy)
- Aristotle’s Lyceum [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyceum\\_\(Classical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyceum_(Classical))
- Library of Alexandria [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library\\_of\\_Alexandria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_Alexandria)
- Origins of the New School for Social Research <https://www.newschool.edu/nssr/history/>
- Ruskin College (historic labor college in Oxford, UK) <https://www.ruskin.ac.uk>
- Midwest Academy (social change organizing training)  
<https://www.midwestacademy.com>
- “Open Masters” community devoted to fostering independent learning that mirrors self-designed master’s degree programs (self-designed learning):  
<https://www.openmasters.org>
- Designing and undertaking an “Informal Ph.D.” (self-designed learning):  
<https://www.self-directed.org/tp/designing-learning-paths/>
- Salons and study circles:
  - ~ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon\\_\(gathering\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon_(gathering))
  - ~ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Study\\_circle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Study_circle)
  - ~ [https://www.citizenshandbook.org/2\\_15\\_discussion\\_group.html](https://www.citizenshandbook.org/2_15_discussion_group.html)
  - ~ <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2015/sep/10/how-to-host-salon-bloomsbury-set>
- International Society for Self-Directed Learning <https://www.sdlglobal.com/journals>
- The Alliance for Self-Directed Education <https://www.self-directed.org/>
- Brooklyn Institute for Social Research (liberal arts, critical theory perspectives)  
<https://thebrooklyninstitute.com>
- Gaia Education (holistic learning) <https://www.gaiaeducation.org>
- Omega Institute (holistic learning) <https://www.eomega.org>

- University of Cambridge (UK), Institute for Continuing Education, Summer School <https://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/courses/international-summer-programmes>
- University of Chicago, Graham School for Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies <https://graham.uchicago.edu>
- The Catherine Project (tuition-free learning community dedicated to Great Books and liberal learning) <https://catherineproject.org>
- Meridian University, California (socially conscious psychology programs) <https://meridianuniversity.edu/public-programs/upcoming-programs-and-events/>
- Greater Good Science Center, UC-Berkeley (positive psychology learning resources) <https://ggsc.berkeley.edu>
- Learning Planet (holistic learning) <https://www.learning-planet.org>
- GrubStreet (Boston-based school for writers) <https://grubstreet.org>
- Highlander Research and Education Center (historic education center dedicated to social justice and sustainability) <https://highlandercenter.org>
- Henry George School of Social Science, New York <https://www.hgsss.org>
- Open Culture (free media and online courses) <https://www.openculture.com>
- Coursera (popular provider of online courses offered by multiple universities) <https://www.coursera.org>
- EdX (popular provider of online courses offered by multiple universities) <https://www.edx.org>
- The Great Courses (college lectures on wide variety of topics) <https://www.thegreatcourses.com>
- Center for Popular Economics (progressive economics continuing education programs) <https://www.populareconomics.org>
- Cambridge (MA) Center for Adult Education <https://ccae.org>
- Chautauqua Institution (legendary adult and family learning center) <https://www.chq.org>
- Search: “best platforms for online courses”
  - ~Zapier.com article reviewing 11 online course platforms: <https://zapier.com/blog/online-course-platforms/>
  - ~Adem Enfroy article reviewing 21 online course platforms: <https://www.adamenfroy.com/best-online-course-platforms>
  - ~Blogging Wizard article reviewing 15 online course platforms: <https://bloggingwizard.com/online-course-platforms/>
  - ~Learning Revolution article reviewing online course platforms: <https://bloggingwizard.com/online-course-platforms/>

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