

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Communicative Excellence in Civil Society and Politics

Regardz Meeting Center
September 20, 13:00 – 19:00

It is an enormous pleasure to announce the first edition of **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**, a conference that explores the notion of **Communicative Excellence in Civil Society and Politics**.

We think that **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** will mark the beginning of a new process of thinking about the urgent questions: “*How can we communicate better?*” and “*How can we live together better?*”

An incredible variety of voices from throughout our community and, indeed, the world, will talk us through their proposals. We are convinced that they will open up many new thoughts for us all.

We very much look forward to seeing you at the Regardz Meeting Center on Sunday September 20th!

On behalf of the organisation,

George Thornton, project coordinator



The Ultimate Business Bubble

Regardz Planetarium Meeting Center
Kromwijkdreef 11
1108 JA Amsterdam Zuid-Oost

Conference Program

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Communicative Excellence
in Civil Society and Politics**



12:30 – 13:00 Foyer/bar
Registration and coffee

Opening Remarks

13:15 – 13:35 Room 8

- George Thornton, project coordinator of ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- Peter Coleman, politician and patron of ANY OTHER BUSINESS

New Business Governance

13:45 – 14:15 Room 1&2

A reflection on the influence of communication and governance structures on the collapse of large commercial institutions.

- Joris van den Brink, former Director of BSOM
- Ted Peters, former Chief Executive Officer of NRF
- Tim McBrady, former Director of the IFO group
- Chair: Steven Chapman, freelance finance journalist

Agents of Change in Civil Society Development

13:45 – 14:15 Room 4

An introductory lecture about civil society development and the work of the Agents of Change Foundation.

- Alexandra Nowak, chair of AFC

Dialogue Day

14:30 – 15:10 Room 8

A critical reflection on the effectivity of top-to-bottom dialogue schemes in social cohesion programs.

- Sylvia Eldridge, coordinator Dialogue Day
- Alexandra Hunt, Alderwoman
- Evelyn Goodman, communication advisor and grass roots debate organiser
- Jerome Sinclair, co-author of the “Urban Courtesy Program”
- Chair: John Matthews, researcher “Intellectual and Cultural Capital in Urban Regeneration”

Peaceful Communication in Private Life, Education, Government and Business

15:20 – 16:00 Room 1&2

An introduction to a compelling new method of communication. An interview with its developer Martin Wasserman will be screened during the session.

- Max Bonner, communication trainer



Peter Coleman



Evelyn Goodman



Sylvia Eldridge



John Matthews



The Failure of Nonviolence in Pursuit of Revolutionary Ends

- 15:20 – 16:00 Room 4
A lecture on the history of nonviolent activism and its potential today.
- William Huff, author and activist

Uniformity in Public Conduct

- 16:10 – 16:50 Room 8
A debate on the need for a national style of greeting, from sociological, political and legal perspectives.
- Mohammed Halabi, lawyer
 - Olivia Cunningham, sociologist and former Secretary for Social Cohesion Issues
 - Chair: Yolanda Mason, journalist

The Potential of Communist Politics in Contemporary Philosophy

- 17:00 – 17:40 Room 1&2
Four proposals for building a new philosophy on communist politics, followed by a debate.
- Ernesto Telesta, lecturer University of Bologna
 - Hans Ostergard, activist and spokesperson of the Communist Party of Denmark
 - Pierre Berardi, former member of the European Parliament
 - Chair: Stefan Sekula, head of New Marxist Studies Department, University of London

Educating the Educators

- 17:00 – 17:30 Room 4
A theoretical and literary exploration of legal and moral double binds in civil society building.
- Adoley Malik, lecturer University of New York
 - Chair: George Thornton, coordinator ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Witch Hunt

- 17:50 – 18:30 Room 8
A one-act play about the political implications of a member of parliament's violent death.
- Author: Paul Hern

Drinks

- 18:30 – 19:30 Foyer/bar



Adoley Malik



Max Bonner



Alexandra Nowak



Paul Hern