

# "Democratization as (only) Chance for Sustainability: Betzavta - Pedagogy of Democracy"

Democratization is crucial to achieve a social-ecological transformation. This workshop presents the concept of Betzavta (Hebrew for togetherness). It does not take democracy exclusively as a form of government. Instead, the educational concept understands democracy as a form of decision-making that takes into account both the process and the result. In this sense, Betzavta stands in the tradition of John Dewey who underlines democracy as a way of life and thereby advocates a close connection between democracy and education. Examples will be given how this pedagogy is integrated in an engineering-specific course and an interdisciplinary project with 100 participants.

*Two exercises of the Betzavta concept of democracy education will be conducted with the participants. The first exercise unveils the power relations that arises in teaching setting of higher education. In the second exercise a common decision making is practiced, which takes the previously disclosed power relations into account. These two exercises are reflected against the background of the workshop participants' own teaching experience.*

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He is a philosopher and democracy educator. As a research and teaching assistant at TU Berlin, he is responsible for the study reform project "Blue Engineering - Engineers with social and ecological responsibility". He is Vice Chairman of the Sustainability Council at the TU Berlin and coordinate a sustainability certificate for students of all disciplines. As a student he was part of a student group, they had the chance to create a whole course on one's own in 2009. The course "Blue Engineering - Engineers with social and ecological responsibility" still runs at his university and 75 students attend each semester. The book "Teaching as a Subversive Activity" by Neil Postman describes best his general attitude towards teaching. The Betzavta method of democracy education inspired him the most and influenced his whole approach to teaching.

