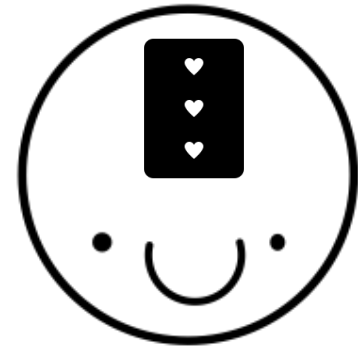


Spot the Status

Reflection
#214



Objectives:

- To explore the concept of status behaviour
- To energise and create a sense of bonding among participants

Number of players: 5 - 50

Time: 10 - 20 minutes

Materials needed: Playing cards

Facilitation skill: ★ ★ ★ Challenging, needs skilled facilitation. If there are pre-existing tensions with a certain group it may be better to choose an alternative exercise.

Relevance for climate resilience

Status can be seen as a behaviour; as something we *do*. The field of climate resilience is full of human interaction, where status behaviour plays a large role. The aim of this exercise is to increase consciousness, flexibility and choice in our interactions by enhancing the understanding of status behaviour.

Spot the Status ★★★



Process:

1. Explain: you will be going to an Adaptation conference. Brainstorm a list of possible attendees of such a conference, e.g. NGO workers, government representatives, researchers, journalists.
2. Assign a role to each individual, it is OK if there is more than one per category (e.g. several journalists).
3. Ask all participants to draw a random playing card from a regular deck of cards.
4. Participants will mingle with each other at the conference, assuming their role (e.g.) a journalist as well as their status based on their playing card. A 2 or 3 represents a low status, whereas a queen or a king represents a high status. A 9 or 10 is somewhere in the middle.
5. After a few minutes of interacting, ask people to guess the number (status) of someone they are standing close to.

Alternative:

1. Steps 1-3 are the same.
2. This time you don't know your own status. You hold the card in front of your forehead and mingle with others. Your task is to determine what your status is.
3. After a few minutes, ask people to line up from low to high status and place themselves where they think they are.

Debriefing:

The debriefing is where the shared learning takes place. Example questions:

1. Who had a high/low status card? How did that feel?
2. Was it easy/hard to spot someone else's status (version 1) or your own status (version 2)? What were telltale signs?
3. How can you apply your experience of this activity to a real life setting?

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The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre has modified this activity, originally introduced by the Applied Improvisation Network

