

WARP

2011

OpenSpace

February 17, 2011

## Introducing OpenSpace

Closely following in the post-colonial traditions of deconstructing spaces and challenging orthodoxies, the organizers of WARP2011 are pleased to announce a side-event for the workshop:

### **OpenSpace.**

OpenSpace is a forum designed to facilitate free discussions on issues pertinent to the Workshop discourse or emergent concerns generated from participant-speaker/participant-participant interactions. Adopting a small-group/cluster format, participants at the Workshop

will freely interact with each other – guided in a Socratic manner by facilitators, who also are the Workshop speakers. A problem focus (in form of a question) will be initially presented and lightly discussed by the facilitators in a friendly environment – after which participants will be allowed to contribute.

OpenSpace is designed with new assumptions about the 'nature' of 'knowledge' as being co-created and spurned in the vortices of inter-relationships. This is articulated in juxtaposition to positivist assumptions that

suggest that knowledge is an objective referent which may be transferred from one to another.

### **WARP2011 OpenSpace: The Problem**

This year's OpenSpace problem focus is 'Reimagining the Identity and Work of the Nigerian Academic Researcher'. The start-up questions are:

- 1. Is the Nigerian academia and research practice relevant to industry and socio-economic growth? If not, then what can we do about it?**
- 2. Why do we do what we do as academics, researchers and teachers? Are we missing something?**

### **The Objectives of OpenSpace**

The following are the reasons for the OpenSpace side-event:

- a) To create a decentred arena for the free critique of assumptions about issues and positions pertinent to the Workshop discourse
- b) To integrate participant-learning processes into Workshop format
- c) To help perpetuate discourse after Workshop is concluded

### **OpenSpace: Let's Get Ready!**

Holding in Covenant University, OpenSpace will conclude the WARP2011 event – culminating in the creation of Action Clusters, who will be placed on a distant mentoring relationship with select speakers.