

Comparing dialogue mapping and causal mapping

Comparison of issues relevant to introducing dialogue mapping or causal mapping to a new group	Dialogue mapping	Causal mapping
Addresses basic planning questions: 1. What should we do? 2. Why should we do it? 3. How should we do it?	Yes	Yes
Methodology provides a framework to welcome and reconcile diverse points of view	Yes	Yes
Timeframe of use	Ongoing support tool for short term (3-4 meetings) or long term (project life)	"One shot" approach for time-sensitive intervention
Nature of maps	Multiple levels of maps with fine granularity "Slow motion video" Remains current as long as used	Big picture "Snapshot" Captures thinking at a moment in time
Level of technique understanding required of group members	Low: can acquire intuitively during use	Medium: some introduction and more guidance required
Pre-meeting design preparation required	Low: can fit structure of most project meetings	Medium to high: careful design required to guide process toward desired outcomes
Group coherence required	Any	Medium: group should have a common aim
Ability to deal with social complexity	High	Medium: requires fairly open atmosphere and unity of goals
Other	Simpler structure may be easier for newcomers and outsiders to comprehend	More complex structure may capture interrelated nature of issues more concisely