

Theme: Hate speech



Exercise 1: What causes hatred? Why does it cause hatred? *What were the men upset about? Why does change upset them? Think about and discuss whether there are similar spaces or places where new and uninformed people may sometimes annoy you.*

Change and others invading your own, familiar surroundings may sometimes cause irritation. Newcomers, such as tourists, are not familiar with the unwritten rules and customs in the sauna. This may be irritating and even anger you.

An easy, maybe even a fun start. After all, we all have our own personal spaces and habits that others cannot be aware of.

// Oula and Tapsa are at the sauna, with their usual lockers taken. Kotiharju, public sauna, Helsinki

Tapsa: Locker number 17 was taken so I had to take number 21. It's like half the enjoyment of the sauna is missing when your own locker is taken.

Oula: You can say that again. I had to take number 24, with no hooks and no coat hangers.

Tapsa: Well, I at least got a coat hanger. But after decades of using locker number 17, it always feels like bad luck if some tourist shows up and takes it.

Oula: It sure does... Makes you angry all right.

Tapsa: Yeah. Wars have been fought for lesser reasons.

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Excercise 2: How does the anger manifest itself?

What is the hate speech like?

Who are the 'others' mentioned in the scene? What kind of nightmare scenarios are presented in the scene? Are the nightmare scenarios real?

Do you think the speaker is credible?

// Forssa, Suomi ensin! (Finland first!) demonstration.

Man 1: Here it is, the MATU residence. That's were they basically rampage all day and all night, and that's where they attacked Finns from. They just kept attacking more and more, and the things they throw out from there, it's everything from iron bars to bikes, and they battered our youth.

Among them, there were two mass murderers, and who knows how many other mass murderers there may be in there, and the way they attack you is incredibly arrogant and outrageous. It is not at all unthinkable that a civil war or something will break out here in Forssa. It is irresponsible to leave a VOK like that be. It is a VOK where the people are really aggressive. If a hundred Iraqi or ISIS soldiers attack you, the mainstream media are not going to mention a word about it, not one word. At least there is the alternative media...

Man 2: These pieces of shit come there and hit on those little girls, and they are 30 to 45 year old guys.

Man 1: Forssa is basically our last fortress now. The rest of Finland, they are nothing but a bunch of sissies who do absolutely nothing about it. You are the only ones, who are brave enough to resist.

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Excercise 3: Who is allowed to express hatred and how?

How is hatred expressed? How is hatred visible in people? What kind of behaviour is accepted of a man? How about a woman? In what ways has the manner of expressing hatred changed? What do you think causes the hatred?

The speakers' gestures and expressions are full of hatred. A harsh choice of words coming from a woman may startle some.

A reason for hatred may be the perceived threat to one's own position in relation to others, poverty, or perceived poverty.

// Helsinki, Suomi ensin! (Finland first!) demonstration. The voice of the people.

Man with stubbly hair: Now really, we must give a voice to young people, the young people must get active. This is going nowhere, if it just continues like this. They've already got enough on the slate, it must stop now, goddamn it!

Finnish Maiden: Therefore, we demand, we put our arms around the country of the Finnish Maiden. To protect the children of the North, we expel the soldiers of the dark from our lands. Thank you, and remember to love Finland.

Man in the pig cap: This is a great day for European culture. Today, a bit over 300 years ago, John III Sobieski stated that Europe would not be taken over. Europe is the land of the Europeans. We must do the same in Finland. Finland first! Finns first. You cannot come here to tell us how to live in our own country! Get fucking Islam off the streets of Finland!

Man: I don't know what's wrong with the police in Helsinki, letting those jerks whine over there.

Woman: You social justice warriors in the back, you're first. You are next, after you have been raped. We have taken the side of these social justice warriors in the past so we cannot say that we have been raped because of these bloody niggers. After that, they'll throw stones at you and tell you that you cannot walk in their neighbourhood without a scarf, that you are infidel whores. So there you have it, you fucking traitors!

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You can end the theme at item 4A or 4B, or you can choose to use both of the scenes if you like.



Excercise 4A: How can the matters be discussed in a sensible manner? *How has Tapsa's attitude towards Oula changed? Can you understand or even respect another person, if you disagree on several matters? How can you talk in a constructive manner with someone who has 'wrong' ideas and opinions? Does it matter where the discussion takes place?*

Attitudes can be changed. You do not have to give up on your own opinions completely to understand the other party.

For Finns, the sauna is a special place where you are equal, naked, to the person sitting next to you.

// Oula and Tapsa assess each other as persons in the sauna.

Oula: I'm always happy to see Tapsa. I know that he is very good company. He is fun to be around. With Tapsa, you don't have to just sit there quietly, and we both like the sauna. He puts his soul into what he does, and he tends to look after his friends, too. I think our mutual respect has grown deeper and deeper.

Tapsa: Oula told me that Finland never fought for independence. I sometimes even thought that Oula probably was nothing but a businessman who sold his book with this point of view that he had come up with.

Now I have changed my mind, and I believe in Oula's sincerity. He is a nice and intelligent bloke. However, he does have wrong opinions on some things.

He is someone who thinks of himself as the 'good guy', and for him, I'm the 'bad guy'.

I believe that he is sincere in this matter as well, that he does not cheat people.

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Excercise 4B: How can the matters be discussed in a sensible manner? *Can you genuinely listen to another person that has completely different ideas and opinions? Is it possible to discuss things respectfully with someone who disagrees? What is the purpose of the hate speech that Oula describes? What can you gain from it? How can you avoid conflict between people? How can the amount of hate speech be reduced? At the end, the men are sitting in silence. Why?*

“ Oula and Tapsa are talking in the locker room.

Tapsa: It is beyond the sense of justice of citizens that people like me...

Oula: Stop putting words into my mouth regarding the sense of justice of the citizens. I'm a citizen, too.

Tapsa: Yes, but the majority of the people who I talk to...

Oula: Yes, on the anti-immigration forum on the Internet.

Tapsa: Oh, come on.

Oula: In your opinion, hate speech is nothing but a consequence that can be ignored. Are you saying that closing our borders would fix it?

Tapsa: Everything must be fixed, starting with the growing state debt.

Oula: Do you think it is acceptable to promote these kinds of changes by maintaining ideas of violence and insulting others by calling them rotten?

Tapsa: No, no, no!

Oula: Wouldn't it be better to stop it then, and get to work?

Tapsa: For the third time: it is not the cause, it is a consequence. First we must find out why things are in such a bad shape here that people get into conflicts like this.

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EXERCISE 4B CONTINUES:

Oula: Raging will not help!

Tapsa: I don't think anything is the asylum seekers' fault. It is the fault of the Finnish politicians that have created this system and invited everyone to come and live here, all expenses paid. It helps if you can find the reasons that have led to this state of things. Why?

Oula: Because some people want to make you rotten and others are whores, is that why? Well I can tell you, it is not.

Tapsa: Listen, Oula, you... You are turning a blind eye to the problem.

Oula: You don't want to... or you think it is OK to say whatever is being said out there, anything.

Tapsa: I never said that.

Oula: Well, what have you said, then?

Tapsa: Well... no... Ummm...

Oula: People there keep wallowing in how they will kick everyone's ass and kill everyone that disagrees with them. How is that going to help anyone solve our problems?

Tapsa: How are you going to end it? By shutting down the Internet?

Oula: I obviously start with myself.

Tapsa: It is a consequence of everything being in such a screwed up state. It cannot be stopped by suppressing everyone and prohibiting all these discussion boards and resistance.

Oula: No-one asked you to do that. What if we Finns start talking to each other with some basic respect? It doesn't mean that we have to agree. You did receive an education at home, didn't you, Tapsa?

Tapsa: Yes.

Oula: I for one was raised to never talk about another person like that. You can't use that kind of expressions or fantasise about killing anyone or beating anyone up.

Tapsa: I guess so.