

LCI Consultation Ethos

Crucial to our meeting is its ‘ethos.’

The ethos we are aiming at has characterised much of the life of the International Religious Health Assets Programme generally (out of which the LCL Initiative arises).

In the context of this Consultation it has particular ‘ground rules.’ These are deliberately modelled on the Dahlem Series (Berlin), and the Ernst Strüngmann Forum (Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies; <http://www.esforum.de/forums.html>).

This ethos rests on the firm belief that, setting aside our individual agendas or egos for a brief moment and pooling our ‘talents,’ skills, or capabilities, we stand a chance of increasing our knowledge—and we may even improve the human situation as a consequence.

The ‘ground rules’ are:

- Everyone in the meeting has equal status and participates on an equal footing, no matter who they are or what their professional or public profile.
- Everyone eats together, with time and uncluttered space to interact outside of sessions – this personal/human interaction, and social time and space, are seen as critical for the intellectual work to take off in creative, innovative ways.
- Generative group dynamics – not just the subject matter – are important, for the sake of the subject matter.
- Sessions are ‘moderated,’ not ‘chaired’; the person who plays this role is *also* a participant, but has no hierarchical or ‘controlling’ role other than ensuring a balanced discussion and giving participants space to contribute.