University of Dundee

Empathy Timeline Tool

Woods, Mel; Coulson, Saskia; Ajates, Raquel; Balestrini, Mara ; Bejtullahu, Sihana ; Bocconi, Stefano

DOI:

[10.20933/100001177](https://doi.org/10.20933/100001177)

Publication date:

2020

Licence:

CC BY-SA

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in Discovery Research Portal](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Woods, M., Coulson, S., Ajates, R., Balestrini, M., Bejtullahu, S., Bocconi, S., Boerwinkel, G., Boonstra, M., Boschman, D-S., Camprodon, G., Diez, T., Fazey, I., Hemment, D., van den Horn, C., Ilazi, T., Jansen-Dings, I., Kresin, F., McQuillan, D., Nascimento, S., ... Seiz, G. (2020). Empathy Timeline Tool. University of Dundee. <https://doi.org/10.20933/100001177>

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in Discovery Research Portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from Discovery Research Portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain.
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

TOOLKIT

EMPATHY TIMELINE

WHY IS IT RELEVANT?

A little empathy can go a long way. This is important when you are exploring environmental issues where there are different perspectives, experiences of impacts and opinions. Doing an Empathy Timeline can help to understand the issue at hand. It also helps to look at both sides of a problem and our role in it.

KEY QUESTION

HOW WERE YOU AFFECTED BY THE PROBLEM,
AND HOW DID YOU CONTRIBUTE TO IT?

TIME NEEDED

30 Minutes

PARTICIPANTS

Community

Making
Sense

Making Sense was co-funded by the European Commission within the Call H2020 ICT2015 Research and Innovation action. The grant agreement number is 688620.

DESCRIPTION

This method helps to unpack an environmental issue. We all can become fixed in our own personal viewpoints; this approach allows people to think about (and sometimes challenge) their own perceptions. The empathy timeline supports people in talking about the ways that they are affected by a shared issue e.g. noise levels in a street, but also the ways that they contribute to it. This approach facilitates community building by bringing people together to discuss shared problems, and consider them in a way that they maybe haven't done before.

STEPS

- 1 Split into small groups (no more than 6 people in each) and fill in the timelines using the materials provided.
- 2 Ask everyone to focus on the top line first, which represents the ways that you have been affected by the shared problem in the timeline decided. Ask everyone to consider what they encountered throughout the day in relation to the issue, specifying that they include positive things as well as negatives. Use the markers, shapes and icon cut-outs for this.
- 3 Switch to the second timeline, asking everyone to repeat the process to represent how their own actions might have contributed to the issue in that timeline, and map out when and what they have done. Use the markers, shapes and icon cut-outs for this.
- 4 Once the groups have populated the timeline with all their activities, ask all the participants to use green and red sticker dots to identify which things they consider to be positive, and which negative.
- 5 Ask each group to share with each other, maybe having them self-select a representative to make a quick presentation, paying particular attention to the discussions and insights.
- 6 Document the activity by photographing the completed worksheets, they can be great reference points to come back to during and at the end of your project activities.

USEFUL LINKS

Empathy Timeline Toolkit Assets: <https://doi.org/10.20933/100001177>
Making Sense Project Website: making-sense.eu
Citizen Sensing: A Toolkit: <https://doi.org/10.20933/100001112>

RESOURCES NEEDED

Empathy Timeline canvas, sample shapes, other shapes and cut-outs, markers, and sticker dots

Empathy Timeline

Making Sense

Advances and experiments in participatory sensing

What environmental issue is the campaign monitoring:

unit of time

How have I/my community been affected?

unit of time

unit of time

How might have I/my community contributed to the issue?

unit of time

Making Sense was co-funded by the European Commission within the Call H2020 ICT2015 Research and Innovation action. The grant agreement number is 688620.

Empathy Timeline Canvas (A1)

Empathy Timeline Sample Shapes (A3)