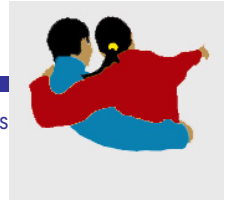




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Silence and knowledge : Research on silence as marginalisation or connectness

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Silence and Knowledge:

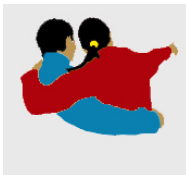
Research on Silence as Marginalization or Connectedness

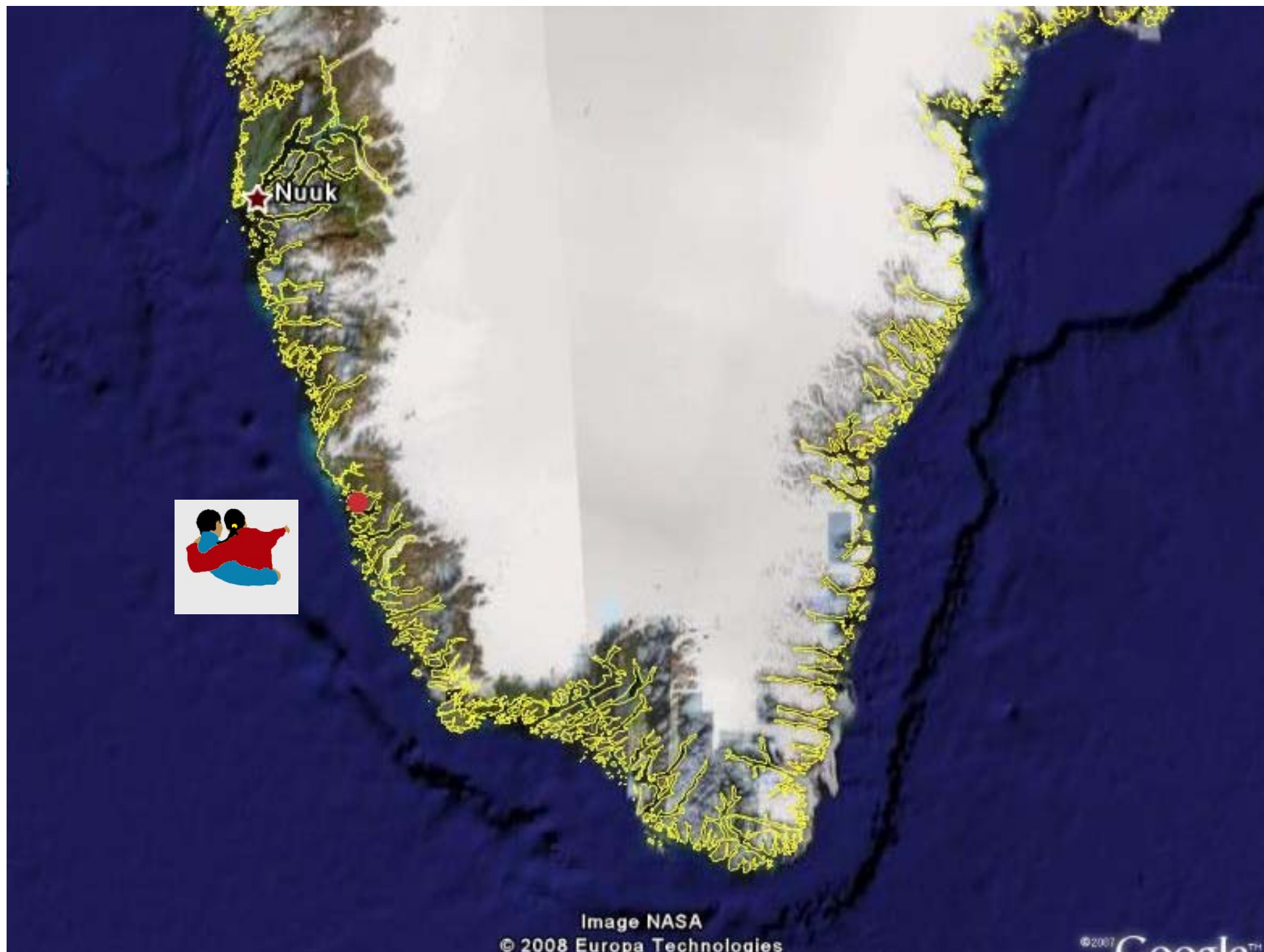


Funded by Bikkuben Foundation, Sermersooq Kommuneqarfik and Greenland Self Rule,

An aerial photograph of a vast, deep blue ocean. The water's surface is covered in fine, rhythmic ripples. Scattered across the horizon and mid-ground are numerous small, bright whitecaps, which appear as tiny white flowers against the deep blue sea. The perspective is from directly above, looking down at the water.

El silencio es un mar, la palabra es un río.
(Jalaludin Rumi : Mathnawi, IV.)










Shared values:



A group of people are gathered in a coastal landscape with mountains in the background. Some are sitting on wooden planks, while others are standing. They appear to be engaged in a community activity, possibly related to fishing or boat building, as there are ropes and a blue bucket visible. The scene is set in a rugged, natural environment with a body of water and mountains in the distance.

- Pride of being able to survive on the land through generations
- Solidarity
- Openness, curiosity and hospitality
- Involvement
- Respect for other people, equipment and environment
- No sympathy with any kind of acts of violence
- Commitment





High level of violence and sexual abuse

High level of suicide

Abuse of alcohol or/and cannabis

Unemployment

A lot of people with a personal history of violence and abuse

Single parent

Mental problems

Lack of social support (marginalisation)

*These problems have been described for more than 60 years – often
in a neo-colonial discourse and with limited practical value*



Alcohol consumption per capita, 2000-2005



› Alcohol consumption among adults (age 15+) in litres per capita:

› [Moldova](#) 18.22
› [Czech Republic](#) 16.45
› [Hungary](#) 16.27
› [Russia](#) 15.76
› [Ukraine](#) 15.60
› [Estonia](#) 15.57
› [Andorra](#) 15.48
› [Romania](#) 15.30
› [Slovenia](#) 15.19

[Belarus](#) 15.13
[Croatia](#) 15.11
[Lithuania](#) 15.03
[South Korea](#) 14.80
[Portugal](#) 14.55
[Ireland](#) 14.41
[France](#) 13.66
[United Kingdom](#) 13.37
[Denmark](#) 13.37. (Greenland 13.00)

A photograph of a snowy town with colorful houses under a cloudy sky. The houses are in various colors like blue, red, and yellow, and are covered in snow. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The foreground is a flat, snow-covered area.

Silence as marginalization:

In this town a lot of people – children as well as grownups – seem to hide behind a mask. They feel that they have nobody to talk to and that they are all alone with their problems -and that they are the only ones with problems

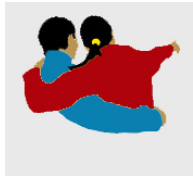
It's like the air in this town is quite stuffy. You dare not to say that you have problems. You fear that all the worst will happen if you speak openly about problems.



A culture of silence – silence as avoidance and protection



- › Fear of expressing one's opinion exists in the local community.
- › According to the youth, expressing an opinion which others disagree with may result in social exclusion.
- › This is in line with findings by Kirmayer, Hayton, Malus, Jimenez, Dufour, Quesney, Ternar, Yu, & Ferrara (1994), (with Inuit in Canada), that talking about problems among Inuit is often avoided.
- › We saw several examples of youth laughing at each other and mocking each other during interviews.



Breaking the culture of silence



- > - Good parenthood requires that we can talk openly about happiness and sorrows. We must have a dialogue about daily tasks and decisions. We must actively create love and togetherness and mutual understanding. This is how support and attachment are created.





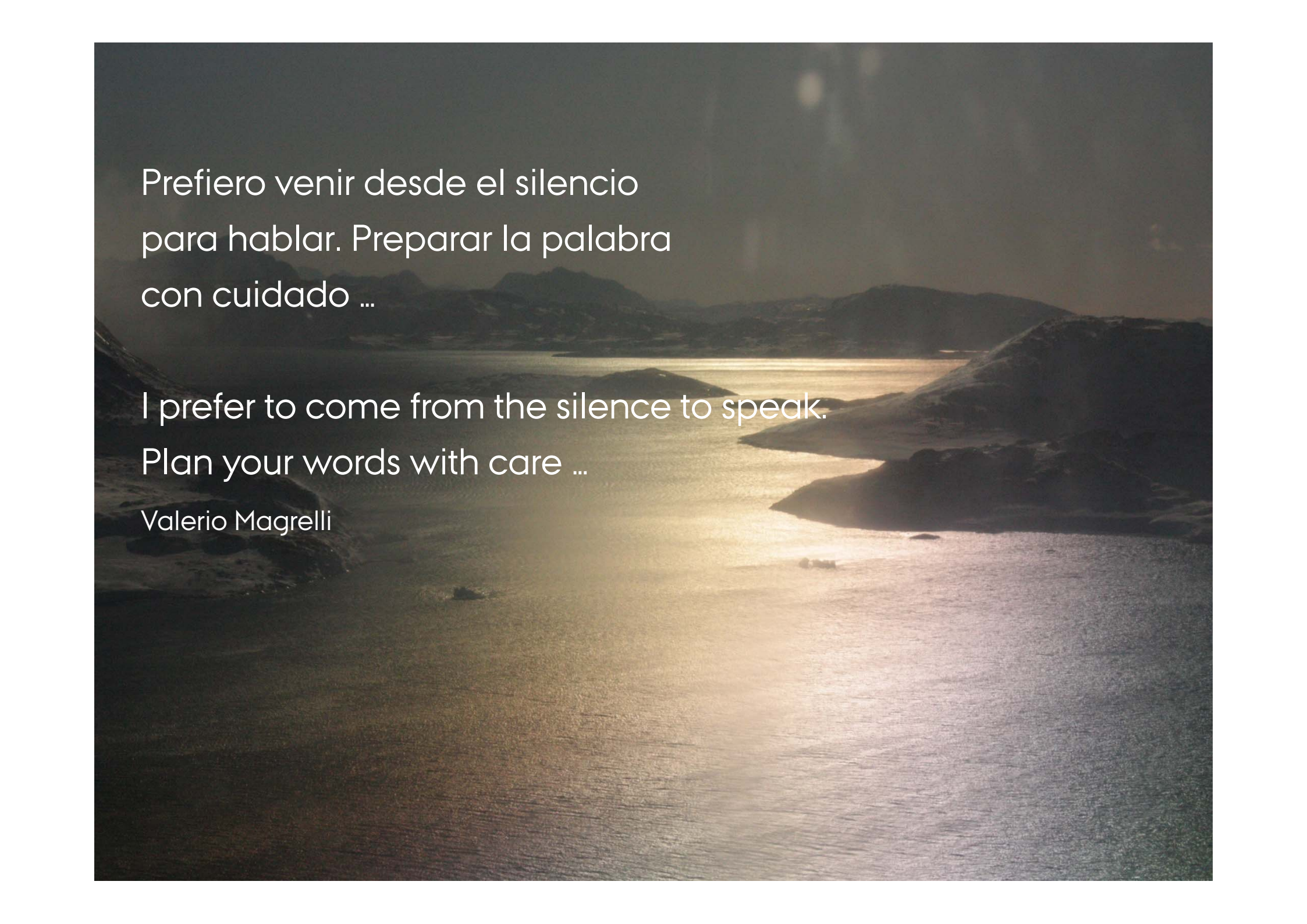
Silence as connectedness ?



What are the young people building with their silence(s) – what do they want to make untouchable? – this question in itself opens for new meanings (metaphors).

How to approximate to silence a word that may give existence to silence without explaining it but showing it in a new form?
(Sarah Cohen)

The passion for understanding and describing may destroy any difference, and may close the open space, so no progress can be made. The silence may be a space, an effort, an investment, a work, an active act of creation - from which new words can emerge.



Prefiero venir desde el silencio
para hablar. Preparar la palabra
con cuidado ...

I prefer to come from the silence to speak.
Plan your words with care ...

Valerio Magrelli



Silences



- › Silence as emptiness - absence
- › Silence as symbol – suspension (of meaning).
- › Silence as replacement of a word – it replaces a word that will not be said (but is understood from the silence).
- › Silence as admiration – to be flabbergasted – it can only be pronounced by silence.
- › As commemorative silence
- › Silence as a sign of the unspeakable - indicates a presence or a lived situation that cannot be translated into words.
- › Silence as a source of wisdom
- › Silence as closeness to God
- › Silence of the hunter
- › Silence as modesty and giving space for others to speak



Research



- › To listen to the silence – and to understand it as silences and as something which can open for surprise(s) in our understanding.
- › To listen to the young peoples own understanding(s) – when they want to share.
- › To let the language of research and the poetic connectedness of silence touch each other without *killing* the silence in the process.
- › To study the impact of different approaches to the silence – as the silence cannot be studied in itself without breaking it -

- › The only approach is to listen respectfully, also to the silence (and that is what PA is doing – they are learning from the young people and they be in silence with the young people) and to study the impact of the silence.
- ›

Wishes of the young people



To be in the nature – Sport (soccer, skating, fitness, skiing, etc.) - Internet access - Shops and a cinema - A shared boat owned by the local authorities – Demolish the old apartment buildings - Team-building (promoting mutual trust) - Training for more self-confidence - ...





A conclusion – or a starting point?



- › Response of quietness or non-confrontation (by saying “*I don’t know*” or walking away) may thus be seen as connectedness to something else – can be a value of respect or modesty.
- › In some cases it is a way of avoiding talking about worries.
- › Silence is a value and a resource, when it is a competence of being connected to others, to the environment, or to values.
- › To study these dimensions of the silence without breaking it – that is our challenge now -

Perspectives – an afterthought

Silence is a global resource – which should be protected by human kind.





Qujannaq 😊 - Thank you 😊 - Gracias 😊

