Roberto Saco

Shaping Our Future: tCL as Innovation Space

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Our Session

This session is designed to discuss and brainstorm if and how **tCL could or should become an 'innovation space'.** As a community of practice, tCL has been successful for nearly 14 years in building a community, sharing information and best practices, regularly holding two conferences a year, publishing the collected efforts of its members, and fostering networking at different levels among its members. Our community model is at steady state and we could continue in the same vein for the future. An alternative, or a complement, to the steady state is **creating a space where innovation happens** - innovation in business practices, in applying new frameworks, in creating new platforms, in using digital technology to foster creativity and change. If we choose to go this route, what would the 'space' look and feel like? How different would it be from our steady state? How would we have to organise? Can we do it on our own? Could we better leverage Oxford and HEC?

"The future is already here ... it's just unevenly distributed."
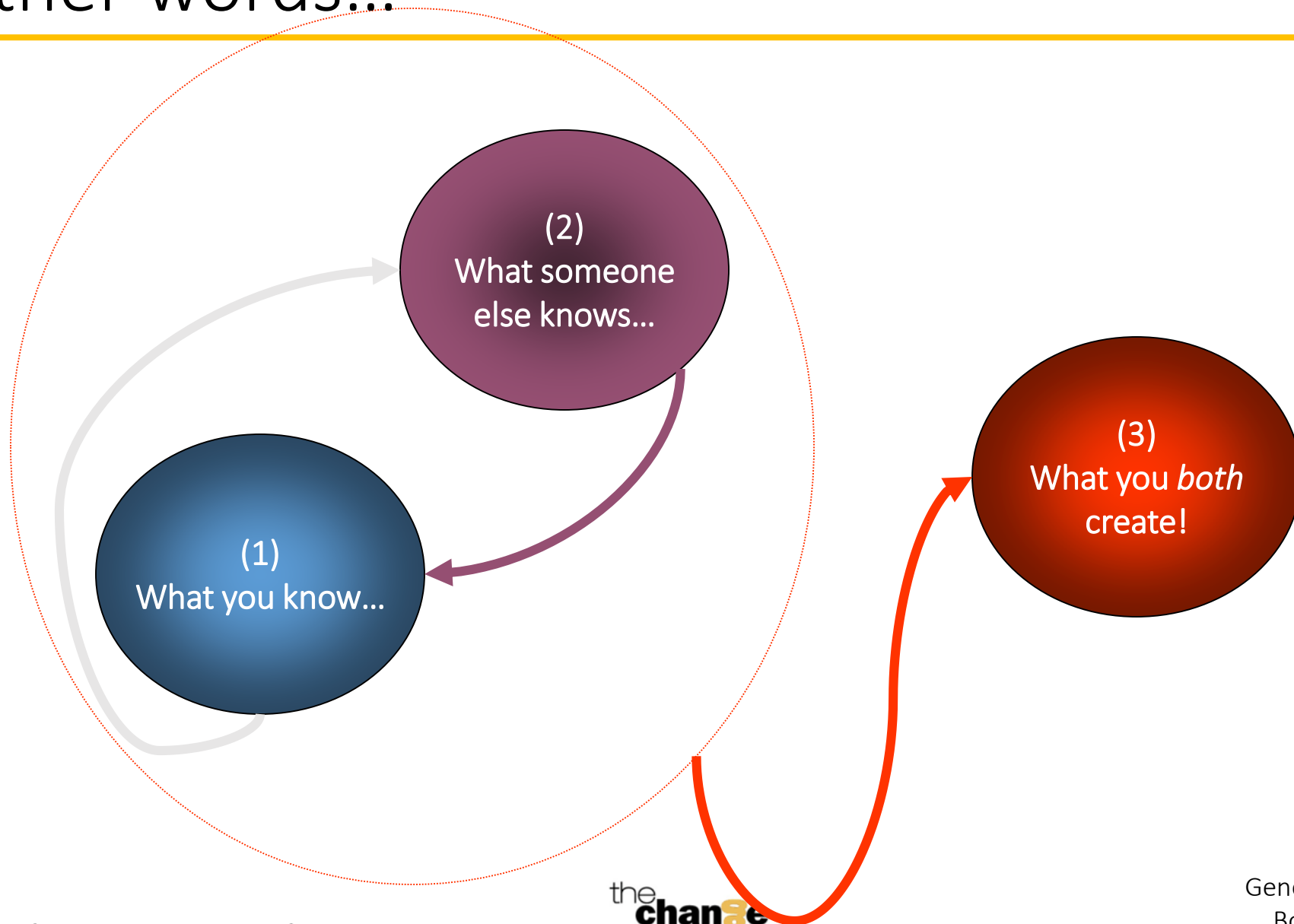- W. Gibson

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What is World Café?

- World Café is a *conversational process* based on a set of *integrated design principles* that reveal a deeper *living network pattern* through which we co-evolve our collective future.

- **As a conversational process**, the World Café is an innovative yet simple methodology for hosting conversations about questions that matter. These conversations link and build on each other as people move between groups, cross-pollinate ideas, and discover new insights into the questions or issues that are most important in their life, work, or community.

- **The integrated design principles** have been distilled over the years as a guide to intentionally harnessing the power of conversation for business and social value. When used in combination, they provide useful guidance for anyone seeking creative ways to foster authentic dialogue in which the goal is thinking together and creating actionable knowledge.

- **As a living network pattern**, the World Café refers to a living network of conversations that is continually co-evolving as we explore questions that matter with our family, friends, colleagues, and community.

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Design Principles

set the context

create hospitable space

share collective discoveries

explore questions that matter

An Integrated Set of Design Principles for Hosting Conversations that Matter

listen together for insights

encourage everyone's contributions

connect diverse perspectives

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Source: World Cafe

In other words...

(2)
What someone else knows...

(1)
What you know...

(3)
What you *both* create!

References:
Generative dialogue (Bill Isaacs)
Bohm dialogue (David Bohm)

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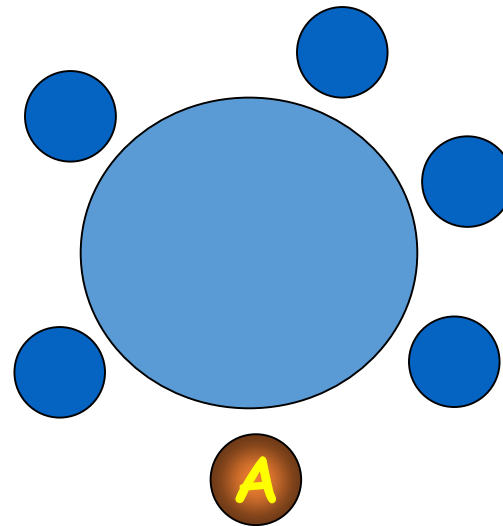
Requirements/Set-Up

- Requirements for it to work:

- 30-50 people in total

- diversity of the group (analysts, experts, executives, operations, support areas, etc)

- a topic of interest to all (transformation)

- collaboration and acceptance

Set-up

7 Tables
5-6 people/table
1 topic/table
1 host (anchor)
Several rounds

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Process for the World Café

1. Each table is hosted by an anchor, who has developed a topic for discussion

2. Participants freely choose a table in which to participate (6 to a table)

3. The anchor welcomes the participants and explains or clarifies the topic to be discussed

4. The anchor leads the discussion to generate ideas regarding the topic, for roughly 15 minutes

5. The anchor captures the ideas on a flipchart, and at the end of the round thanks the participants

This constitutes *one round*. And the process is repeated for two or three rounds total. That is, for each round, the participants rotate to other tables (and topics), and hence provide their ideas to at least two different topics. The anchor just builds on the prior round's discussion to avoid redundant ideas. After the rounds are completed, each anchor will debrief the general assembly based on their notes.

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Process for World Café

Time (minutes)	Activity
10	Introduction to workshop
15	World Café Round 1
15	World Café Round 2
15	World Café Round 3
20	Table Debriefs (maybe 3 tables?)
15	Call to Action
90	

Role of the Table Anchor (Host)

- *Participant* and *steward,* not a formal facilitator
- You stay at the table when the others rotate out
- Share the essence of the conversation with the next round of guests (remember: the topic stays at the table; the guests rotate)
- Take notes of all of the ideas (which build upon each round)
- Transfer to a <u>clean slate</u> the ideas that have emerged during the two or three different rounds to debrief with assembly
- Summarize the conversation at your table and send to the session facilitator within 48 hours

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Typical Topics – Warm-Up

1.- Recall a conversation you had where real learning took place and insights emerged. Describe it. What allowed it to happen?

2.- What is the one question, that if explored, would allow this project to move forward?

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Questions & Anchors

TABLE	Questions
1 Lone	If tCL were to become an innovation space what would it look like, feel like, be like? How would it be different from tCL today?
2 Shekhar	What is missing from our conference "space" that if present would truly make a difference in terms of community engagement?
3 Mariann	Moving forward and say for the next 24 months, what needs our undivided attention for the betterment of the community?
4 Rick	Beyond the two semi-annual conferences, what actions could we take to create more value for tCL'ers?
5 Julia	If tCL were to become an innovation space how would we have to organize? What sort of governance would be required?
6 Lars	In pursuing innovation, should tCL go at it alone or would it partner with 3rd parties? How would these partnerships work?
7 Cyrille	If by sheer magic your wish could be granted, what would you wish for in a tCL future?

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Closing

And now... what?