

World Café

Shaping our Futures through Conversations that Matter

(Juanita Brown, 2005)

How can we enhance our capacity to talk and think more deeply together about the critical issues facing our communities, our organizations, our nations, and our planet?

How can we access the mutual intelligence and wisdom we need to create innovative paths forward?



What is the World Café for?

World Café is designed primarily to generate collective knowledge sharing, webs of personal relationships, and new possibilities for action.



Design & Emergence

(after Fritjof Capra)

Designed structures have predetermined specifications

Emergent structures often self organize in ways that cannot be predicted

World Café conversations simultaneously engage both the intentional process of design and the natural process of emergence in order to encourage coherence without control.



How does it work?

A World café generally consists of **three rounds** of progressive conversation lasting approximately thirty minutes each.

After every round **people move from table to table.**

There are **a series of questions** for each round.

One person is the **"table host"**, who stays at the same table and **summarizes the previous conversation** for the new guests.

Everybody can **use the paper table cloth to draw, doodle, note down ideas and insights.**



Café Assumptions

The knowledge and wisdom we need are already present and accessible.

Intelligence emerges as the system connects to itself in creative ways.

Collective insight evolves from:

1. Honouring unique contributions
2. Connecting ideas
3. Listening into the middle
4. Noticing deeper patterns and questions



Café etiquette: Focus on what matters!

- 1) Contribute your thinking and expertise.
- 2) Listen to understand.
- 3) Connect ideas.
- 4) Listen together for patterns, insights, and deeper questions.
- 5) Play! Doodle! Draw!

World Café Questions (Monday p.m.)

- 1) What is important to you about the re-design of our urban centres in order to tackle climate change and why do you care?
- 2) What are the most effective leverage points (low hanging fruits) and design elements to bring down carbon emission in urban areas?
- 3) Share you experience and thoughts on how we can most effectively engage widespread community participation in the process of energy and carbon descent?



World Café Questions (Tuesday a.m.)

- 1) What is taking shape here? What are we hearing underneath the variety of opinions being expressed?
- 2) What's emerging that is new for you? What new connections are you making?
- 3) What is missing from the picture so far? What are we not seeing?
- 4) What has been your major learning or insights so far?



World Café Questions (Tuesday p.m.)

- 1) How can you most effectively apply lessons learnt and use the contacts made to move forward the agenda of carbon descent in your town/city/neighbourhood?
- 2) What challenges might come your way and how might you meet them?
- 3) How can we support one another in taking the next steps?



Open Space Technology

(Created by Harrison Owen in 1980s)

Open Space Technology enable participants to share their experience and knowledge on a particular subject.

It is a way to explore the 'edge of chaos' together - a place where creativity is greatest and new ideas, insights and connections can emerge.



Four Key Principles of Open Space Technology

- 1) Whoever comes is the right people.
- 2) Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.
- 3) Whenever it starts is the right time.
- 4) When it is over it is over.



How does Open Space Technology Work?

Each presenter gets 1 minute (no more!) to announce what s/he will be talking about on which table.

Participants are free to chose which presentation they will join to start with.

Each presenter has 15 Minutes for his/her presentation and 5 Minutes for questions.



The Law of Two Feet

Bumblebees and Butterflies are Welcome!

"If you find yourself in a situation where you aren't learning or contributing, go somewhere else."

Bumblebees: Move from table to table, listening in, and cross-pollinating.

Butterflies: Choose to sit by themselves, creating their own quiet space or an opportunity for someone to start a conversation with them.



Thank You for your Participation!

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