

SUMMARY REPORT
HIGH PERFORMANCE and The PRACTICE OF PEACE
January 13 - 15, 2017

DATE: 1/15/2017

Topic Title: What is the science of open space?

Initiator: Charlie Colpitts

Participants: Angela, Mark, Harold, Patrick, Ben, Janet, Cornelia,

Discussion Highlights:

There are two parts to the question of the science of open space:

1. Why does it work?
2. How do we know that it works?

Does it work because of a vacuum of these kind of experiences in our lives?

There is a “whee” factor to open space, elation.

OS works because it removes the impediments to self-organization. (we might say it removes attractors and provides new ones - CMC)

What conditions allow OS to work?

KISS (suggests the minimum number of actions expected in support of flocking behavior -CMC)

Rapid organization

Supports iteration and variation

Eliminates homogeneity (you could say eliminates “equilibrium”, a pre-condition of self-organization - CMC)

Enables and values uniqueness (variation, working with selection, being the main component of evolution - CMC)

Sociology?

Hits on the concepts of emotional intelligence, “EQ”.

There are studies that can be done to evaluate “EQ” pre- and post- OS events that could be constructed to also include control groups. (To me, this contribution is worth the price of admission. Thanks Patrick! - CMC)

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Open Space World.ORG/WP2/Explore/open-space-research (Thanks, Harold! - CMC)

Also possible are “developmental evaluations” - an agile approach, avoiding multi-year evaluation systems.

Also possible is “Participatory Action Research” in which participants decide what’s important to them, and that’s what gets measured. Can use a combination of concrete and subjective measures (Thanks, Angela. Again, worth the price of admission - CMC)

Thomas Kuhn: The structure of Scientific Revolution (Thanks Harold and Ben - CMC)

What is the value of the outcome?

Systemic - Binary

Intrinsic - infinite

Extrinsic - finite and measurable

Proposed that the human flocking behavior, analagous to the three simple actions of birds in a flock which are “fly at the same speed as your neighbor, fly in the same direction as your neighbor, and don’t run into your neighbor”, propose that in humans, the three behaviors may be “put the chairs in a circle, put up a bulletin board, and get to work”

Ideas for Action:

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