

Open Space Community

Meeting with Christine Koehler, March 27, 2020

Attending:

- Christine Koehler
- Peggy Holman
- Barry Owen
- Gerardo De Luzenberger
- François Knuchel
- Lucas Cioffi
- Heidi Saul
- Judit Revesz
- Agota
- Paul Levy
- Tony Budak

Notes

CK: There is a public call for tender from the army for any kind of tender, looking for projects regarding psychological and global impact of the crisis. About, after the crisis, Mention of isolation, consequences of lockdown. I was at virtual OS, 2 days ago Conversation Cafe with NCDD. CC Easy to manage online with big group. Virtual OS more difficult. Interestedg to suggest CC movement. For me, if it's only CC, acting part missing. OS much better at. I have a few days to make a proposal.

How to present to people who have no idea how benefit to population.

CC used after 9/11. I didn't see any articles that I could provide. I have to figure out a xxx to spread it. Ideas welcome.

Submission is April 12. Accept it on the go. The later the presentation, the less \$. Most \$ will go to masks.

Peggy remembers when Conversation Café was used after 9/11 and will look through her notes can introduce Christine to the organizers (Susan Partnow and Vicki Robin) and founding director of NCDD (Sandy Heierbacher) sandy@ncdd.org.

Conversation café with periodic open space

Could be brought in : journalists - as interesting partners

Ways to partner

1_ getting the invitation out

2 listening to stories to amplify (journalism to constructive (?)) : highlighting stories that they cannot get elsewhere >> The Correspondant / Sparknews

LC: Spreading the word on what people experience by participating, help people who could not attend understand what others experienced when they were in the dialogue event.

Christine: One media company who did positive stories. Not your classic newspaper. They coordinate the days for papers to positive stories.(Sparknews)

Check-in

GdL: I will put you in touch with people.

LC: SW developer. Made The Gardens with help of Suzanne and xxx

Heidi: OS facil in Sante Fe NM. I have family around the world. Good to be in touch with people in other places. Working with Lucas to take 30th OS unconference online end of April. I'm here because of your topic and prctice with Qiqo Chat.

FK: in London. Facil, OS my favorite practice. I'm here because I've never done OS online. Not elegant. Now desparate need to do elegantly. Joining any conversation when its part of the topic. Learning, thinking.

BO: Asheville, TN, do lots of OS. Esp drawn to topics w/global conversation that needs to happen. I've herad crazy things.If things don't settle down, interesting to be on the front end.

PH: Seattle, Washington. Interested in system wide spread of conversational literacy.

Judit: Geneva, Switzerland. Attend NY OS for Peace at International House. Interested, read listserv for 10 years.

Agota: Hungary, outside Budapest. LG practitioner long time. Juanita and Billie Alban. AoH practitioner. Just planning how to...started a few years ago on something for whole country. I was excited when I read the call. Getting ready for spring.

Paul Levy: Brighton, working with OS for 30 years. Fascinated in what's going on.

CK: I live in Paris, old OS practitioner. I asked for help never wrote such a proposal. I don't know how to do that. Many things I don't think about. Helpful. Like partnering with journalism if we want nationwide dialogue.

If you have done an example, to see how it is structured. Question about Method is emergent. Train people. How to explain and figure out the calendar of events. I don't know how to do that.

Discussion

LC: If army gave you all the \$ and everything went as well as it could, what would it look like? How long last? What would participants come away learning? What does success look like?

CK: I never dared dream of something like this. Dreaming big. I'd see a coordinating group with regular meetings to coordinate things. Fluid.

LC: You're creating different kind of virus.

CK: A virus of dialogue.

PH: A county (in Austria or Germany) creates many different ways for citizens to get involved. They have an 8-step process for how people can get involved. There's a video which explains it. Tova A. has written statewide proposals successfully and has worked with the Israeli Ministry of Education on statewide efforts -- a great contact to help you think about this.

The Civic Council Process ("Bürgererrat") in Austria: "How do we deal best with the influx of refugees"

<https://vimeo.com/135618811>

PH: I have a smaller-scale proposal that looks at neighborhoods at periodic coming together; I'll drop a link in this document.

PH: Is the call for proposals open ended?

CK: Yes. They are accepting proposals from very small companies too.

Agota: Was this proposal designed for online?

PH: It was for in-person and has to be adapted.

CK: We must create a new path online.

Agota: Austria had a nationwide process for Conversation Café in-person.
The area of Austria which is close to the German border has been doing this for years.

PH: Tom Atlee <cii@igc.org>, Rosa Zubizarreta <rosa@diapaxis.com> are good people to get involved.

Dynamic Facilitation is the technique at the heart of their process.

PL: Local gov is a bit in meltdown and police want/need the help to host these conversations.

PH: Here's an example of what Paul is talking about:

<https://medium.com/@jordan.s.lyon/the-day-after-a95b710558bc>

LC: Take what's happening in FB, WhatsApp, then escalate the dialogue. Some can't happen on these practice. You're taking it to higher bandwidth communication. Think about empowering/equipping people with tools & a process that they need.

PL: Similarity to CC when it scales. Everyone naturally discovers OS. Joined a couple group, call isolated. Commerce free, hosting moves around, CC feel. That might create momentum. Emergent simplicity.

PH: Use virus/antibodies as metaphor to help explain it.

Judit: What will this work look like after we are done? Will we go back to normal?

LC: Don't be afraid to say "no"!

PH: Identify an advisory board. Listen to multiple perspectives. Take responsibility based on the best council you've gotten. Get very clear on your focus so you have a grounding to come back to. The more diverse the group that grounds that original question, the more robust the question you ask will be. Find the wisdom in any disruptive idea.

CK: I must frame the intention, on the positive aspect.

LC: The process you design can be high-touch (with trained facilitators leading) or something that anyone can create. Some of these conversations will go poorly, so you need ground rules and a process so that participants can say "Please refrain from that... this event is for this..." in order to bring the process/conversation back on track.

PL: The climate change community is concerned that countries are letting up on their commitments right now.

Barry: If you get a sponsor, how does that change the event? Is there an expected outcome?

Other possible resources:

- [Mobilizing Creativity, Compassion, and Community to address homelessness](#). Seattle city scale design.
- [European Journalism Accelerator](#) - might be a partner (I have contact. Peggy)
- [The Constructive Journalism Network](#) - might be a partner (Founder, Catherine Gyldensted is Danish. I have contact.)
- The Correspondent article on [good side of anxiety](#).
- [Tend and befriend](#)

CK: In the Conversation Cafe event we see that people are getting angry against the government and the police. Everyone can sense it.

Judit: International Red Cross has called it psychological first aid. Link:

<https://pscentre.org/?resource=a-guide-to-psychological-first-aid-for-red-cross-red-crescent-societies>

PL: All OS in the UK in the arts ask “What is to be done about _____?”

CK: What about OS? Conversation Cafe will probably not be enough.

PL: There is a danger of “method push”. You might want to offer humble inquiry at first. Community groups have formed; how can you amplify their efforts?

PH: You can host a 2-hour call once per week that is done in an OS format. “Here’s what we’re hearing across these groups and we will run an online OS on this topic.” Some communities have regular times for meetings and whoever shows up can experience that format.

Proactive Cafe = OS + Conversation Cafe. It’s a means of accelerating projects.

A weekly rhythm provides some structure.

LC: Include invitation at the core of your approach and mention that you’re offering tools that can equip communities to use the tool that they need at this time.

FK: Each approach must be as simple as possible, delivering these items/ideas in a box:

- here’s the tech
- the process that you need
- here’s an example invitation

Connecting neighborhoods together. A group of facilitators to support each other.

CK: There is a community which already exists in France with some tools.

TB: There is a repair community network. People use a camera to show how something is broken and experts walk people through repairing via a camera.

Viral Open Space going on this Sunday and Monday

I wish to test CC online with french speaking people to see what topics emerge.

<https://framaforms.org/viral-open-space-1584735180>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/theviralopenspace/>

faire face au Covid-19, des organisations non gouvernementales, des mouvements sociaux etc. autour du monde.