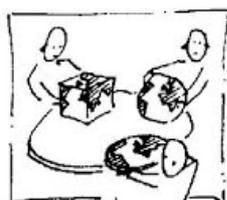


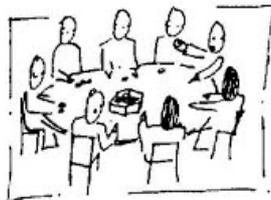
## Sharing Voices Stories and Gifting and Empowering

to matter and reach peace, harmony, and awareness

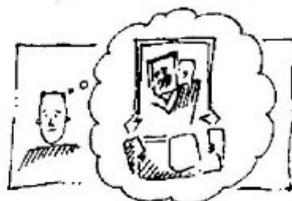
OPEN SPACE Magic-Roundtables encounters since 20+ years



Many models, many views



Invite, share, listen, co-create



See who sees & reflect upon it



Global seeing & feeling

We have collected in the last 20 years the voices of participants in the Magic Roundtables. Mostly they were very encouraging and full of learning for participants, observers, and facilitators!

One lesson, for example, is the need to grasp the space, time, situation and context, as any data, view, concept, idea, value... out of context is meaningless. A real dialogue is authentic and matters.

This applies also to the way we have recorded our

dialogue exercises over the years. A link to a documentation of the event or a collection of voices is not enough! Not even some interviews and video clips alone can convey what happened and what the effect and leverage of situations has been.

See here reports of selected events: <http://events.open-forum.de/>

In addition to the event reports and selected statements of participants over the years, you can find below a description of event settings and outcomes in stories, 30- seconds “pitches” about happenings and lessons which evolved: (I have neutralised – not giving names and details – and only participants will be able to remember the situation they witnessed. Corrections of my very personal recollections are most welcome, and of course they are biased as any report can only be subjective).

PLEASE understand this giving voice, empowering, learning when to speak, what to say, and where and when to listen is only a basic first element in what we do in MULTI-TRACK DIPLOMACY and PEACE-MAKING

### Dialogue Circus - with Christoph Schlingensief and CHANCE 2000

A politician with his wife and secretary gets the conversation “rules”, immediately grasps that his “associates” can credit him “on demand” and is half-done with his “message/pitch” when his time is “up”. He kindly asks if other participants in the circle would like to donate another token, only in the beginning to create some “mercy”. In the end, half done, he turns red, jumps up, gets emotional, grabs his “fiancées” to walk out, but they want to stay alone ....

UN Climate Summit, Berlin 1995 (COP1 side-event-climate fair) It was not the Club of Rome new book presenter at the International Corner, but an unknown lady from Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso) gets tons of time-credits. In the initial sharing she only had a few tokens, but the “elder statesmen advisor” invited her “ladies first” - and she had something to share ! Original, deep, full of lessons ....

### **The House of Democracy – before relocation... / International Development Foundation**

There is a public crisis session as maybe 100 civil society organisations have different strategies and tactics, not only locations and alliances in mind. One member of the House is “grilled” and openly attacked from the circle of the observers and bystanders by a fellow board member. When the situation turns more aggressive and he refuses to accept the repeated invitation by the moderator to (do what?), the participant “under fire” gets up and gives his tokens to the aggressor who wants him to leave... The aggressor is shocked - he gets “air-time” from his “enemy”? They start to talk and share positions, finally become friends and leave “arm in arm”...

A similar situation was the crisis in a members meeting of a large foundation – where the board members could not “find” and “attention” to exchange. The board member in public is getting lots of tokens to justify, explain, expand,... and publicly the situation is cleared and the critical split is solved in broad general emotions/sympathy.

International Peace University Summer School, Berlin 1995 – German and Turkish youth gang clash

During the 4 weeks multi-track, multi-location event there is also the need to have youth in trouble brought together. One group is environmentally active, presenting energy efficient eco-team solutions, the other is eager to fight, and suggests that a brick to save water in a flush-toilet, should be used to hit the presenter on the . The moderator maintains order and gives every party to speak-out, without any comment and correction. The young people are full of aggression against the old – people always manipulating and controlling learn that this is a “game with rules” and so nobody is muzzling them and so they can speak-out and learn why the “others”....

### **Anna Lindh Foundation - Barcelona - Berlin**

In an Anna-Lindh-Salon we gather cultural workers and activists in a 50 country global annual gathering. An elder diplomat tells insights and only later realises that this is not for the record and he should not be cited.

...

In dialogues with Palestinians – Israelis who never have a chance to meet at home – and state they would not sit in the same room – normally ... they realize they have so many ties and commons

### **ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMITS – Free University Berlin (open forum -open space since 2005)**

Over the years we have done Magic Roundtable events beside the “Pitch-Bar”. Founders who learned to pitch their message in 3 minutes finally talk to each other, share and find synergies. This format is done with surprise and invited guests and it has been a great success in establishing lasting networking alliances, as it is good to listen in the Audi-Max, or highly attractive tracks and sessions, but also to start conversations with old and new friends.

### **David Bohm Ljubljana Dialogues and Fuschl / Asilomar Conversations**

As the Bohm Dialogues are the standard for deep encounters and conversation – and with the School of Ignorance as an extra yard-stick to unconditional openness, attention, and compassion. The idea to bring hands and minds to the table surprising fusion the diversity of participants like Karl Pribram and \*\*\*\* in combination for remote contribution from England and California and the evolving interaction also in Austria and around Big Sur and Asilomar, were the challenging test-marks. The Term “Magic Roundtable” was even taken up for Saybrook dissertations. No time here for “happenings” and anecdotes...

A Sufi Master gathering with a table crowded with his followers who are used to hear his gospel. The Master finds a lady at the table not from his flock and allows her to speak time and time again. He is used to always preach, and most are used to always listen, but by inviting a new and different opinion, everyone learns and the grand master is “beaming” with joy...

UN - ECOSOC Stammtisch Roundtables At UN conventions and summits there has been a custom of inviting not only some activists – but of inviting delegations and media to meet with the civil society representatives. Typically journalist have their esteemed F2F interview for a few minutes, and the “speaker” says his bit, as always, and the journalist puts forward his well-packed questions. But all too often both are on a “new assignment” and far from concrete reality. Inviting some head of delegations, some members of the Press, and some NGO activists is a good mix. We learned from the round-tables that sovereign delegates give the time to their 3rdlines, speakers, spin doctors as a question needs a direct answer - there is not time ! As in the annual gathering of share-holders of large industry, questions are collected and a large team backstage has to find the answers and pass them to the CEO to read. This happens in very heated elections and orientation (?) sessions. Not in highly intensive – one hour – discussions – with or without Cheltenham Rules !! – as learning can happen when you can change your mind, realise mind-bugs and mind-boogles and come to new shared realisations and actions. inter kultur Bundesfachkongress Bochum

**IETM: International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts - PLAN C, Radialsystem, Berlin  
2010**

One special “crucial test was the ad-hoc request to support, at a UNESCO event in Bochum, the 6 invited World Cafe tables with another 6 Magic Roundtables, as the demand for that topic was double the expected. The day before we were asked and so we trained 6 gifted young postgraduate student from Solitude to moderate the other roundtables. The host and delegate from the sponsoring cultural ministry was amazed to see that the surprise “magic roundtables” were much more alive and rewarding – and he could easily compare with the moderated “world-cafe style” tables.

### **Sharing and Gifting Harvesting Closing Circles for European Commission events**

and German Innovator Club high level association formats (for some years).

In 2015 and 2016 the task was to present funded projects and look for new ideas and proposals searching for funding. The Programme title is CAPS (Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation). One goal is to harness new ideas and the wisdom of the participants, and to test and advance ways of communication, means and ends. The 2016 CAPS gathering in a cultural orchard / eco-community was a special highlight for the combination, scaling-up, and harvesting of socio-cultural awareness and communication research schemes. Ask for reports and details.

One other such “new ideas” is called Stammtisch 3.0 as developed in the “open-government 2.0 series” since 2009 – It is scale-up deep dialogues, support distributed virtual conferencing conversation, as the further increase of our ecological footprints can not be justified. There is a time-line of exercises in/with communities, town and regions, and rural socio-ecologic cultural development as collected for the German Council of Towns and Regions Innovators Club and others.

*See [open-forum.de](http://open-forum.de) and the impressions and statements after events as recorded since 1995 events. [open-forum.de](http://open-forum.de) and an old article: <https://sites.google.com/site/21stcenturyagora/the-spoons-feathers-principle-phaenomenon> and Magic Roundtables outcomes and this forthcoming article in MOTHER PELICAN: [weturn.org/Spoons-Beads-Birds-Phaenomenon.pdf](http://weturn.org/Spoons-Beads-Birds-Phaenomenon.pdf) and the background papers: [benking.de/open-forum/OF\\_Backgroundpapers/](http://benking.de/open-forum/OF_Backgroundpapers/)*

*forthcoming as an article in*

