

New political dynamics at global, national and city levels have important implications for how cities are led

Monday, 27th February, 13h30 – 14h45

NEW POLITICAL CHALLENGES

World Café Conversations

Positioning the World Café style of conversation

“The World Café is built on the assumption that ... People already have within them the wisdom and creativity to confront even the most difficult challenges; that the answers we need are available to us; and that we are **Wiser Together than we are alone**”



illustration by Avril Orloff

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Play! Experiment! Improvise!

World Café rules of engagement

- 1. Be truly curious and engage with empathy.** The questions are reflective of issues that have resonance with all of us in the room
- 2. Use every sense possible:** The tools that are at your table and space are there to allow you to draw, write, build mind maps, reflect or even scribble. The snacks are also there for your convenience. This is a “café” after all
- 3. Encourage everyone's contribution:** As leaders we are increasingly aware of the importance of participation, but most people don't only want to participate, they want to actively contribute to making a difference. It is important to encourage everyone in your meeting to contribute their ideas and perspectives, while also allowing anyone who wants to participate by simply listening to do so.
- 4. Connect diverse perspectives:** The opportunity to move between tables, meet new people, actively contribute your thinking, and link the essence of your discoveries to ever-widening circles of thought is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Café. As you move carry key ideas or themes to new tables, exchange perspectives, and search for new insights.
- 5. Share collective discoveries:** Conversations held at one table reflect a pattern of wholeness that connects with the conversations at the other tables. Given this try and graphically represent key elements of each of your conversations in the space provided
- 6. Listening is a gift we give to one another:** Through practicing shared listening and paying attention to themes, patterns and insights, we begin to sense a connection to the larger whole. Listen for what is not being spoken along with what is being shared

The importance of the question

The questions (s) used for a World Café conversation are critical to its success.

Our programme Café will present three questions in the 60 minutes. A few important considerations related to the importance of identifying the right questions

- Well-crafted questions attract energy and focus our attention to what really counts.
- We need to pose open-ended questions—the kind that don't have yes or no answers
- Good questions need not imply immediate action steps or problem solving. They invite inquiry and discovery vs. advocacy and advantage.
- You'll know you have a good question when it continues to surface new ideas and possibilities.

A Powerful Question

is simple and clear • is thought-provoking • generates energy • focuses inquiry •
surfaces unconscious assumptions • opens new possibilities