

COLLECTIVE SESSIONS #1



FROM ENGAGEMENT TO EMPOWERMENT: Citizens as Co-creators of Community Services

Saturday, 24.11.2012 | 16:00h - 19:00 h | d.collective space Okerstr. 45 12049 Berlin (U8 Leinestr.)

DESIGN-LED CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A collaborative workshop presents a social design process for civic engagement. Based on dialogic design methodology, we explore design outcomes in dialogue rather than merely verbal deliberation.

New community initiatives are emerging as people take charge of social services once expected of government. What are the opportunities arising in the increasing distance between community needs and what governments can provide? How might we design and organize to befriend this trend?

Governments as we know them are transforming, budgets and infrastructures are tapped out while citizens demand more than agencies can support. Social contracts are breaking down as governments go broke, outsource and privatize. Citizens will need to organize to compensate and get their community needs met.

How will we close the gap between what governments can provide and the social services that vibrant citizens and communities require? We can learn from the many small-scale community-led projects around the world where people are leading the way – to make, plant, harvest, heal, build, and teach collectively. At some point these collective actions become organized services that serve more needs across the community.

What tools or infrastructure can governments provide to empower citizens to take leadership of the services they need?

What role can citizens play in improving the services we use?

What community-led initiatives are emerging in our dense urban enclaves?

How might this practice unfold in the future?

PRESENTER AND WORKSHOP LEADER

Peter Jones is a professor in the Strategic Foresight and Innovation MDes program at OCAD University and fellow of the Strategic Innovation Lab. Peter is founder of Redesign, an innovation research company based in Toronto, and a board member of the Institute for 21st Century Agoras. He founded the Design with Dialogue community of practice designwithdialogue.com, blogs at designdialogues.com and tweets @redesign. peter AT redesignresearch.com.

MODERATION AND INTRODUCTION

Heiner Benking and **Farah Lenser** are journalists, facilitators and co-hosts of this dialogue. They founded the Open-Forum in 1995, now a project of Positive Nett-Works e.V., and are with Peter Jones part of the Institute of 21st Century Agoras community. (open-forum.de, 21stCenturyAgora.org, <http://www.harnessingcollectivewisdom.com>, <http://dialogicdesignscience.wikispaces.com>, [heiner \(farah\)@open-forum.de](mailto:heiner(farah)@open-forum.de))

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