

The Change Leaders, Oxford 2018 Conference Change In Systems



This year the overall theme for the tCL Oxford conference was Change in Systems.

Value Creating Systems – Rafael Ramirez

Rafael Ramirez worked with us on Value Creating Systems, based on his new book, Strategy for a Networked World. In addition, Rafael he shared with us his new way of working at Saïd Business School, within his Professorship of Practice and within the Networked Strategy Lab (<https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oxford-networked-strategy-lab>).

Exploring the emergence and evolution of social systems – Trudi Lang

In this session, Trudi facilitated a discussion about ways of understanding the emergence and evolution of social systems, in particular exploring ways of intervening to position them strongly for the future. In doing so, she drew on her experience working within the multi-stakeholder system of the World Economic Forum.

By way of background, Trudi is a global strategist working with leaders to support them with their strategic objectives. Her vision is to improve the state of the world through global conversations. She does this through her teaching, research and consulting, providing leaders with the frameworks and space to discover a new way.

- Trudi Lang is a core faculty member of the Oxford Scenarios Programme and the Oxford Networked Strategy Lab. Both programmes are highly experiential providing leaders with the strategy skills for thriving in an interconnected and often turbulent world. She also contributes to a range of related open and customised programmes delivered in Oxford and around the world.
- Trudi was previously Director and Head of Strategic Foresight at the World Economic Forum convening global conversations with members and stakeholders to explore the future of industries, countries and emerging issues. She also served as Consultant for Strategic Foresight at the OECD working with the leaders of a member country to develop their national strategy.

- In addition to holding a PhD (Oxford DPhil, Management Studies), Trudi has an MSc degree in Management Research from the University of Oxford, graduating with Distinction and winning the Templeton College Nautilus Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. She also holds an MBA (Executive) (Distinction) from Curtin University, Australia, and a MA (Political Science) from the University of Hawaii, USA.

Change in Social Systems - Slobodan Djinoic

The change agents from the Center for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS) consult worldwide for more than twenty years on large scale, national, systemic change in places like Egypt, Iran, Cuba, Russia, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine, Burma, Serbia, Macedonia, Thailand, and other societies undergoing epochal upheaval. As such, CANVAS has gained some experience in how large systems change on the scale of countries.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheEconomist/videos/692797097740573/>

In this session we learned about CANVAS' work and applied some of their tools in interactive exercises.

Slobodan Djinoic serves as co-founder and Chairman of CANVAS, the Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies, an educational organization that trains activists from around the world in the strategies and tactics on nonviolent struggle. He has co-authored two CANVAS publications: Nonviolent Struggle: 50 Crucial Points and The CANVAS Core Curriculum. Slobodan also has a certificate from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. End of the last century, Slobodan was one of the co-founders of the Serbian resistance movement OTPOR! while he was a student at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade in 1998. OTPOR! went on to topple Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic through a mass nonviolent campaign. Subsequently, Slobodan went on to found one of the first internet companies in Serbia, and currently serves as CEO of Orion Telecom, next to his work for Canvas.

Transforming United Way – William Browning

In an informing and inspiring session, our tCL colleague William Browning shared his experience of transforming United Way, a US based non profit organization. How one converts a 130 year old organization spanning 1800 federated locations into the digital age (4th revolution) has been tremendously challenging.

Orchestrating Change – Jeff Pedde

Our tCL colleague Jeff Pedde presented ideas and insights from his recent book, Orchestrating Change, How to Navigate Complexity and get Results. The book offers a different perspective on how to understand and leverage the messy ways people work with each other. It provides a simple framework that organizational leaders and change professionals can use to plot and course correct the change programs they develop to alter the ways people work with each other to get things done.

As part of this session, Jeff engaged us in an interactive exercise to illustrate some of the related dynamics of group complexity, including the challenge of learning in time pressured situations.

For more information about Orchestrating Change, please visit the book's website:
www.orchestratingchange.ca.