In a recent conversation with Maria Kakoulaki and Marios Michaelides, while visiting Cyprus, Alexander Christakis was asked what distinguishes the AGORAS colaboratories of democracy from other approaches for engaging stakeholders?

**ANSWER by Dr. Christakis:** My answer was and still is that those colaboratories are founded on the science of dialogic design as elaborated in the Domains of Science Model (DOSM) of John Warfield, and in particular in the Axioms of the science, namely:

**AXIOMS OF DIALOGIC DESIGN SCIENCE:**
- **The Complexity Axiom:** Social systems designing is a multi-dimensional challenge. It demands that observational variety be respected when engaging observers/stakeholders in dialogue, while making sure that their cognitive limitations are not violated in our effort to strive for comprehensiveness (John Warfield).

- **The Engagement Axiom:** Designing social systems, such as health care, education, cities, communities, without the authentic engagement of the stakeholders is unethical, and results in inferior plans that are not implementable (Hasan Ozbekhan).

- **The Investment Axiom:** Stakeholders engaged in designing their own social systems must make personal investments of trust, committed faith, or sincere hope, in order to be effective in discovering shared understanding and collaborative solutions (Tom Flanagan).

- **The Logic Axiom:** Appreciation of distinctions and complementarities among inductive, deductive and retroductive logics is essential for a futures-creative understanding of the human being. Retroductive logic makes provision for leaps of imagination as part of value-and emotion-laden inquiries by a variety of stakeholders (Norma Romm).

- **The Epistemological Axiom:** A comprehensive science of the human being should inquire about human life in its totality of thinking, wanting, telling, and feeling, like the indigenous people and the ancient Athenians were capable of doing. It should not be dominated by the traditional Western epistemology that reduced science to only intellectual dimensions (LaDonna Harris).

- **The Boundary-Spanning Axiom:** A science of dialogue empowers stakeholders to act beyond borders in designing symbiotic social systems that enable people from all walks of life to bond across possible cultural, religious, racialized, and disciplinary barriers and boundaries, as part of an enrichment of their repertoires for seeing, feeling and acting (Ioanna Tsivacou and Norma Romm).

- **The Reconciliation of Power Axiom:** Social Systems designing aims to reconcile individual and institutional power relations that are persistent and embedded in every group of stakeholders and their concerns, by honoring Requisite Variety of distinctions and perspectives as manifested in the Arena (Peter Jones)

I think it is imperative that we all internalize these seven axioms, and use them in our practice and in communicating and training others in designing and conducting colaboratories of democracy with the engagement of stakeholders from all walks of life. The six Arcetypes of colaboratories are presented in: dialogicdesignscience.wikispaces.com/Co-Laboratory

See also the Interviews in EUROPEsWORLD with Christakis: benking.de/EUROPEsWORLD

**MORE:**
- Site - globalagoras.org - METHODOLOGY nccd.org/rc/item/2884  ReDesign: redesignresearch.com
- Original 21stCenturyAgora website, now jump-page: 21stcenturyagora.org & FutureWorldsCenter.org
- Collaboratories of Democracy HarnessingCollectiveWisdom.com
- The Talking Point infoagepub.com/products/The-Talking-Point
- Democratic Approach to Sustainble Futures createspace.com/3571032
- Body Wisdom in Dialogue createspace.com/3707378
- Collaboratories of Democracy HarnessingCollectiveWisdom.com/
- TALK-COMMUNICATION: vimeo.com/15945332
- Freedom of Expression - Speakers Corner youtube.com/watch?v=Lzx5wXvAjbc

**Questions?**
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