

DRAFT version June 17, 2013  
under editorial review for Cambridge Scholar Publishing due to hit the streets

## **Collecting, Framing, Negotiating, and Connecting: Dots, Signs, Models, Repositories, Spaces, and Minds<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Explorations into individual, socio-cultural collaborative and co-creative, and collective approaches towards tackling the Global Problematique.

**Heiner Benking**

Independent Journalist and Scholar, Council of Global Issues, Tagore-Einstein-Council

<a href="#">Personal Introduction.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Thematic Introduction: Agoras WorldWide.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">REYNALDO PIECE.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">STRATEGIC ARTICULATION OF ACTIONS TO COPE WITH THE HUGE CHALLENGES OF OUR WORLD TODAY.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Collecting and Connecting: Individually and Collectively, but Co creative and Collaboratively in Shared Frames of Reference?.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">THANKS &amp; CREDITS.....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">References.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">ANNEX PART.....</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
<a href="#">I - ANNEX about tackling the problem with the problems”.....</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
<a href="#">II - ANNEX: REFLECTIONS AROUND A PLAUSIBLE GLOBAL STRATEGY TO HARMONIZE OUR PLANET EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">III - ANNEX - Connecting ‘Gocal’ Dots and Issues and Frames on GLocal Issues.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Strategic Articulation of Actions to Cope wit the Huge Challenges or Our World - A Platform for Reflection.....</a>	<a href="#">24</a>
<a href="#">Responses and Comments - INTERN / PRELIMINARY.....</a>	<a href="#">24</a>

## **Personal Introduction**

This paper is a record of a collaborative process which started in 2011 in Cyprus when I attended the International SDDP Facilitators Training School<sup>3</sup> at the Future Worlds Center in Nicosia and in a preparatory session for the next symposium of The Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS)

<sup>1</sup> This paper includes a constructive/critical review of Reynaldo Trevino Cisneros new publication introduced below and “Imagining Future Urban Challenges - Imagining Canada’s Future 2030”, OCAD, Peter Jones . See the slides presented at the OAC and for example check later the multi-cultural applications as presented by Paul Hayes about the AIO/AMO exercises since 2004 and the work of the other SDP practitioners presented below. Including a featured special highlight of this synopsis was presented as a “HOLISTIC APPROACH TO COPE WITH THE MILLENNIUM PROJECT 15 GLOBAL CHALLENGES” outlining the “STRATEGIC ARTICULATION OF ACTIONS TO COPE WITH THE HUGE CHALLENGES OF OUR WORLD TODAY”. See A SOCIAL SYSTEM APPROACH TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS by the Institute of 21<sup>st</sup>Century Agoras, Monograph Series [No.1](#)

<sup>2</sup> For documentation and to include some visuals as unfortunately a video documentary is not available I urge you to check out powerpoint slides as presented at the OAC in Crete at the SAPREJ-2012: <http://de.slideshare.net/benking/connecting-dotsspaces> as pictures can tell more than 10.000 words – see infographics roots: <http://benking.de/infographics/>

Alexander Christakis urged us **“to connect the dots”**. Yiannis Laouris added that this is not enough, he asked for a connection of the minds to better understand individual and collective reasoning and capacity building.

I have long been concerned with bridging the “incompatible” and “intangible” or the “odds”. We need to find solutions aware of our cultural patterns, positions and perspectives, how we conceptualize, present and communicate when we are using different languages and norms, or even are stuck unknowingly in certain frames and are not aware of specific shared contexts, patterns and values, unable to agree on shared orientations and common frames of references.

This makes me recall an effort here in Berlin we did at a symposium of the HIIG in 2012 where I tried to connect the “mind-sets” of Carl Ritter and Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt<sup>4</sup> with the intention to help us also connect the frames and spaces, as too often dots do not get connected into shared fabrics or patterns or our concern and search for shared ontologies<sup>5</sup>.

What I am looking for here is another process and procedure to “unearth” the commons, not just shared situations but observations and assumptions connected to statements and judgements. I will add below this paper some more thoughts on “where to go”, some reflections about the title, motivations and maybe a synopsis for general orientation of this endeavour of caring also about the frames of references, problem and solution spaces, and last not least about “overview and orientation”<sup>6</sup> when our “Views of Life is too flat”<sup>7</sup> (In our papers sense it means not only “flat” or shallow but “disconnected” having not even collected but being dumbed down by “noise”.)

In July 2012 the 8th. National & International HSSS Conference 2012<sup>8</sup> took place in Thessaloniki with my virtual co-presenters at this SAPREJ-12 Conference at the OAC: Alexander Christakis,

---

<sup>3</sup> The 3rd International Facilitators Training School for the (SDD) Process took place in Nicosia, Cyprus between the 25th and 27th of July 2011. It was organized by in collaboration with the. \*\*\*\*

<sup>4</sup> Learnings from Alexander von Humboldt and Carl Ritter towards the Grand Global Communication Challenges, Workshop at the 1st Berlin Symposium on Internet and Society , Exploring the digital future Oct 25-28, 2011, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG) -

<sup>5</sup> Formal Ontology and Principles of Knowledge Organisation - State of the Art and Future Applications - a Work in Progress Report, Heinrich Herre, Heiner Benking, work in progress: check the ISKO pre-conference <http://www.isko-de.org/index.php?id=wissensorganisation13> and the ISI website. See also as presented at the HIIG 2011 the forthcoming ISKO proceedings: This is the Draft version with the editors: <http://benking.de/ISKO/2013-05-23-isko-paper-hh-hb.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Overview & Orientation or Overclaims & Oversimplifications ? handout as part of the presentation/paper Cultivating a Human Cognition by Dialogue a the InterSymp'97 – Culture of Peace Plenary Session, The International institute for Advances Studies in Systems Research and Cybernetics IIAS in cooperation with UNESCO, Baden-Baden, August 18-23, 1997, [http://www.academia.edu/1818805/Overview\\_and\\_Orientation\\_or\\_Overclaims\\_and\\_Oversimplifications](http://www.academia.edu/1818805/Overview_and_Orientation_or_Overclaims_and_Oversimplifications)

<sup>7</sup> “Views of Life is too flat” poster, handout and Knowledge Spiral Newsletter from the WFSF 1993 in Turku: <http://benking.de/education.htm>  
Benking, H. (1993) Visual Access Strategies for Multidimensional Objects and Issues.- A new World View, based on the Hyperlink ECO-CUBE, for better understanding and communication about multi-disciplines like Ecology - XIII World Conference of World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF), COHERENCE AND CHAOS IN OUR UNCOMMON FUTURES, Visions, Means, Action, Turku, Finland, August 23-27, 1993 - FAW- TR-93019, Ulm  
[http://www.academia.edu/1832487/Visual\\_Access\\_Strategies\\_for\\_Multi-Dimensional\\_Objects\\_and\\_Issues\\_A\\_new\\_World\\_View\\_based\\_on\\_the\\_Hyperlink\\_ECO-CUBE\\_for\\_better\\_understanding\\_and\\_communication\\_about\\_multi-disciplines\\_like\\_Ecology\\_-\\_1993](http://www.academia.edu/1832487/Visual_Access_Strategies_for_Multi-Dimensional_Objects_and_Issues_A_new_World_View_based_on_the_Hyperlink_ECO-CUBE_for_better_understanding_and_communication_about_multi-disciplines_like_Ecology_-_1993)  
See the Newsletter: <http://benking.de/faw-newsletter.htm>

<sup>8</sup> 8th. National & International HSSS Conference 2012, 5-7 July, 2012, see: Democracy in [R]evolution: Why & How We the People Ought to Connect our Minds - Stakeholders' Strategic Perspective with Systemic Tools by Dr. Yiannis Laouris, Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute, and “Why & How We the People Ought to Connect the Dots ...” [http://www.2012.hsss.eu/1006\\_2/Keynote-Addresses](http://www.2012.hsss.eu/1006_2/Keynote-Addresses)

Yiannis Laouris, and with special mention and many thanks Maria Kakoulaki. I am very grateful because she agreed at the last minute to jump in as moderator and introduced the topic in the lecture room as I could attend only as a virtual conference participant. This paper is not another Structured Dialogic Design Process description. There are abundant books and conferences which have introduced the method over years. So we propose to visit the website of The Institute of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Agoras and check some links, get some books or see some videos. Here we want to explore and negotiate possible next steps, critical challenges and opportunities and where which practitioners are working on Future Agoras.

Let us revisit the above mentioned papers at the HSSS with the same main title: ***Democracy in [R]evolution:*** and Alexander Christakis and Maria Kakoulaki's subtitle: ***“Why & How We the People Ought to Connect the Dots ...” - Strategic Thinking and Interactive Systemic Practicing*** explaining: *by connecting of the dots...” we mean the consensual “connection” of people’s mental models, i.e., opinions, knowledge, understandings, wisdom and vision for the future,...”*<sup>9</sup> and Yiannis Laouris' subtitle: ***“Why & How We the People Ought to Connect our Minds, Stakeholders’ Strategic Perspective with Systemic Tools”*** explaining *how to develop “new concepts, scientific systemic tools and powerful social-media-based software capable of tackling contemporary multi-dimensional strategic complex problems.”* and further down: *“Connecting our minds... will require new tools, which will enable the definition of shared problématique-, as well as solution spaces through exploration and processing of diverse contributions and opinions regarding importance or influence relationships between statements. The new tools aim to support stakeholders to exploit their collective wisdom and reach consensus even when they are in large numbers”.*

We can also resort here to an incredible source of practice and experience assembled in this Global Agoras group or around the GLOBAL AGORA sessions and SIS groups in Asilomar<sup>10</sup>. I had the pleasure to meet some practitioners in Crete in 2006 and 2003<sup>11</sup> and took part in some meetings in Fuschl and Asilomar in the 80ies and 90ies, see timeline<sup>12</sup>. A summing up was presented in an interviews with Christakis not only about what happened since the late 60ies and early 70ies which gave rise to such new approaches to dialog design and peacemaking, but also what futures challenges are. Check these interviews in EUROPEsWORLD<sup>13</sup> and this article by the president of the 21stCenturyAgora institute Tom Flannagan about Boundary Spanning<sup>14</sup>

## Thematic Introduction: Agoras WorldWide

Coming back to the design of our design of our virtual OAC session which was intended to include or at least hint at the work done in Japan and Arizona, new Zealand \*\*\*\*\* WORK \*\*\*\*\* and elsewhere..... but also to include colleagues like Peter Jones from Toronto, Canada and Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros from Aquacaliente, Mexico. They could not attend the virtual

<sup>9</sup> Contribution “Why & How We the People Ought to Connect the Dots ...”, Strategic Thinking and Interactive Systemic Practicing, by Alexander N. Christakis & Maria Kakoulaki, [http://www.2012.hsss.eu/1006\\_2/Keynote-Addresses](http://www.2012.hsss.eu/1006_2/Keynote-Addresses)

<sup>10</sup> IS Asilomar Link !

<sup>11</sup> FUTURES Book by Ken Bausch: [http://open-forum.de/Dialogue\\_and\\_DecisionCulture.html](http://open-forum.de/Dialogue_and_DecisionCulture.html)  
[http://ifsr.ocg.at/world/files/fu2004\\_proceedings\\_v1.0.pdf](http://ifsr.ocg.at/world/files/fu2004_proceedings_v1.0.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <https://sites.google.com/site/21stcenturyagora/>

<sup>13</sup> Link EUROPEsWORLD interviews with Christakis:  
[http://www.europesworld.org/NewEnglish/Home\\_old/PublicProfile/tabid/690/userid/2543/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.europesworld.org/NewEnglish/Home_old/PublicProfile/tabid/690/userid/2543/language/en-US/Default.aspx)

<sup>14</sup> Tom Flannagan about Boundary Spanning  
[http://redesignresearch.com/docs/Scripting\\_Collaborative\\_Narrative--Flanagan-2008.pdf](http://redesignresearch.com/docs/Scripting_Collaborative_Narrative--Flanagan-2008.pdf) The question is how to span, move, , connect and transcend boundaries = maybe the general theme of this paper.

conferencing session but I feel their work needs to be included here, especially as the pilot project done in Mexico is for me an example of how to tackle the future challenges we are confronted with when making use of heterogeneous data sources. Some slides were presented at the OAC and the Spanish publication from 2011 and an expanded translation to English is now available.

To be prepared to expand a little on the matter of “connecting & collecting” needs provide some overview of what is done in the field of “**multi-track democracy-, diplomacy-, and peace-making**” with features for example included multi-cultural applications already done since 2004 in the Pacific region doing “Northeast Asia Boundary-spanning Dialog Approaches (BDA) under the umbrella of the International Christian University based in Japan<sup>15</sup> !!?? This “Boundary-Spanning Dialogue” made possible by an “Indigenous Leaders Interactive System” (ILIS) uses the same technology as the SDP mentioned above and was developed by teams of Native Americans and later Maori tribes since nearly 30 years. So we are talking here about some expertise in multi-lingual, multi-cultural applications which included local and virtual meeting elements. Such pilot projects are milestones to tackle ultra sensitive historic issues and conflicts and help to explore different value systems, meaning and concepts. To give an example: the meaning of contrasting conceptions of Harmony in China and Japan. The procedure, outcomes and follow-up is published by the AIO in “The Ambassador” Newsletter.<sup>16</sup>

To outline the stage we have to include the above projects and build on further on them to address the modern challenges like the use of heterogeneous sources, stakeholders being on and off-line in synchronous and asynchronous settings, and address issues along and across<sup>17</sup> scales, sectors, resorts and cultures !! Not a trivial task as you see the international community is struggling since more than 100 years to find organizational and structural approaches to such a “boundary and frame spanning”. See the **Annex** ! \*\*\*\*

So lets get on with the tasks and challenges ahead of us. We need to go back now again to ongoing projects to structure issues, to do Root-Cause-Mappings and try to tackle issues where you can not get all the stakeholders at any one time into one room. Such “Problématiques” more and more surface and so we need to look into pragmatic steps widely scattered but maybe useful on the way:

Another arena of advanced international exercises in the direction we are targeting in this paper are a broad range of applications by the Future World Center (FWC) run by Yiannis Laouris (mentioned and introduced above) and the work of Peter Jones in Toronto with his \*\*\*\*\* as covered to some extend in the slide presentation<sup>18</sup> or the project in Mexico by Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros and Bethania Arango Hisijara.

The latter are incorporating different sources, from different scales, with different granularity and levels of abstraction. An application not in different languages but based on a wide variety of sources !! We are talking here about a pilot project finalized in 2011 (in Spanish) and only recently translated into English and published by the 21stCenturyAgora group under the title:

**“STRATEGIC ARTICULATION OF ACTIONS TO COPE WITH THE HUGE CHALLENGES OF OUR WORLD TODAY”**.<sup>19</sup>

Before we explore some solutions around “Structured Dialogic Design” and “Root Cause Mapping” or to give it a big name: Multi-Track Participation, Democracy, Diplomacy and Peacemaking”, let us pause for a moment and check what we are talking here about: Global Grand

---

<sup>15</sup> ICU Boundary Spanning \*\*\*\*

<sup>16</sup> Link AMBASSADOR Newsletter \*\*\*\*\*

<sup>17</sup> Along and Across Hierarchical Scales \*\*\*\*\*

<sup>18</sup> SLIDE presentation OAC !?

<sup>19</sup> NEW title Reynaldo !!!!!!!!

Challenges<sup>20</sup>, a mess of data and problems, different issues, languages, cultures, times, expectations, ... and assumptions in an inflating problem space, but with no expansion of the solution space or gamut of cultural spaces, and no idea of the levels and sectors involved.

To agree on the playing field or the “situation room”<sup>21</sup> we need to tackle the task, let us for a moment realize that “dots” are not necessarily on one plane or on one surface, they might be on different levels, in different frames, languages and order systems, and so it is very necessary to check the meanings and the settings. \*\*\* When different languages and traditions are involved this is not a simple task, but when we take the time it has lasting results. I want to highlight here a project done with ILIS by the AIO and AMO in originally 6 languages: Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Russian around the Pacific exploring common roots<sup>22</sup>. The participants as I have learned are even now in touch and so I consider it a lasting nucleus and example for deep dialogues. This project is extraordinary as for example the Japanese and Chinese participants have similar concepts, but different values connected to them. The author was normal member in Terminology Research around DIN-ISO-UNESCO and has made some encounters around the Harmonization Project mentioned in footnote \*\*\*\*\* so I feel what we are witnessing here is an amalgam of establishing commons between meanings and different grids or frames of references<sup>23</sup>.

I see AIO-AMO struggling to develop a “sense Identity and Relatedness”. In German we speak about “Zusammenhang und Zusammenhalt”<sup>24</sup> and that such spaces need to be developed and cultivated for that they need to “real” in the sense of that we can negotiate and communicate issues of artefacts or better models (see fidelity and pragmatics)<sup>25, 26</sup>.

Another example are the dialogues with Turkish and Greek Cypriots working on their Traumas and Losses after the war<sup>27</sup>, see the paper and Future Worlds Center (FWC) of Yiannis Laouris.

Issues and Problems across Cultures are never shallow, often people are not aware what they say or mean, and worse .... Others even consider they know what others have said, meant and intended...

The author has been hired by an “Harmonization Project”<sup>28</sup> under the “umbrella” of UNEP in the late 80ies which was installed after long consultation by leading international organizations to bridge compatibilities and comparabilities across scales and languages, and was therefore alert to check earlier efforts to develop repositories and even Encyclopaedias of World Problems and Human Potential<sup>29</sup>, by-the-way a brainchild initiated by Mankind 2000<sup>30</sup>. Given all these experience of collecting but “not connecting data and information” or with the “Problem with the Problems” or “Mess”, is another article. But much is available on hundreds of pages collected for example in a life-time commitment by Anthony Judge<sup>31</sup> and published in those days by Klaus Saur. Read this Publishers Pilgrimage<sup>32</sup> and Commitment well witnessed by Anthony Judge, who retired from the

---

20 Global Grand Challenges

21 Situation Rooms \*\*\*\*\*

22 Commn roots check Japan JACKY \*

23 Frames of References \*\*\*

24 ZuZu Link \*\*\*\*\*

25 Fidelity – Treue

26 Pragmatics - Stachowiak

27 Trauma Laouris Book!!

28 Harmonisierung

29 ENCYCL WPHP

30 Mankind 2000 \*\*\*

31 TONY JUDGE \*\*\*\*\*

32 Pilgrimidge: Klaus Saur LINK \*\*

Union of International Associations (UIA) in Brussels, but is still busy with a Union of Intelligent Organizations (UIA) developing a KAIROS<sup>33</sup> platform.

Frapant is to see a timeline of 100 years where immense efforts were undertaken but nearly all failed, leaving remnants and debris. The Encyclopaedists like D'Alembert and Diderot **\*\*\*\*\*** (New NZZ **\*\*\*\*\***) were on the way to go beyond data-collection and data-dictionaries, Robert Jungk outlined the need for New Encyclopaedist<sup>34</sup>, but where are we now?

I have excerpted from Anthony Judge the central milestones and efforts on the way since more than 100 years and maybe we can learn from all these efforts, often but not always underfunded, but unconnected and lost in time. ! Please see below an **“ANNEX about tackling the problem with the problems during the last 100+years”** and check the links as it is frustrating to see the same frustration already written for example in the BERTRAN REPORT long ago. See also the Annex also about early findings like: **“9. Absence of consensus concerning problem priorities”**<sup>35</sup>

We agree: “it is not enough to collect data and issues, but to connect them meaningfully, helpfully, and permanently – if that is wanted and makes sense.

Such a long “foreword” is necessary to set the stage of the Problematique for the “Problematique”. We have been concerned nearly the whole last decade with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now after Rio+20 last year, the new task is to define the Sustainable Development Goals SDG's. **\*\*\* Check UN AMR 2008 \*\*\*\*** What we experience is that organisation “collect” but not connect Activities. Even when the MDGs urged to spur activities that meet not just one but better more goals by one activity, in reality this was not followed through with enough emphasis and support. Instead “first come first go” or convenience actions which provide esteem for luminary vanities, or serve purposes are much too often used without regard to lasting, cultural and sustainable results, nor that efforts are taken to establish the deep often unknown connections and roots. So what we are talking here is a line of action from Collection to Connection to Common Action towards Commons<sup>36</sup> !

For example the issues of managing commons and local protected areas are closely connected. I would need to write here about ICCA<sup>37</sup>s and the work of Elinor Ostrom. As we have outlined before, she was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics for her life work and because she showed that the people are not dumb and there are not necessarily tragedies of the commons, but that local communities can manage across, multi **\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* LINK \*+++**

One further step towards our aim of “connecting along and across issues and including even the odd and others” is the integration of heterogeneous sources !! We do not integrate scales yet, we call it glocal<sup>38</sup>, but in view of the variety of finding of augmented delphi's **\*\*\*\*\* 15 Grand Challenges \_ Reynaldo !! Jerome Glenn - also link to new \*\*\*\* GFIS \*\*\*\* Paula und Ted Gordon etc....**

One step into that direction is the Project by Reyando and Bethania using - as also proposed by this author - a combined heterogeneous sources and so help stakeholder widen the need for representative and high quality and experience options for the SDP “axiomatic” structured pragmatic process ! **\*\*\*\*\* see Stachowiak and Jantsch, Oezbekahn, Christakis \*\*\*\*\***

---

<sup>33</sup> KAIROS platform from TONY **\*\*\***

<sup>34</sup> NEW ENCYCLOPEDISTS **\*\*\*\*\***

<sup>35</sup> Check: ANNEX I The problem with the problems

<sup>36</sup> COMMONS

<sup>37</sup> ICCA **\*\*\***

<sup>38</sup> GLocal **\*\*\*\*\*** Wikipedia

One Project to be highlighted here even when Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros could not join us in the video conference is \*\*\*

## Setting and Objectives

This paper is about the need to address the Global Problematique<sup>39</sup> in the past and futures to come. The intention is not to re-invent the wheel, the key authors are drawing immensely on the work of Anthony Judge et.al.<sup>40</sup> and are well aware of the pioneers of international efforts to address world problems already 100 years ago<sup>41</sup>, where for example Paul Otlet, co-founder of the Union of International Associations (UIA) dealt with “*Les Problèmes Internationaux et la Guerre*” and already in 1918 with: “*The Problem of Problems*”.

This presentation at the Orthodox Academy close to Xania in Crete came about as the authors had the hope to include Alexander Christakis from Archanes in Crete as a keynote for the SAPREJ-2012 (Christakis lives also in Philadelphia and mentions often his favourite term “Philantropolis”) and to draw with Christakis as a “life witness” a full circle from the structural factors across scale, from the local to the global and back. Christakis had been working for Konstantinos Apostolos Doxiadis, who developed the Science of Human Settlements, and the “ekistic grid”<sup>42</sup> and coined the term “ecumenopolis”, his concerns were to link scales and concretely present patterns and how they change in time, and with this background he was the right collaborator of Hassan Özbekhan who had introduced a General Theory of Planning. Both were concerned with change of time, scales and fields. I will come back to this later, as the Problématique can not be reduced to one subject area, one level, or scale platform we have to find concrete ways to conceptualize and present.

---

as outlined by Hassan Özbekhan and collaborators 45 years ago and which challenges and means we might want to use to address the the Situation as it has been worsened dramatically ever since. There is no need to revisit the very important developments done over the years with Alexander Christakis and John Warfield and the next generation of practitioners around the Global Agora and 21stCenturyAgora group. Please visit the respective websites and interviews 2010/11<sup>43</sup> with Alexander Christakis by one author to revisit the foundational years of the Club of Rome and look ahead into the challenges we are confronted today. We want to also invite to study the general context and history<sup>44</sup> of tackling the Global Problématique as put into perspective by the former Research Director of the Union of International Associations Anthony Judge and the the Future Outlook research activities of the Millennium Project headed by Jerome Glenn, which not only collects inputs from experts in global augmented delphis, but collects methods for participatory design and for example updates 15 Global Challenges to Humanity<sup>45</sup> since 1996<sup>\*\*\*?</sup>

The authors of this paper, aware of the above situation and immense work done conceived independently the idea to build on and include the repositories of the UIA and MP and see if not a method like the Structured Dialogic Design process as developed by collaborators of Özbekhan, Warfield, Christakis could be employed to structure these data meaningfully ! which means in this case to go beyond listings of items, problems, or solutions towards establishing a network of influences and “drivers” influencing the items established.

With the mandate to harmonize information worldwide<sup>46</sup> one author (Heiner Benking) has already tested with using the data in the Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential, Actions, Options, Strategies using the HyperIBIS systems in to check relations between issues to be presented for the UN

---

<sup>39</sup> Problematique

<sup>40</sup> Anthony \*\*\*

<sup>41</sup> 100 jahre problems – in ANNEX !?

<sup>42</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ekistics>

<sup>43</sup>

<sup>44</sup>

<sup>45</sup>

<sup>46</sup>

Population Summit and Cairo 1995.<sup>47</sup> and also learn from “well-funded” failures like the DROPPING KNOWLEDGE exercises in Germany in 20\*\*.<sup>48</sup>

The other key author, Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros had been in Contact with the Millennium Project in \*\*\* for \*\*\*\*. So it was only natural that independently the idea was conceived to run explore the findings of the 15 Global Challenges to Humanity<sup>49</sup> and process it was the SDP methodology. Why !? An immense wealth of repositories, databases, collections exist but are incompatible with other work. So for example the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are established and large organizations like the World Bank - as part of the UN - and many other research and donor and last not least many international organization with their focus for example on Health (WHO), Agriculture and Nutrition (FAO), Environment (UNEP), Development (UNDP), Finance (IMO, Climate (WMO),... and so on, have been addressing certain aspects, sometimes in co-operation, sometimes focussed only on their mandate, to address for example the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals),<sup>50</sup> or more recently going into a review and restructuring process to establish according to the agreements reached in the Rio Earth Summit 2012 new Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).<sup>51</sup>

As stated above, the two authors of this paper, aware of the Erroneous Design Principle Established by Dye in the Team with Christakis and Warfield, had the idea to bring heterogeneous sources together and “run” the Structured Dialogic Design (SDP) on the existing Problem Clusters to establish root causes and “win-win-win” strategies to provide advice on allocating resources wisely and effective.

One approach would be to call this a “mess” as Özbekan called it, to consider it babylonian and beyond the capabilities to address by humans, claiming that Humans are “unrealistic optimists”,<sup>52</sup> ignoring and avoiding complexity, the other to check if we can not jointly address this Groupthink by deliberation techniques and by communicating, framing, negotiating issues, relations, and priorities. Alternatives in the past, leaving the place (in that case) the region is not really an option any more as Humans have been successfully settling nearly everywhere where living conditions permit. Muddling through or military alternatives are also not really an option and so the authors propose to address the Problematique not with a single panacea as a “quick-fix” but exploring and negotiating the Actions, Options, Strategies as well collected by the UIA in the Encyclopaedia of World Problems and Human Potential.

The method both authors have been involved in recent years is the SDP Process developed as mentioned above and so it was indicated to see how to overcome language and cultural, value and space/time barriers in order to establish priorities for common actions and hopefully gain better understanding about the Problematique.

ADD HERE:?

#### **old introduction:**

The world community is struggling with not only an ecological crisis, but a change in personal attitudes and values, a crisis of our life-styles and mind-sets. Policymakers and Individuals did not adapt to the rapid changes on this planet the last 100 years, The Problematique and that an exploding “problem space” requires new “solution spaces”, new forms of dialog and deliberation, capacity building, and forms to communicate, deliberate, share and mediate when shared solutions ask for finding ways beyond the need to agree, but settle issues in view of the greater good and including the minority position. (Introduction and “historical orientation” (Heiner Benking).

After a look at the early reports of the Club of Rome 1968-1970, Stockholm 1972, the workshop will revisit progress in “social system design”, community problem solving and peace mediation, multi-track peace-

---

47

48

49

50

51

52



making and diplomacy, and introduce the method of Structured Dialogic Design (SDD) Maria Kakoulaki, Yiannis Laouris, possibly Peter Jones.

Central part is the introduction of the new publication: STRATEGIC ARTICULATION OF ACTIONS TO COPE WITH THE HUGE CHALLENGES OF OUR WORLD TODAY by Reynaldo Treviño-Cisneros. The outcomes of the SDD process to the 15 Challenges to Humanity of the Millennium Project will be presented, and possible implications for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (since Rio 2012 on the international agenda, and what that means for our ability to cope with our Predicament. Followed by a discussion with Peter Jones and Heiner Benking about new approaches to policy-making and deliberation methods and fora in large, distributed groups. Possible interventions any time by Alexander Christakis, Walter Bogan, Ken Bausch, Peter Jones and other invited collaborators.

Summing up: A final round is planned about the challenges and impact of modern media and the recent project of Re-inventing Democracy. The workshop will be concluded by questions by the participants and a final round by the speakers.

---

## REYNALDO PIECE

One project we could highlight in Kolympari was a pilot project, very tentative and making compromises in view of the Axioms as laid out for the Structured Dialogic Design Process (SDP) the central premise of the work discussed here. The author and Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros were aware of the 15 Global Challenges for Humanity<sup>53</sup> of the Millennium Project and we had some years ago independently the idea to use this treasure collected by a large number of experts in delphi studied to run with it an Structured Dialogic Design Process (SDP) as developed by Christakis and other (see links to the 21StCenturyAgora group above). It is the merit of Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros and Bethania Arango Hisijara to combine various sources like Özbekhans Continuous Global Problems to make up for the requirement of getting all stakeholders in the room and secure the requisite variety and other Axioms/Requirements stated by the founders and practitioners to secure optimum and reliable results of such a process which has to strictly abide to quality assurance strategies for optimum results. But as stated above we need new thinking, new approaches as the “Mess” of the Problématique has increased tremendously over the last 40 years and as scholars noted, we have entered a new Earth Epoche - or Episode where Mankind has impacted not only the Planet Earth Biosphere, but is polluting and destroying natural cycles in an unprecedented and rapid and dramatic way, “pulling the rug” under “mankinds own feet” and understanding the research on “unrealistic optimism” mentioned above, I feel it is time to revisit an unbiased voice in all this modern call for sytemic-holistic answers, someone who knows that “trade”. Read this article from Charles François: "Systemics as a general integrated language of concepts and models"- The need for an integrated systemic-cybernetic language for concepts and models in complex and vague subject areas.<sup>54</sup>

What is at stake is obvious for the last 40 years, as everybody knows except for a few contrarians fighting over interests or trying to stay in denial. This avoidance is an evolutionary principle helpful for the individual to not get overwhelmed in acute dangerous situations when fighting for survival, but absolutely inadequate when long-

---

53

54

range, dynamic glocal change caused by Mankind is happening. Check the recent research on unrealistic optimists<sup>55</sup>

!!?? At this point we should agree to expand the solution space. In no way our conventional thinking, reasoning, communicating, deliberating, our conventional disciplinary sciences and languaging or ways to conceptualize and present and put into action, suffice to really come to grasp and come to grips, understanding and being able to manage impacts we cause and inflict onto others. (See something I consider were much needed, pragmatic, and timely: panetics and Ralph G.H. Siu)<sup>56</sup> !!??

This paper is meant to celebrate the efforts initiated by Erich Jantsch, Charles West Churchman, Hassan Özbekahn, Alexander N. Christakis, John Warfield, and colleagues, but also to see what conceptual treasures have been developed by compatriots and former colleagues of Christakis, I am thinking here about Doxiadis. So what can a new generation of practitioners can offer to combine old and new concepts, approaches and thinking to address the “mess” (Hasan Oezbekhan). See the General Theory of Planning from 1968 which was the foundation of the early works of the Club of Rome. \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

I will select in another ANNEX II some material to help us review the past exercises and experiences over the last 50 and more years to tackle and cope with the problems worldwide. which efforts have been made repeatedly and cite reasons why such collections seem to have failed to “connect the dots”, why collections have been created in isolation, reinventing efforts again and again, maybe with one outstanding exception, the in 1964 by Mankind 2000 conceived “Encyclopedia of \*\*\*\*\* \*\* as an hopefully on-going comprehensive approach \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* Structured Dialogic Design Process Christakis witnessed with his elders and colleagues Özbekhan and Jantsch when in the foundational years of the Club of Rome there was still the idea around to connect in a design process and science participatory, normative, and prognostic futures. These critical times brought about concern about the impact of Mankind on the Lifesystem of the Planet, Anthropocene as we call it today, and many concerns and as solutions were already “in the air” 40 and 50 years ago, when the criticality was not that obvious.

As Christakis was able to join into the video-conference and much has been produced by him and his colleagues over the last 40 years this paper is not about summing up the GLOBAL AGORAs movement or a large number of publications of Christakis and his colleagues, but to revisit some critical developments in the arena of finding solutions to Global Problems and coming to “grips” or at least grasping a little better and negotiating alternative actions, we want to sum-up under the title “Multi-track Dialogues, Diplomacy- and Peace-making”.

## **STRATEGIC ARTICULATION OF ACTIONS TO COPE WITH THE HUGE CHALLENGES OF OUR WORLD TODAY.**

This is the central part of synopsis of possibilites and trends around dialogue and peacemaking efforts worldwide. It is an introduction to a paper recently published by

---

55

56

Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros and Bethania Arango Hisijara presenting a pilot project to combine various repositories and use the Structured Dialogic Design method as we have presented at the OAC under the title: **“A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO COPE WITH THE MILLENNIUM PROJECT 15 GLOBAL CHALLENGES”** presenting a recent pilot project done In Mexico and published under the title: **STRATEGIC ARTICULATION OF ACTIONS TO COPE WITH THE HUGE CHALLENGES OF OUR WORLD TODAY.**<sup>57</sup>

## MAIN METHODOLOGICAL INPUTS

- The Millennium Project 15 Global Challenges as identified in 2010, by the big group of international collaborators guided by Jerome Glenn, Theodore Gordon and Elizabeth Florescu, after a large Delphi process that began in 1996.
- The 49 Continuous Critical Problems presented in 1970, in the paper by Hasan Ozbekhan “The Predicament of Humankind”, to the Board of Members of the Club of Rome, which in our opinion still are valid in our present global context.
- The Structured Dialogic Design methodology and software, both created by Alexander Christakis, based on the methodology of Interactive Management by John Warfield and Alexander Christakis himself, to cope with highly complex problems in a democratic decisions environment.



INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Beside the presentation slides available in the internet from this SAPREJ-2012 session<sup>58</sup> we have included in the ANNEX II: **REFLECTIONS AROUND A PLAUSIBLE GLOBAL STRATEGY TO HARMONIZE OUR PLANET EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS** by Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros from January 31, 2013

## Collecting and Connecting: Individually and Collectively, but Co creative and Collaboratively in Shared Frames of Reference?

### A Mission Impossible or a Piece in the Puzzle?

Connecting the “Wisdom of the People” or Collecting “Noises, Intelligences and Quick-Fixes”?

The project launched by Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros and Bethania Arango Hisijara could indeed be characterized as “mission impossible;” and the authors are aware of it. But what are the alternatives?

Some argue that we just need to reduce the world population drastically; the densities and pressures will be less, and so we could muddle through as usual. In this case believing we can re-

<sup>57</sup>

<sup>58</sup>

start from square one with a healthy sustainable civilization just reducing “number” but inflicting unprecedented suffering. Others believe in the swarm intelligence and simulations, which would use and capitalize on all available data, information and knowledge. Such a “Global Earth Simulator” would then create out of all the “mess” and “noise” the blue-print for politicians for policy development and crisis management. The implications, the amount of suffering involved, or the loss of autonomy of the individuals and freedom cultures loosing their stake for a democratic harmonious development are mind-staggering, making us continue to follow our evolutionary “unrealistic optimism” path.<sup>59</sup>

I learned to know proponents of many extremes and wonder why for example population-reduction fans have not studied harmonious life-styles, and sustainable civilizations through the ages, where different attitudes towards the Earth secured even much larger population-densities - even when that should not be desirable - and I wonder on the other hand how naïve “trend extrapolists” can be when they assume that noise and rubbish and perplexing highly dynamic complexity can be modeled and molded by a “super-intelligent” system into humane, value based policies for the best of all humankind. Has nobody followed the discussion of the value of models, scenarios, symptoms ever since the first Club of Rome World Models the last 40 years?

Treviño Cisneros and Arango Hisijara venture into something outrageous by combining approaches of what might be helpful for venturing into a “terra incognita” of coping with an immense, mind-boggling mess. A Problématique, which was on the horizon and was clearly described by Hassan Özbekhan in 1968, when he presented his “28 CONTINUOUS CRITICAL PROBLEMS (CCPs).” And the end of his work he ended up with 49 CCPs and maybe there are a few more, but the question is how are they connected? Can we identify root-causes with leverage-points<sup>60</sup>, places where we can intervene in systems to make a difference for the better instead of staring at all the tipping points where earth-systems dynamics get out of control?<sup>61</sup>

Indeed, we better come to some pragmatic precautionary actions and terms and base it on the most reliable foundations and experiences already collected in vast repositories. I would also include the Actions, Options and Strategies<sup>62</sup> collected in the Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential, but this might be another step, as we agree we are discussing here an underfunded “embryonic” design, but with very interesting and promising first results.

The authors are scoring a hat trick, combining three outstanding elements to at least secure a first round in a very dangerous series. Bringing together the approach and insight assembled around the understanding of the Continuous Critical Problems observed by Hasan Özbekhan, with the axiomatic and proven approach of Structured Dialogic Design (Alexander Christakis and others) and the 15 Challenges to Humanity collected and calibrated in ongoing augmented delphi studies and environmental scanning processes as collected by the Millennium Project over the last 17 years. A wealth of outcomes done with different objectives, perspectives, expertise and degree of synthesis, and this to be “merged” with the “wisdom of the people in co-laboratories of democracy” as we agree that the problem spaces have “exploded” and the effects have unpredictable repercussions, and all stakeholders can not be brought to one room at one time to deeply explore and anticipate the deep meanings people are typically not aware of. So what to do? Make more embryonic steps like the one commented here.

---

<sup>59</sup> How unrealistic optimism is maintained in the face of reality. Shrot T, Korn CW, Dolan RJ. Source Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, University College London, [Nat Neurosci](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21983684). 2011 [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21983684](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21983684)

<sup>60</sup> Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System, Donella Meadows [www.sustainer.org/pubs/Leverage\\_Points.pdf](http://www.sustainer.org/pubs/Leverage_Points.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> I recommend the International Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics and this presentation by the founder editor when introducing the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: [benking.de/systems/encyclopedia/concepts-and-models.htm](http://benking.de/systems/encyclopedia/concepts-and-models.htm)

<sup>62</sup> Actions, Options, Strategies as developed under the guidance of Anthony Judge [www.phibetaiota.net/2012/07/whos-who-in-earth-intelligence-anthony-judge](http://www.phibetaiota.net/2012/07/whos-who-in-earth-intelligence-anthony-judge) around Mankind 2000 and the UIA in Brussels. [uia.be/sites/uia.be/db/db/x.php?dbcode=st&go=](http://uia.be/sites/uia.be/db/db/x.php?dbcode=st&go=)

## Why do I resonate with the approach taken in **STRATEGIC ARTICULATION OF ACTIONS TO COPE WITH THE HUGE CHALLENGES OF OUR WORLD TODAY ?**

**First:** I propose that such a dialogic design process be used for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) various times, for example at the Geneva based EarthFocus Foundation Global Youth Conferences in 2010 and 2011. And we see how urgent this is in view of the failure of linking goals as originally stipulated and the inability to come to “win-win-win” approaches by addressing priority root problems first and massively. As you can see, this is as essential as ever before as presently new goals, for the next “decade” - the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – are to be defined in a ways to secure also reaching the objectives stipulated.

**Second:** Plain synchronicity, I had also envisaged some years ago to make use of, put under Scrutiny and expand, the 15 Global Challenges of the Millennium Project (MP), together with the collection of methods, scenarios, policies, developed in the Millennium Project for 20 years and check against the volumes of incoherent and unconnected but very valuable expertise collected worldwide. MP’s Global Futures Intelligence System<sup>63</sup> is now on track, but will it connect wisely influences and be transparent and open for new challenges?, link short and long term qualities and quantities?, involve the public and youth?, or have them only input data for gate-keepers and their silos of information-island? Informed and transparent policy making will remain to be the challenge.

**Third:** We need to build on foundations of long-standing international mandates to connect and transcend through institutional reforms, harmonization efforts.<sup>64</sup>

**Fourth:** The ONLIFE Think Tank<sup>65</sup> of the Digital Futures Task Force of the European Commission has placed great focus on the need to reimagine the concept of democracy, along with other concepts such as distributed responsibility, privacy etc., highlighted in their Manifesto. This, in connection with the results of co-laboratories of democracy organized by the Laouris group in several places across Europe understrikes the need to reform both at the conceptual as well as at the educational and policy levels.

**Finally:** German environmental sciences and politics were in the late 80s more concerned than they are today with comprehensive approaches. In the exhibitions “GLOBAL CHANGE - Challenges to Sciences and Politics” and “LOCAL AND GLOBAL CHANGE – research and coordination tasks in international organizations” we developed schemas to present interconnection of sectors, magnitudes and time scales, levels of abstraction and granularity as we call it today and find ways to harmonize and make more accessible relevant information. However, science advisers were always only attempting to narrow down to a few top of the list problems they could throw money behind or serve vested interests or political agendas.

So what is needed are efforts like those presented in this project report to help us look into policy-making, governance, democracy and what voting means in uninformed, perplexing, overwhelmed and nontransparent environments. I propose to revisit the design of Global Policy Colleges as requested by Yehezkel Dror in 1995 in the Club of Rome report “The Capacity to Govern”. Furthermore, along with the recommendations<sup>66</sup> we made when the book was launched, the methodological toolbox presented by Treviño Cisneros and Bethania Arango should be added.

---

<sup>63</sup> Millennium Project, new Global Futures Intelligence Project, [millennium-project.org/millennium/GFIS.html](http://millennium-project.org/millennium/GFIS.html)

<sup>64</sup> Harmonization of Environmental Measurement, [link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF00204842](http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF00204842) first report: [benking.de/Global-Change/info-about-info.html](http://benking.de/Global-Change/info-about-info.html)

<sup>65</sup> ONLIFE <http://de.scribd.com/doc/141588249/The-Onlife-Initiative> see also: [ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/onlife-original-outcome](http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/onlife-original-outcome)  
[www.futureworlds.eu/wiki/Reinventing\\_democracy\\_and\\_CARDIAC](http://www.futureworlds.eu/wiki/Reinventing_democracy_and_CARDIAC) [cardiac-eu.org](http://cardiac-eu.org)

<sup>66</sup> Capacity to govern recommendations developed in co-operation with Anthony Judge, UIA and Yehezkel Dror [benking.de/Global-Change/governance.htm](http://benking.de/Global-Change/governance.htm)

I had the privilege to prepare with these authors and others from the Global Agoras group for a conference last year a paper playing with the term of connecting versus collect-ing/-ively, proposing to connect, frame, relate, explore, transcending issues more pragmatically and wisely. The forthcoming paper “Connecting the Dots and Frames”<sup>67</sup> is highly recommended for getting deeper and provides some missing references to names and projects mentioned above.

### **Maybe add from here:**

Just to pause here a moment and ponder about the weight and direction of what we try to outline here in this “Connecting” [R]Evolution of Dialog paper:

We are addressing here such a gargantuan impossible mess as we are in the middle of very critical decisions Humanity has to address. Are we going to continue to collect without connecting data and repositories ? Are waiting for another “Collective Intelligence” ? and are such quantitative, number-crunching and opaque scenario solutions for “decision makers” in essence not the same like the decision of doing “World Modelling” in 1970?<sup>68</sup> How dare we to use again intransparent “noise” of the “mess” to believe that trend extrapolation and collecting trends and early impacts can help us to develop Global Simulation Systems with the help of Crowd Intelligence instead of resorting to the “Wisdom of the People”?<sup>69</sup> and do “Futures Creation”<sup>70</sup> which requires structured intelligent approaches and not a blind belief in the ability to predict scenarios and that we can muddle through without shared orientation and agreed “frames of references”.<sup>71</sup> **WORK IN PROGRESS \*\*\*\*\* come back**

**As I need to include delicate issues like the GFIS of the Millennium Project with its augmented delphis and the new FutureICT project which is something like a 50 years later reborn WORLD 1! \*\*\*\* WORK IN PROGRESS \*\*\*\*\* Challenging and incredibly dangerous as the problem really gets tough “when people think they know, when they do not”.**

will highlight data collection and augmentation approaches like FutureICT and Millennium Projects new phase of Global Futures Intelligence System which is taking up also 15 Global Challenges and applying Social Web applications to improve the validity and quality of the finding collected over nearly 10 years in augmented delphis. Read here MP's description:

The Millennium Project is integrating all of its information, groups, and software into a "Global Futures Intelligence System." GFIS\* is The Millennium Project's new way for you to participate with and have access to all of our resources in one place. Those who buy a one-year subscription can interact with all the elements of the system, make suggestions, initiate discussions with experts around the world, and search through over 10,000 pages of futures research and 1,300 pages of methods. The text has built-in Google translation with 52 languages. MP Node chairs and content reviewers will have free access.

<http://millennium-project.org/millennium/GFIS.html>

see CHALLENGES <http://millennium-project.org/millennium/challenges.html>

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/launch-the-global-futures-intelligence-system-and-the-2012-state-the-future-report>

---

<sup>67</sup> For more see the [R]evolution of Democracy papers and the presentation “Connecting Dots, Signs, Minds, Models, Frames and Spaces” at the Orthodox Academy Crete 2012, SAPREJ-2012, Crete (forthcoming) see: [wreturn.org/connecting-dots](http://wreturn.org/connecting-dots) and the [21stCenturyAgora.org](http://21stCenturyAgora.org) website.

<sup>68</sup>

<sup>69</sup>

<sup>70</sup>

<sup>71</sup>

We have in Europe also the new Future Intelligence project of FutureICT and I feel it is necessary to understand what is collected and what is connected in which frames of references and with which ontologies. (See Formal Ontologies paper forthcoming) \*\*\*\*

We will also try to revisit multi-modal approaches there and hope to kick off a discussion on participation and voting after agreeing on meanings and relations, or more general about transparency, fidelity, and repeatability of communication processes.

I recommend in this respect a paper I recently received from Peter Jones: An Ontological Design Methodology for Organizational Structure and Processes.<sup>72</sup>

We also need to look into the barriers between heterogeneous sources, languages, various meanings and schools of practice, but how to address issues which are on different levels of granularity or scale, different levels of abstraction, in different sectors, cultures and times,... as we are very well aware that common frames of references<sup>73</sup> are needed for concerted approaches. See the

GLOBAL COVENANT publication with the OAC 5 years ago as an ECOTHEE proceedings, Ecological Theology and Environmental Ethics, here at the Orthodox Academy of Crete in June 2008: Missing Context and Orientations in Modern Time, **Outlining the Problematique of the Human Predicament and sharing Commons in a global Embodied Covenant**, later published in various forms with the title: **Ignorance or Compassion?**<sup>74</sup>

These papers are also recommended for the way: ...

some years ago: **NewRenaissance3**: [bit.ly/cTUUbs](http://bit.ly/cTUUbs) - NewRenaissance ([PDF-SL](#)) and last years: **GOOGLE-HUMBOLDT-Internet/Society**: [tinyurl.com/internet-society](http://tinyurl.com/internet-society) see [mindsets/paradigms](#) [whitepaper](#) featuring CARL RITTER and A&W von Humboldt, but also the mental trailblazer for much of the work covered above: Hassan Özbekhan ! and last not least another great Greek Architect and planner **Constantinos Apostolou Doxiadis** who was not only influencing Christakis but showed with the Ekistic Grid what other forms of representations like maps and schemas (grids) are possible to show in supersigns objects and issues connected across space-scapes and time. Please see below a short summary of this Ekistic Science of Settlements<sup>75</sup>, and a link to check the work of Hassan Özbekhan<sup>76</sup> with his General Science of Planning from 1968 in greater detail, and last not least the proposal of the Rubik's Cube of Ecology/EcoCube and its "reminiscent"<sup>77</sup> of the Ekistics Grid and how it connects to Cognitive Panorama.<sup>78</sup>

---

CHECK:

will highlight data collection and augmentation approaches like FutureICT and Millennium Projects new phase of Global Futures Intelligence System which is taking up also 15 Global Challenges and applying Social Web applications to improve the validity and quality of the finding collected over nearly 10 years in augmented delphis. Read here MP's description:

The Millennium Project is integrating all of its information, groups, and software into a "Global Futures Intelligence System." GFIS\* is The Millennium Project's new way for you to participate with and have access to all of our resources in one place. Those who buy a one-year subscription can interact with all the elements of the system, make

---

72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78

suggestions, initiate discussions with experts around the world, and search through over 10,000 pages of futures research and 1,300 pages of methods. The text has built-in Google translation with 52 languages. MP Node chairs and content reviewers will have free access. <http://millennium-project.org/millennium/GFIS.html>  
see CHALLENGES <http://millennium-project.org/millennium/challenges.html>

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/launch-the-global-futures-intelligence-system-and-the-2012-state-the-future-report>

We have in Europe also the new Future Intelligence project of FutureICT and I feel it is necessary to understand what is collected and what is connected in which frames of references and with which ontologies. (See Formal Ontologies paper forthcoming.) \*\*\*\*

We will also try to revisit multi-modal approaches there and hope to kick off a discussion on participation and voting after agreeing on meanings and relations, or more general about transparency, fidelity, and repeatability of communication processes.

I recommend in this respect a paper I recently received from Peter Jones: An Ontological Design Methodology for Organizational Structure and Processes.<sup>79</sup>

We also need to look into the barriers between heterogeneous sources, languages, various meanings and schools of practice, but how to address issues which are on different levels of granularity or scale, different levels of abstraction, in different sectors, cultures and times,... as we are very well aware that common frames of references<sup>80</sup> are needed for concerted approaches. See the GLOBAL COVENANT publication with the OAC 5 years ago as an ECOTHEE proceedings, Ecological Theology and Environmental Ethics, here at the Orthodox Academy of Crete in June 2008: Missing Context and Orientations in Modern Time, Outlining the Problematique of the Human Predicament and sharing Commons in a global Embodied Covenant, later published in various forms with the title: Ignorance or Compassion?<sup>81</sup>

These papers are also recommended for the way: ...

some years ago: **NewRenaissance3**: [bit.ly/cTUUbs](http://bit.ly/cTUUbs) - NewRenaissance (PDF-SI) and last years: **GOOGLE-HUMBOLDT-Internet/Society**: [tinyurl.com/internet-society](http://tinyurl.com/internet-society) see mindsets/paradigms [whitepaper](#) featuring CARL RITTER and A&W von Humboldt, but also the mental trailblazer for much of the work covered above: Hassan Özbekhan ! and last not least another great Greek Architect and planner **Constantinos Apostolou Doxiadis** who was not only influencing Christakis but showed with the Ekistic Grid what other forms of representations like maps and schemas (grids) are possible to show in supersigns objects and issues connected across space-scapes and time. Please see below a short summary of this Ekistic Science of Settlements<sup>82</sup>, and a link to check the work of Hassan Özbekhan<sup>83</sup> with his General Science of Planning from 1968 in greater detail, and last not least the proposal of the Rubik's Cube of Ecology/EcoCube and its "reminiscent"<sup>84</sup> of the Ekistics Grid and how it connects to Cognitive Panorama.<sup>85</sup>

---

79 Text Peter Jones \*\*\*\*

80

81

82

83

84

85



## THANKS & CREDITS

Thanks go to Dr. Lucas Andrianos at, OAC for supporting this “mission impossible”, Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros and Bethania Arango Hisijara, for their groundbreaking effort to bridge approaches in the evolving field of nothing less than: “Multi-track, multi-level, multi-sector deliberations, diplomacy and peace-making”. A very special thanks goes also to Ken Bausch to finally translate this extraordinary project from 2011, so we all can have a look and form an opinion about this effort.

Very much appreciated help came as always and in parts when highly deserved from Yiannis Laouris and Peter Jones. Needless to say that the central pillar for this work is based on the life-achievements of Alexander Christakis and John Warfield, and would have not been possible without the broad family of the members and collaborators of the Institute of 21st Century Agoras, its president Tom Flanagan, and large group members, most I will miss, but here the first names coming to mind (beside the names already mentioned above): Jacqueline Wasilewski, Norma Romm, Janet McIntyre, LaDonna Harris, Jeff Diedrich, Kevin Dye, Gayle Underwood, John McDonald, and finally Maria Kakoulaki, who was willing to step in “last minute” moderate and host/introduce the session when I was about to cancel the trip and assignment as I was not able to fly to Xania, Kolympari. So 10.001 thanks to Maria and all collaborators above!

One word is very important for me. This project is about to break new grounds in the field of deliberation and international policy and agenda-setting as it draws also on the work of the Millennium Project: Jerome Glenn, Theodore Gordon, John McDonald, Frank Cantanzano, Elizabeth Florescu ... and many others I had the chance to meet since 1993.

The Millennium Project started in 1996, so you see there were many foundational years I shared since 2001, when we all assembled in Kouvola, a week after 9/11 and very basic decisions had to be made! One was for me to not only follow on the track of delpi or augmented delpy studies, but look again more intensively into IBIS (Kunz and Rittel) and HyperIBIS (which we worked on in the early 1990ies, but focus after the Fuschl Conversations and Asilomar Gatherings more onto the AGORA theme and the work based on my Heros: Erich Jantsch, Hassan, Özbekan, Ralph Siu, Anthony Judge, not forgetting Bela Banathy, Charles François and Gerhard Chroust here!, as the naïve linear focus on the “top 5 issues” in policy making which I experienced since 1990 in international environmental politics, or MBA like misunderstand the Eisenhower diagramme, thinking only 2-dimensional in “depraved”, insane way and ignoring the work done around the Cognitive Panorama, my “third baby” conceived around Challenges for Sciences and Politics for the Global Change exhibition. We know now psychologically why there is this overclaim and oversimplification trend as a evolutionary factor. See the Konrad Lorenz Sommerschool we did in 1997 thanks to Rupert Ridl, and were issues were tabled, which only in 2011 in this article in Nature Publishing: “How unrealistic optimism is maintained in the face of reality”, brain and psychological research worth to look into. Understanding and having proofs for all this, there is no reason to follow these dangerous, delusive tracks. We know they are leading to a dead end, they are very dangerous for “living things” and we should revisit the “Robust Paths to Global Stability” presented in 1995 in Nairobi with the World Future Studies Federation, where stated already in 1993 “Our View of Life is too Flat”. More about this approach, which can not be covered here, was presented here at this very Orthodox Academy in 2008, so please check articles on “Common Orientations and Covenants” in the academy proceedings, and as published under the title “Ignorance or Compassion?” in the series on “Ecological Awareness: Exploring Religion, Ethics and Aesthetics”.

Such a retrospective recollection is incomplete without looking back not only at the sources of system sciences and holism, but in this very special case to the early steps around Stockholm 1972, Margaret Mead, the Council of Churches, Pugwash, Science for Peace, ... and last not least a guy following in the crowd around Margarete Mead and representing the North American NGOs they called it already Civil Society these days, Walter Bogan an incredible personality also helping with keeping the SDD methodology going in its early years, even helping getting it funded ! and Elinor Ostrom, which gave me much compassion in difficult times, urging me to keep on trucking for even more than 30 years....and last not least Kim Veltman and Ingetraut Dahlberg!

Last not least, especially as we are here in Greece, we should remember and revisit the ekistics-grid of Konstantinos A. Doxiadis., who even saw already a vision of his grid projected in time !!, his Delos Island gatherings, and the work of people like Alfred Schinz, Robert Jungk, Merete Mattern, Klaus Sauer, Nadia MacLaren and Robert Pollard, David MacBryde, Franz Nahrada, Andreas Goppold, Sunil SenGupta, Helmut Burkhardt, Anthony Judge, and John McConnel the initiator of the Eath Day with Margarete Mead (hear hear !) and Ist not least Farah Lenser for helping and encouraging me on the way.

see alos the powerpoints as presented during the session \*\*\*\*\*

## References

- Hays PR, Michaelides M. 2004. Constructing Agoras of the Global Village: a co-laboratory of democracy on the conscious evolution of humanity. *Systems Research and Behavioral Science* 21: 539-553.
- Wasilewski J. 2005. The Boundary-spanning Dialogue Approach (BDA) Project; background and previous outcomes. *International Christian University Social Science Research Institute Journal of Social Science* 55: 69-94.
- Harris LD, Wasilewski J. 2004. Indigenous People's of the World Forum: strategies for expanding the web of transnational indigenous interactions. *Systems Research and Behavioral Science* 21: 505-514.
- Kawakita, J. 2000. The KJ Method: A Scientific Approach to Problem Solving. Tokyo: The Kawakita Research Institute.

Outline of multi-lingual "PACIFIC APPLICATION":

..... I recommend Pauls Presentation in Nicosia and this link [\[PDF\] The Conscious Evolution of History: Creating an Environment for an Emergent History of North East Asia - Journals ISSS](#)

It links and connects very well with our EARTH FOCUS Foundation on a SYNCHRONOPTIC World HISTORY and the SDP presentation: GLOBAL YOUTH Rio+20: [tinyurl.com/GYC2011](http://tinyurl.com/GYC2011)

and:

[YIANNIS LAOURIS & Onlife Manifesto](#)

[Being Human / Digital Futures in an Hyperconnected Era \(forthcoming\) !!](#)

# ANNEX PART

## I - ANNEX about tackling the problem with the problems”

### The Problematique today and an excursion into the “PROBLEM WITH PROBLEMS”

We are confronted with a tough evolutionary problem. When confronted with overwhelming dynamics and complexity human have developed a survival strategy of being “unrealistic optimists”<sup>86</sup> - they simply ignore anything beyond direct experience and touch, anything on another time-scale, anything on different levels, granularities, abstraction planes, anything they consider endangering.

But as Doxiadis has shown we can create maps and models, he could develop an ekistic grid so show how issues are connected in time and space. And this is how we came to our title: Connecting Dots \*\*\*\*\* and Spaces. The philosopher Hans Jonas requested in his Principle Responsibility to consider “Ethics in Future with Space and Time Horizons”

*"While the difficulties and dangers of problems tend to increase at a geometric rate, the knowledge and manpower qualified to deal with those problems tend to increase at an arithmetical rate."* (Yehezkel Dror. Prolegomenon to policy sciences, AAAS symposium, Boston, 1969)<sup>87</sup>

*"Social institutions face growing difficulties as a result of an ever increasing complexity which arises directly and indirectly from the development and assimilation of technology. Many of the most serious conflicts facing mankind result from the interaction of social, economic, technological, political and psychological forces and can no longer be solved by fractional approaches from individual disciplines."* (Bellagio Declaration on Planning. In: Erich Jantsch (Ed) Perspectives on Planning. Paris, OECD, 1969).

**See: Significance: Acknowledgement of the universe of problems World Problems Project <http://www.un-intelligible.org/projects/problems/11sign1.php>**

#### 8. Institutional difficulties in identifying problems

The "Bertrand Report", a recent major internal review of the difficulties afflicting the United Nations system (Maurice Bertrand. Some Reflections on Reform of the United Nations. Geneva, UN Joint Inspection Unit, 1985, JIU/REP/85/9) notes: *"In short, it is the sectoralized, decentralized and fragmented structures of the System that are the reason for its failure to adapt to the solution of development problems."* (para 104) *"The countries concerned need a World Organization capable of facilitating syntheses, organizing co-ordination, helping to find long-term financial arrangements, and granting many-sided aid to solve the most urgent problems. What the United Nations System offers them is a series of divergent and contradictory recommendations, some 30 bodies whose action has to be coordinated with that of some 20 sources of bilateral aid, but it does not help them to solve their medium and long-term financial problems."* (para 106)

*"In other words, since the Organization here is confronting the essential mission it should fulfil, we have to ask ourselves whether it is properly equipped to do so; whether the results obtained so far are satisfactory or negligible; and whether the Organization really does possess the organs capable of reflecting upon and identifying the problems and the framework of negotiations which the modern world needs. The replies to these questions are inevitably negative; the machinery of negotiation is not easily identifiable and separable from the rest of the activities under the various sectoral programmes and does not constitute a coherent system. The results achieved relate only to a few limited fields and do not*

---

<sup>86</sup>

<sup>87</sup>

*represent solid progress in the direction of changing world consensus. This situation has its political reasons, which are well known, but they do not explain everything. Actually, it is the structure of negotiations offered by the World Organization that is ill-adapted to solving the problems of the modern world."* (paras 107-8)

*"They call for considerable preliminary efforts to identify the problems which are susceptible to negotiation before any negotiations can begin. This work of identification is complex, and it comes up against difficulties of a cultural, technical, ideological and semantic kind; it can often only be concluded when a preliminary agreement is beginning to take shape on a given concept; so that it is no longer surprising that it implies attempt after attempt at formulation, often clumsily done, and that it is a source of endless talk. Negotiation among 160 parties presents specific technical difficulties other than those of the size of the meeting chamber or the organization of simultaneous interpretation. It involves the definition of interest groups whose composition and dimensions vary according to the subjects dealt with, and the method of representation of these groups."*(para 109)

#### **9. Absence of consensus concerning problem priorities**

<http://www.un-intelligible.org/projects/problems/11sign1.php>

## **II - ANNEX: REFLECTIONS AROUND A PLAUSIBLE GLOBAL STRATEGY TO HARMONIZE OUR PLANET EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS**

Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros, Aguascalientes, Ags., January 31, 2013

Since the creation of the Club of Rome around 1970, the need for a holistic conceptualization of the world problematique and of strategies to overcome in a collective yet systematic way the challenges this problematique presents to humankind, took form in the minds, first of scientists and planners, and later of many people who thought that our planet Earth could be considered a web of intrinsically interrelated facts all along its pattern of evolution.

Were those facts totally separate from each other? Were they connected in such a way that anything occurring in one corner of the planet exerted a measurable influence over the rest of facts involved in ulterior states of its evolution? Could there a fact or group of facts influencing Earth enter in action irreversibly, and bring it to an unstable and degrading form of existence? Are we humans responsible for installing on Earth facts contributing to harmony or to wreckage? Thinking of today global conditions, which of the consequences would be the most likely to occur? How can we become responsible for Earth's sustainability as a whole?

These questions hit from time to time the minds and hearts of social leaders and society members, especially if they have connected themselves to cooperate with many others to change whatever states of affairs have been perceived, understood or judged as wrong, bad, or unfair to actual and future generations.

A trial to collect the best answers to those questions for the benefit of Earth as a whole emerges as a newly-born imperative. We are now demanding impartial, honest and applicable answers generated by an ever increasing number of human communities that can finally make a difference in re-directing Earth's evolution to its most harmonious path of development.

In Strategic Articulation of Actions to Cope with the Huge Challenges of Our World Today, Bethania Arango Hisijara and Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros invite people from different walks of life in the world to reflect as follows:

The analogy of the Web (Earth) as an intricate Tangle of threads of different diameters and longitudinal sizes preventing the use of its components as a highly functional configuration (with

fluid interactions) leads us to think that we need to dismantle or loosen certain knots, to untie the threads, classify them, order them, and arrange them in order to make possible to weave them in a new configuration usable by the whole of the Web in its evolutionary process. The demand of a process of harmonization between the subsystems and between the Web and its environment becomes predominant. Its main effect should be the global ecological balance and, consequently, the survival of the Web.

A list of the subsystems here implied could be the following: ecologic, political, socio-demographic, economic, physical-chemical, biological, psychic, ethical and juridical-legal. They can be influential in areas of justice management, religion, communication, techno-science, and culture. Subsystems are permanently interdependent and interacting through flows of matter, energy, information, knowledge, emotions, behaviours and values.

Besides, all the subsystems through their own interactions at different paces might incorporate some factors into the Web, whose random combination could produce determinate effects in certain stages of its evolution. No factor alone might be the cause of a global challenge, i.e., none might become a necessary and sufficient cause to produce complex effects of the nature and intensity of the global challenges. The random combination of sets of factors is responsible for raising continuous critical problems to the rank of global challenges. Sometimes, the continuous critical problems are bonded together and produce bottlenecks and vicious cycles that are constituents of the global challenges. There is the need to try to produce, through strategy, diverse combinations of factors that might dissolve bottlenecks and investigate factors that are capable of eliminating vicious cycles in the subsystems and in the Web.

It is a huge endeavour. The methodology employed by Reynaldo and Bethania is reproducible in its fundamental procedures.

However, it might be enriched through a structured dialogic process, which fosters boundary-spanning processes and encourages collective intelligence, intra, multi and trans-discipline perspectives, and the emergence of progressive and more embracing insights.

The design of a Global Strategy cannot remain inside the established frontiers given in this research. New design efforts should go beyond these results and give free play to uncountable questions such as the

- “motivational why”,
- the “transformational what for”, and most importantly to
- the “how, where, for whom, with whom, in spite of what obstacles, with which resources,
- what are the departing points, what resources might be added in intermediate stages, what indicators and detection systems might be employed to evaluate and ponder progress and possible achievements,
- what sub-products or collateral effects emerge,
- what values are shared all along the implementation process,
- how often the monitoring is required and, also,
- what emergent properties might become usable to improve, accelerate or decelerate according to new necessities, or possibly, to change the route after the learning obtained.

One cannot conclude that a Strategy of the dimensions here articulated will be deployed without the contributions of additional systems for detecting errors and deviations. Many actual events (Fukushima and other nuclear plants in the world, the civil war in Libya, Haiti and the scourging poverty of its inhabitants) call us to continue reflecting over the Web itself and our interventions in it. The price of not doing this, is the increased burdens we levy on future generations, and possibly the irreversible decline of the Web.

Nevertheless, the possibility of a suitable Global Strategy raises the hopes of mankind for new ways to reach the harmonization of subsystems with the Web, and the harmonization of the Web with its environment and in its evolutionary process.

### **III - ANNEX - Connecting 'Gocal' Dots and Issues and Frames on GLocal Issues**

Testing results after implementing Actions is another arc of the trajectory. Should those results be favourable, we would walk further arcs with persistence and we might just create a sustainable world that humanity would enjoy.

Best to outline the scope and synthetic deep approach Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros has taken can be taken from my 2 pages comment I was asked to add to his publication. See the report mentioned below.

The word "glocal"<sup>88</sup> is a neologism of global and local. The intent of the new word is to stress the link between a local situation and a global context. Making such a linkage - "connecting the dots" - is a formidable challenge. The central theme of this monograph illustrates an approach for connecting such dots.

Have you ever tried to connect dots without a frame or a surface? It is well nigh impossible. We need the context to make decisions - and context is difficult to extract and attach to aggregations of quantitative data. Margeaux wrote "values without context are meaningless", and so are meanings. If we lack agreement upon situations and backgrounds, we are left with only wildly diffuse interpretations. Here is where the method of structured dialogic design (SDD) developed by Alexander Christakis and others comes in. In this process, stakeholders check influences to root causes, that is, they determine how issues influence each other in ways that are largely unseen by the participants before the process.

So what is the purpose of this work of Reynaldo Treviño Cisneros and Bethania Arango Hisijara? In 2011, they presented the report in Spanish. Now you find it here two years later an expanded version that includes editorial commentaries. The project bridges different sources, from diverse implementation cultures that are expressed in difficult academic languages. It aims to make sense out of our world's huge, unruly challenges and pose a strategic way to address them. In one word: A mission impossible. And the authors are aware of it!

Treviño has worked closely with Alexander Christakis for decades and he follows certain axioms to secure success in such deep deliberation. One example, if you engage only people who merely hear about problems or create theories about them, yet never hear people who own the problems, how can you expect that "real" solutions emerge from their discussions? And so one must ask, how can you believe your observers are willing to engage to make a difference?

So has Treviño ventured into the impossible? Yes and No. He is aware of the challenges and takes the helm to widen the Solution Spaces for a "work in progress." We are all aware that Problem Spaces have exploded in recent years. Our ill-guided solutions

---

<sup>88</sup> See Wikipedia, History of the term GLocal:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glocalization#History\\_of\\_the\\_concept](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glocalization#History_of_the_concept)

have sometimes externalized our responsibility and created unnecessary problems across cultures and time zones. We live in a tangle of natural and culturally created problems – a huge tangle that has received the name of “problematique”.

So, how are we to proceed? Asking experts and stakeholders to address millennial goals or challenges without a proven methodology has proven to be a mission impossible. Courageous scholars, aware of the Millennium Project, have taken initiatives to start such a process. They found themselves facing the prospect of getting incompatible mindsets into one "room" and having them fight for their definitions and turfs. They eventually saw that this process was leaving practitioners and stakeholders out of the game. So do we need to consider such efforts doomed? Not if one has a proven methodology for addressing problematiques. Treviño and Arango have a way to rate problems and goals on the basis of their influence on each other. They make extensive use of it in this monograph. They find, for example, that among the MP 15 global challenges, Challenge #4 “How can genuine democracy emerge from authoritarian regimes?” is pivotal and that actions addressing it have leverage throughout the remaining 14 challenges.

On a parallel track to Treviño's, I spoke in 2010 and 2011 to the Global Youth Forum about (MP). Being aware of the original premises of the project since 1993, I always felt a need for addressing issues in a more connected way. I felt that the 15 Challenges for Humanity needed to be "processed" in a way that shows the linkages, how issues influence each other either positively or negatively. If we knew those linkages we might find leverage points where by addressing one challenge we would make it easier to solve the other challenges.

This linkage of goals is prominent among the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to be addressed/reached by 2015. In the charter, there is a high request to address the root causes and come to "win-win-win" situations, so that solving Poverty will improve Health, Education, Security, ... This is really a great idea. However, looking into the reality of problem solving in the last 100 years, as Reynaldo and I did in a joint presentation in Crete in 2012, we see that large initiatives were started and disappeared. We also see evidence of silo and box thinking, of ego-thinking and the search for the "silver bullet." In 1990 during an Exhibition called Global Change, Challenges for Science and Politics, I learned the hard way about our policy-advisor approaches, which go for the "Top 5" and throw billions of monies into isolated, simplistic and under-complex solutions.

We all know about the Wikipedia fights over definitions. It is a very long process with lots of flame wars and insults. Often the winner takes all. Minority statements and new approaches are dismissed, and the "solution" might express only the lowest common denominator, without any new creative drive and without possibility of a surprise solution to really make a difference.

I feel that we as Humanity are in a desperate situation. We are offered many conflicting solutions. We are told that "Collective Intelligence" will solve the problems we face. The Millennium Project for one has just started such an initiative<sup>89</sup>. It plans to gather all of its studies and reports along with those of similar efforts into one large "collective repository." It will have 15 “gate-keepers” to supervise the filtering and the screening of this material in peer-review processes. Projects like these see this gathering and filtering as one first step toward formation of a masterplan for humanity. This first step may take

---

<sup>89</sup> Global Futures Intelligence Project, Millennium Project, [millennium-project.org/millennium/GFIS.html](http://millennium-project.org/millennium/GFIS.html)

a long time, but it is alleged that this plan will work – even though its processes will not be transparent. It leaves the work to "intelligent scenario builders" to do the work and to advise politicians how to make the right decisions.

What if the 15 Challenges identified are only the "tip" of the iceberg? What if deep drivers were missed when ideas were filtered into 15, or 30 or more "silos"? I fear that a selection of 15 Challenges is appealing but can also be misleading and dangerous. Remember: "When you think you know, but do not ... ?"

Maybe one last point: Let us look into the funds being invested into the Reynaldo project, and compare it with elsewhere. Let us have more small and beautiful projects, which promise new and surprising solutions. We are addressing with this report from Reynaldo a very critical threshold in dialog, deliberation, and decision culture. Are we to "Harness the Wisdom of the People?", consider Common Frames of Reference?, invite and empower people to create their futures individually and as a community of subjects? Or are we going to invest in and allow the "big scenario" machine to do for us the agenda setting, which pretends to help us steer towards a safe and just world, but prevents our going to the roots of our problems.

---

This is the publication mentioned above:

## **Strategic Articulation of Actions to Cope with the Huge Challenges of Our World - A Platform for Reflection.**

**Authored by Dr. Reynaldo Trevino Cisneros  
Authored with Bethania Arango Hisijara**

**Commentaries by Patricia Kambitsch, Bethania Arango, Thomas R Flanagan, Heiner Benking, Kevin MC Dye,  
Epilogue by Alexander N Christakis, Edited by Kenneth C Bausch**

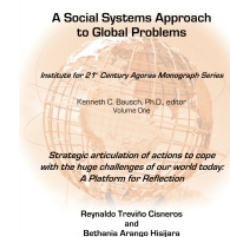
<https://www.createspace.com/3977896>

This authors comment is summarized as follows:

**"Heiner Benking discusses how Treviño and Arango have crossed a critical threshold in discussions of our huge global problems".**

This is the invited comment:

[http://benking.de/futures/Critical\\_Mission\\_comment\\_Benking.pdf](http://benking.de/futures/Critical_Mission_comment_Benking.pdf)



## **Responses and Comments - INTERN / PRELIMINARY**

Re: [Collecting, Framing, Negotiating, and Connecting:](#)

**Dots, Signs, Models, Repositories, Spaces, and Minds**

**Explorations into individual, socio-cultural collaborative and co-creative, and collective approaches**

[https://sites.google.com/site/21stcenturyagora/home/connecting\\_dots\\_and\\_spaces](https://sites.google.com/site/21stcenturyagora/home/connecting_dots_and_spaces)



---

ANTHONY JUDGE: [profile](#)

Greetings Heiner

An excellent text in my view. It is a memorial to all that Heiner has struggled for over many decades. Congratulations.

The issue is how to move forward without falling into the traps to which the text makes various references

Greater admission of ignorance on how to move forward might be the healthiest attitudes -- especially in the light of your quote about science and ignorance. It is the assertion of knowing which is a current difficulty -- as is evident with respect to proposals for economic crisis, etc.

It would be a relief to meet with people who could admit to not knowing and could act out of that space. The argument of the poet John Keats for negative capability comes to mind (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negative\\_capability](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negative_capability)).

Best

Tony

---

Kim Veltman MMI – SUMS [profile](#)

Re: **Mother Planet Earth –  
and us as the Earthlings plague with strange mindsets**

[http://www.newciv.org/nl/newslog.php/\\_v396/\\_show\\_article/\\_a000396-000227.htm](http://www.newciv.org/nl/newslog.php/_v396/_show_article/_a000396-000227.htm)

Dear Heiner

Greetings

Your message re worry about mind bugs is well founded. It is sobering to remember that such problems have been there a very long time. Persuasion was one of the tools of the Sophists and an important dimension of Rhetoric, the third art of the Trivium. In the Renaissance the term became propaganda and Propaganda Fidei became one of the attributes of the Jesuits. During war this becomes linked with black ops. Marketing gurus have their won mantras as do spin doctors. Not everything spoken, written, published, broadcast is true. Education lies not only in learning to read, write, publish, broadcast but equally in becoming discerning in distinguishing between things with ulterior motives and the human, the true. It has always been difficult. You are not alone in fighting this battle without physical weapons. May you find strength and courgae. You have an important spirit of wanting to bring minds together. Onwards.

Wholly

Kim