

Survey Results: Survey sent to co-researchers

Singapore: 5.18pm - Monday 12th
South Australia: 7.48pm - Monday 12th
NSW and ACT, Australia: 9.18pm - Monday 12th
NZ: 10.18pm - Monday 12th
Chandler: 2.18am - Monday 12th
Huston and Chicago: 3.18am - Monday 12th
Eastern US: 4.18am - Monday 12th
London: 9.00am - Monday 12th
Groningen, The Netherlands: 10.18am - Monday 12th

Participation Survey

1) *What was your main motivation for joining the study?*

CF Wong - Experience sharing on the approaches and new concepts.

Kathleen Curran - To learn more about techniques in online facilitation that can enhance relationships online and feelings of connection, integration and belongingness. Everything seems to point to improved productivity, innovation and effectiveness as a result of such feelings of participants. Storytelling seems to be a technique that can span cultures. As I work in the intercultural and international field, this is important to me.

Chris Harkess - I want to explore how to engage, inspire and call forth from my students a desire to create a learning community through story telling and sharing rather than direct, expect, or require participation. That makes our current issue very relevant for me

Michael Hollingworth - Very interested in how online participation and facilitation can be made more effective. Also interested in - and have done very little work on - the power of storytelling, in general and as a facilitation tool in particular.

Jon Jenkins - I am interested in the social functions of stories and in online facilitation

Penny Pullan - I have been working a lot with remote facilitation and I have noticed that it is a lot harder to engage people remotely compared to when we are all in the same room. I have a hunch that story might well pull people in... I would like to be more effective and if story can help, then that's great! It also makes work less hard work...

Mark Spain - To explore best practice, globally, about online facilitation.

Stephen Thorpe - To find out with others how story can build relationships through using the internet across time, place and cultural differences.

Eva Martony – To learn more about facilitating groups on-line using storytelling (what works and what doesn't) as a motivator, a way to create community - help build trust, or as a method to reach out to the frequently faceless audience of virtual communication.

Chris Chew - To learn more about facilitating groups on-line using storytelling (what works and what doesn't) - you said it Eva!

2) Are you more interested in:

- 1) Audio-based
- 2) Same-time text-based
- 3) Different time text-based
- 4) Other (please specify)

CF Wong - b) Same-time text-based (preferred)

Kathleen Curran - 1) Audio-based YES, 3) Different time text-based YES

Chris Harkess - I am not confident with the technological aspects, other than using the college intranet. I guess it has made me aware I need to learn more about those before the first goal can be achieved. All of the above would work for me when I have figured out how to do them! And what I realise, my students face technological issues every day. How can I as the facilitator pre-empt the technological challenges? And how can I also facilitate self responsibility at the same time. Am I willing to accept an open space approach – whoever turns up is the right people or do I come from the accountability position, this is a skill to learn and demonstrate!

Michael Hollingworth - If you mean for this project, 3 then 1 then 2 (mostly due to time).

Jon Jenkins - all

Penny Pullan - I like audio based, as a basis. It's nice to read the transcripts if I can't be in a meeting - it makes it feel as if I've haven't missed too much. Text based is harder for me... I've only used this internally so it means setting Yahoo up and using my home computer, which isn't a laptop, so I can only use when at home.

Mark Spain – I'm interested in best practice so any medium or format that is easy and inclusive is of interest to me.

Stephen Thorpe – All of the above.

Eva Martony – Interested in using all types of technologies.

Chris Chew - 1, 2, 3, 4-video. In order of priority - audio, video, 2, 3.

3) What have been the best things so far?

CF Wong - Stories sharing

Kathleen Curran - Perspectives of new colleagues (though you didn't ask, worst is scheduling concalls!! :)

Chris Harkess - Your facilitative responses to situations, Stephen.

Michael Hollingworth - Liked the transcript. Was interested in people introducing themselves, but I felt it needed to be framed or structured a bit more.

Jon Jenkins - Getting to know others.

Penny Pullan - Hearing other people's experiences, stories and lessons/

Mark Spain – The introductions and rare opportunities to talk with some others

Stephen Thorpe – The introductions were fantastic, I'm in awe of the depth and experience in our group. The individual stories have been really poignant. I've enjoyed getting to know and making connections with everyone.

Eva Martony – Watching this group form and events unfold while noticing my own perceptions of the process as both a researcher and participant.

Chris Chew - Hearing the stories, fascinating!

4) On a scale of 1-10, how would you rank your participation so far?

CF Wong - Reading and get to know more about the subject matter to explore the approaches

Kathleen Curran - 5

Chris Harkess - 1-2

Michael Hollingworth - Not high, maybe 3 or 4.

Jon Jenkins - 7

Penny Pullan - 4

Mark Spain – 3

Stephen Thorpe – 7. I have a sense that I could have been quicker to respond sometimes and I may have sometimes missed things. I also think that putting the wrong dates and times out has probably lowered the group participation.

Eva Martony – 7

Chris Chew - (can't really comment, as I haven't fully caught up with all the emails!)

5) What other commitments impact on your involvement in the research group?

CF Wong - More on the online messages

Kathleen Curran - work/family

Chris Harkess - The time of the year is really impacting on my participation. I had reservations at the beginning regarding the timing for establishing relationships (and realise I needed to say that and didn't). Work and personal commitments at this time of the year are significant for me, with the end of the university year, and Christmas, birthday 'stuff' etc!

Michael Hollingworth - Mostly work.

Jon Jenkins - This month I am finishing a book for Jossey-Bass (way over due), working on the IAF Methods Database, and getting ready to move. Next month we move the house and the office.

Penny Pullan - It's very hard to get anything done this time of year when there is so much going on - Christmas parties, writing cards, finalising work for the year, appraisals, buying presents.... it's manic in and out of work.

Mark Spain – None, I can manage these if the times we meet, and the process we can connect with each other asynchronously, are established in advance.

Stephen Thorpe – Sleep, work, family and Christmas preparations. Attending the AFN conference in Perth took me away from my email for several days - which I didn't enjoy. I'm also on the holding committee for the Heart Politics Gathering here in Taupo, NZ, which is happening 3-8 January 06.

Eva Martony – My contract work and marketing.

Chris Chew - Biggest commitment is a full time job, which involve travelling extensively at times (since my scope of coverage is global, I regularly work in the evenings as well)

6) What timing/ days of the week work best for you?

CF Wong - Singapore time - evening

Kathleen Curran - during regular working hours are the best (though I am aware all feel this way). Mon-Fri

Chris Harkess - At this point, I would prefer to wait until after the New Year with family about and holiday makers. However I am not sure if that applies in the northern hemisphere. I would be willing to make myself available after the first week of January. I can work times if I know in advance.

Michael Hollingworth - 6pm on weekdays, except Thursday and Friday. Mid-afternoon Saturday. Late morning, early afternoon Sunday. Sunday night. (Sydney time)

Jon Jenkins - Saturday night, Friday night, during the day Groningen time Sunday - Friday.

Penny Pullan - Not between 10pm to 6am (although I realise that this is going to come up sometime... I just end up falling asleep or not waking up)

Mark Spain – Mon - Fri 9am - 5.30pm

Stephen Thorpe – Fri - Tuesday 7am - 12.00pm.

Eva Martony – It will change, but for now the best times are 8 - 10 pm in the evenings.

Chris Chew - It depends, but would say afternoons 2-6 pm Singapore/HK/KL time zone (except Tuesdays)

7) What can be done to improve your participation?

CF Wong - a) Online facilitation approaches and obtain feedback or b) Put up the various stories on facilitation process and the outcome of each situation; request feedback from readers.

Kathleen Curran - clarity on goals and my own time management

Chris Harkess - I do need more notice of events to work out how I can participate.

Michael Hollingworth - More notice and more clarity about what is expected. Perhaps a more structured process.

Jon Jenkins - I would appreciate more lead time for meetings at least a couple of weeks. Nothing else that I can think of.

Penny Pullan - More notice - would be great if we could know what's happening over the next two/three weeks, when and what and why. This would help me to plan my participation. It would be nice to have an overview of what's happening over the project (not at a huge level of detail, but just an overview which would be more likely to remain the same - our top level plan seemed to go out of date very quickly so I'm feeling a bit lost)
I agree with this from Chris: More of an open space approach. A series of times set up and whoever turns is the right person.

Mark Spain – Conduct events (synchronous and asynchronous) where and when everyone can participate.

Stephen Thorpe – More stories.

Eva Martony – Restate our goal, general tasks to be accomplished, overall timeframe for the next few months so I can plan around, in the context of using the cooperative inquiry method.

Chris Chew - Clear objectives, general timeframes, no clashes with office meetings (can't be helped sometimes), advance notice

8) What can be done to improve the group's participation?

CF Wong - Stories sharing and request input or other approach for the same subject matter.

Kathleen Curran - perhaps same as above [clarity on goals and my own time management]

Chris Harkess - One idea which came to me is something which I have participated in as part of Appreciative Inquiry list. An invitation was put out by a coordinating person to those who would like to have peer introduction and discussions about what is important to them. Pairs were randomly created. Conversations took place at agreed times between pairs. It might be a way to get involvement at the first stage. It only needs to last for as long as participants want. Peer discussions establish relationships which lead to increased participation in group discussions.

Michael Hollingworth - More relationship. More sense of what we can contribute to each other.

Jon Jenkins - We need to rehearse why we are doing this. We need a bit more structure.

Penny Pullan - Planning and more notice...

Mark Spain – Conduct events (synchronous and asynchronous) where and when everyone can participate.

Stephen Thorpe – More suggestions on how we can create a better structure for telling our stories.

Eva Martony – Perhaps ask each member what creates value for them.

Chris Chew - Aligned/common motivations
unrelated comment: Feels like email storms with this approach of info sharing when I gets loads of emails re this subject in my Inbox(any way to send have an email digest?) - here's me adding to it! :-)

9) What might contribute to creating more online community?

CF Wong - Each member shall share one story per month from their personal experience on the website for readings.

Kathleen Curran - we need some continuity. Perhaps we could set a schedule that has weekly shorter calls (45 min), same time for 1 month at a time. Keeping up with changing schedule is one thing that makes this hard to get in gear with. Frequency which leads to increasing familiarity may contribute.

Chris Harkess - I think the questions you are asking in this survey would be better said on the list- generate the discussion that way rather than in a separate

Michael Hollingworth - Get people to send photos, or better to post them on a common website. With them, more information about what they are passionate about, highlights of their lives and/or careers, what they want to see happen in the world (through facilitation or otherwise).

Jon Jenkins - More stories

Penny Pullan - Story? :-)

Mark Spain – More interaction, sharing and storytelling with each other.

Stephen Thorpe – More interaction, sharing and storytelling with each other.

Eva Martony – One idea: pick a "story topic of the week" - a story about something, e.g. What is one of your holiday rituals? And that question gets emailed out to everyone and then everyone responds - if the story happens to strike someone in a particular way - perhaps they could comment on it or interview the storyteller as Jon and Steven suggested.

I'm feeling like some of the stories about facilitation may help us explore facilitation in general, which I'd like to do too, but I'm also curious about human nature stories that may draw others in and help them to relax, build trust. Not to use just for this group, but to trigger ideas for future storytelling uses.

Chris Chew - pictures, realtime chats (which we seem to be doing)

10) Useful comments to contribute:

CF Wong - Each story would relate the effectiveness of the approach and request for further enhancement.

Kathleen Curran – Merry Christmas!

Michael Hollingworth - Because the possibilities of this project are so wide, it needs perhaps more structure rather than less. In particular, what goals do we have from the project (i) as a group and (ii) as individuals?

Mark Spain – I believe online groupwork needs a platform and processes that people can engage with at times they are in control of as well as live events.

Stephen Thorpe – Kathleen suggested after asking 3) What have been the best things so far? I could have asked 3.1) What have been the worst things so far? It made me wonder what other questions could be useful to ask ourselves? I've found the responses people have made so far really useful. It feels like there are a few themes emerging. They may provide a key to what needs to happen in our group next.

Eva Martony – Miracles occur daily in our lives.....keep on keepin' on!

Chris Chew - Be open & curious, you never know what you might learn