

The only way for an Open Space to fail is to attempt to control it. In Open Space the traditional role of the facilitator has changed. 95% of what facilitators normally do - planning, monitoring, training - doesn't need to be done. It may, therefore, turn out that the one thing we always wanted (control) is not only unavailable, but unnecessary.

The main tasks of an Open Space facilitator are: Identify the task and main theme, create the context, establish the flow, which means handling time and space in a way that is supportive to the task. Order appears in Open Space when the conditions for self-organisation are met. To some people Open Space might look chaotic and unpredictable. But chaos also has a positive side. Chaos may even be the essential precondition for all that is truly new. No chaos, nothing new. In addition to modern chaos theory, I believe that life without chaos is no life at all.

In many meetings I attended the greatest pleasure and profit were not the papers and panel discussions, workshops and speakers. It was the coffee breaks that provided the significant moments for deep learning.

Why not create a big Open Space. A super coffee break in your organisation or in your next meeting?

If you want to know more: <http://www.tmn.com/openspace>

May there be a lot of open space experiences in your future.

I will be very pleased to get your remarks, questions, etc. You can contact me at:

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The adventures of Spiffy

