

# Design of the workshop Exploring the Future of Artificial Intelligence: The Heart of Intelligence

COS Conference 2019 in Linz, 16 November. Design and facilitation by dr. Tonnie van der Zouwen MCM, with thanks for feedback to Tova Averbuch

See <https://www.cos-collective.com/van-der-zouwen-heartificial-intelligence/>

## Goals:

- To create more awareness of the differences we make, from what perspectives we look at our world and at intelligence
- To create collective meaning for future developments regarding intelligence
- To provide an experience with collective storytelling and futuring

## Main design concepts:

- A collective storytelling and harvesting experience to digest the future
- From the central theme Artificial intelligence and digitization we replace the focus on what makes us human and how we want to connect to the world (animals, plants, things, earth)
- 2,5 hour timeframe
- Ca. 10 to 15 participants
- Collectively develop images of the future, inviting as many senses and capabilities as possible: pictures, music, smell, taste, dance, imagination, talking, play, ....

## Setting:

- Participants enter a room with 4 tables, set up in circle with an open space in the middle. Each table with 4 chairs.
- On every table a vase with green weeds, water glasses and a water can, something to eat/small bites
- In the room are some weeds or oils that provide a nice smell
- Music is playing
- Table at the side with materials for drawing: flipcharts, pencils, markers, tape, scissor, ...
- A large place on a wall to collect A5-charts, in two parts. One labelled with an A4 sheet HOPES and one labelled with an A4 sheet FEARS
- Flipover with markers

## Main flow:

1. 10 min.: Opening,
  - People are invited to sit at a table, no specific order
  - Welcome by Tonnie and short explanation of the workshop; digest the future of 2069, were there is no difference between artificial intelligence and other intelligences. We developed our full potential of human being.
2. 5 min.: Invitation to 'land' in 2069 with a mindfulness exercise of ca. 2 minutes; sit, relax, close your eyes, concentrate on breathing in and out; what do we hear, feel, smell.
3. 30 min.: Looking back from the future. We are here to look back to 2019 and remember how it was in 2019. What issues were playing with digitization? What were the hopes and fears of people at that time regarding artificial intelligence? Do you remember? Or what did you hear or read about that time (of course some participants were not born yet in 2019).
  - Participants individually write the hopes and fears on A5-charts with a thin black marker. 1 item per chart, hopes on green charts, fears on orange charts
  - Then share their stories from 2019 with their table group
  - Ask everyone to hold up all their charts and demonstrate them each other
  - Who wants to share a story from the table group? Depending on energy and time invite some participants to share their stories

- Then invite everyone to tape all their charts on the overview on the wall, while sorting them as much as by subject (with many participants: take a break and ask some volunteers to sort the charts; hopes and fears stay separated)
  - Collectively: Invite all participants to come and stand in front of the overview. What do we see? Collectively draw conclusions, ask someone to write every conclusion of insight on a flipchart. Hang the flipchart near the overview when done.
4. 60 min., including coffee break. Envision the Future: What does the world look like in 2069, when there is no difference anymore between intelligence of things, people, animals, plants, earth, .... What happened since 2019, what mile stones, disasters, victories, ....Table groups prepare a presentation of an image of 2069 regarding dealing with intelligence and connectedness, in whatever form. Could be a play, dance, poster, song, report, story, figure, ....Presentations should be max. 3 minutes per group
  5. 20 min. : Sharing the images in max. 3 minutes per group
  6. 15 min.: Looking back on the workshop, back to 2019. What would you like to share? Could be anything regarding process, results, .....
  7. Closing: Appreciations and next steps (sharing of photos and videos)

**Illustrations of the main flow (see the videos of the main flow and the presentations on [the website](#)):**

