



# WAYS OF DOING DEVELOPMENT DIFFERENTLY: Methodologies for Adaptive and Systemic Development

8 and 9 April 2017



## **How does development work in today's complex interconnected world? What theories of change, frameworks, and methodologies can we apply to be more responsive and transformative in our work?**

---

In the field of development and humanitarian aid, we are facing increasingly complex and interconnected problems that exist in changing and unstable contexts. We need to incorporate approaches and methodologies that allow us to propose solutions that understand and embrace the qualities of today's reality. This means seeking solutions that: take into account the whole system; can evolve and effectively adapt to changing circumstances; build a body of learning and good practices throughout the process; and look at long-term behavioural changes and impacts.

A body of action-research has emerged within the field of development aiming to solve some of the above issues. This includes considering frameworks, models and methodologies to “Do Development Differently”<sup>1</sup>. During this workshop, we will look at the underlying paradigms of thinking that can help us to reflect upon and put into practice adaptive systemic development. We will explore the theories and science of Complex Systems that lie behind the new paradigm of thinking designed to better understand the realities of today's challenges and to overcome some of the limitations of linear, reductionist thinking for programming and planning. We will look at some of the methodologies that will help develop adaptive, systemic and collaborative projects. Lastly, we will get to share case studies that exemplifies the learning.

During the session on case studies, we will explore:

- Ecovillage design as one of the emerging innovations in sustainable development. Fresh from sharing the program at the COP 22 in Marrakech, this flagship program by the Global Ecovillage Network is already gaining attention and interest by 23 governments with recent partnerships with the governments of Zimbabwe, Senegal,

---

<sup>1</sup> Doing Development Differently: <http://doingdevelopmentdifferently.com/>

Northern Morocco, Palestine, and Mauritania. We will discover how a whole-systems approach to development can contribute to long-term sustainability through playing cards and a game.

- Eroles Project: An Action learning project that combines learning, project design and management using: complexity and systems thinking, participatory approaches, cultural and interdisciplinary exchange. We aim to systemically address humanitarian, social and environmental issues. Based in Spain and taking action across Europe and Africa. [www.erolesproject.org](http://www.erolesproject.org)
- Other projects from around the world.

### **IN THIS COURSE WE WILL:**

- 1) Explore how complex systems principles can be applied to project design and implementation;
- 2) Cover an overview systems thinking, agile, iterative methodologies that help us to be responsive to contextual feedback and complexity in project and programme management. These approaches are fundamental to create innovation and learning within development;
- 3) Cover an overview into participatory methodologies. The commitment to genuine participatory processes increases the involvement, empowerment, awareness and responsibility of the different actors involved and the appropriation of these processes and their results.
- 4) Analyse and reflect upon a case studies.
- 5) Look into application into participants' projects.

### **FRAMEWORKS AND METHODOLOGIES**

Complex living systems approach, systems thinking and modelling, Collective Impact, biomimicry, appreciative enquiry tools, Community Asset Based Approach, generative dialogue, permaculture, KANBAN, art of hosting. Open Space Technology.

### **NUMBER OF HOURS**

15 hours (minus time for meals and snacks)

### **THEORIES, FRAMES, AND METHODOLOGIES**

8th of April 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Conference Room 1 Walter Hogan Conference Centre at At Institute for Social Order, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

### **PRACTICE LAB**

9th of April 10:00 am – 5 pm

Venue to be confirmed

## PROGRAMME

### Theory, frames and methodologies

- Complex processes of change and development.
- Characteristics and comparative advantages of adaptive and participatory approaches.
- Overview into participatory, adaptive and agile methodologies for project management.
- Case studies.

### Practice Lab

- We will work in groups looking at applying theory and methodologies to participants' projects.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Members of International Development and Aid Organizations, Agencies and Civil Society and local counterparts, public institutions, social innovators, social entrepreneurs, and organizations working in change and social issues.

Limited Spaces Available.

Please Pre-Register by April 1 via [Ticket Tailor](#)

## REGISTRATION FEE

Php 500 off for the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 sign-ups.

Php 4,000 for Filipinos

Php 6,000 (\$120) for Foreigners

Students and Senior Citizens get 10% discount

Group Rates Available. Please inquire by email.

Two scholarship slots will be available. To apply, email [info@eroleproject.org](mailto:info@eroleproject.org)

For more information, email [info@eroleproject.org](mailto:info@eroleproject.org) , [+639953517983](tel:+639953517983) or visit [www.eroleproject.org](http://www.eroleproject.org)

## FACILITATORS

### María Llanos del Corral

(Main Facilitator)

*Consultant and facilitator: organizational change and project management through Complex Systems approach, agile and participatory technologies.*

*Project manager and team Coordinator for sustainable development.*

Co-founder of the [Eroles Project](#), a learning-for-action centre looking into complexity across the fields of environmental work, human rights and social issues.

Advisory board member of [Ulex Project](#), [Ecodharma Iberica](#) co-founder, [Economic University of the neighbourhood](#) in Madrid, Member of [CMManagement International](#) ad Impact Hub Madrid.

María is a social psychologist with an MA in “International Cooperation”. She worked in this field for 7 years with the Red Cross in Peru, Malawi, Niger and Spain doing community development, DRM, economic development, strengthening civil society and education (2005-2013).

María shifted to become an organisational change consultant and facilitator after obtaining a Masters in “Economics for Transition” at Schumacher College (2013-2014). She specialises in applied Complexity Theory, systems thinking and participatory and agile methodologies. Her main work focuses on project management, culture and organizational structures, vision and values, leadership, sustainability and personal capabilities to deal with complex, collaborative and uncertain environments. Some of her work has developed with NGOs including Fundación Tomillo, ECODES, RAIS, Ecodharma, [IUDC](#) (University Institute for Development and Cooperation). Other relevant work includes facilitating learning events at Schumacher College (Complexity and Organizations with Eve Mitleton-Kelly).

Her published work includes: [Collaborative tools for Social Organizations](#) and [Activism and spirituality](#). More papers and articles at: [Academia.edu](#)

### **Sarah Queblatin**

Sarah Queblatin is a creative regenerative solutions designer weaving experience in environmental education, cultural heritage, peacebuilding, and humanitarian assistance with I/NGOs for the last 15 years. After responding to conflict and disasters, she was inspired to join the Transition Town, Permaculture, and Ecovillage movements realizing the need for whole - systems designed solutions for resilience and sustainability.

She currently serves as Advocacy Coordinator for the [Global Ecovillage Network](#) facilitating its participation at the United Nations along with other global platforms. She is also helping shape its humanitarian program EmerGENcies and its Ecovillage Development Program with governments. She is also active in global interfaith and ecology movements.

Sarah is an Art of Hosting practitioner using hosting tools to facilitate leadership in complexity from personal to systemic processes. She is also a member of New Stories, a global collaboratory using story as social technology in developing new practices for social innovation. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Social Sciences at the Ateneo de Manila University in 2003 and is set to take her masters studies on sustainable development this year.

Locally, Sarah is about to launch a start-up called Green Releaf which supports communities in transition from emergencies and crises through regenerative solutions. Green Releaf is preparing to pilot Witnessing Trees which aims to address food security, regenerative livelihood, and ecosystem restoration using ecovillage and permaculture design in disaster and conflict affected communities in the Philippines.

## REFERENCES

- 0) Doing Development Differently: <http://doingdevelopmentdifferently.com/>
- 1) World Food Program (2001). *Participatory Techniques and tools*. A WFP Guide.
- 2) B. Ramalingman. (2013). *Aid in the Edge of Chaos*. Oxford University Press. Oxford.
- 3) M. Llanos, M. Segales, C. Garcia, J. Kindelan (2016). ***Experiencias de un cambio sistémico: Factores clave para la investigación acción colaborativa***. Grupo Compartir.
- 4) L. Wild, D. Boeth, C. Cumming, M. Foresti, J. Wales (2015). *Adapting Development: Improving Services for the poor*. Overseas Development Institute.
- 5) Maani, Kambiz & Cavana, R. Y (2007). *Systems thinking, system dynamics : managing change and complexity* (2nd ed). Pearson Education New Zealand, North Shore, N.Z
- 6) R. Chambers (2002). *Participatory Workshops*, EarthScan, London.
- 7) P. Holdman, T. Devane (1999). *The Change Handbook*. Berrelet-koehler, San Francisco.
- 8) P. Reason & H. Bradbury (2001) *Handbook of Action Research: Participative Inquiry & Practice*. Earth Scan, London.
- 10) Nguyen, N. C., Bosch, O. J.H. and Maani, K. E. (2011), *Creating 'learning laboratories' for sustainable development in biospheres: A systems thinking approach*. *Syst. Res.*, 28: 51–62. doi:10.1002/sres.1044.
- 13) The systems thinker introduction: <https://thesystemsthinker.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Introduction-to-Systems-Thinking-IMS013Epk.pdf>
- 14) H. Preskill, S. Gopal (2014). *Evaluating Complexity: Propositions for Improving Practice*. FSG
- 15) The Art of Hosting: <http://www.artofhosting.org>