Engaging the flow: a creative dialogue

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Creative conversations don’t mechanically follow ‘outline form,’ they emerge from the synergies and interactions of participants in hard-to-predict ways. Is there a way to facilitate such dialogues, rather than direct them, so 1 + 1 > 2? Is there a way to capture the creative ideas that emerge? Building from theories on synchronicity in innovation and the process used by Nathan Myhrvold at Intellectual Ventures, the Chaos & Complexity Seminar will engage in a creative dialogue whose outcome is unknown and whose parameters will be co-created by the group.

I am fascinated by the possibilities of dialogue. I am thrilled by its potential to help people gain great insight, whether from piggy-backing on each others’ ideas or by finding ways to diverge and disagree, forging a vortex of energy for gaining epiphany through dissonance. Here’s the focus question, as currently framed:

"In what ways might we creatively harness the campus’s intellectual, social and physical resources so they may be best applied to the most significant emergent challenges facing society?"

Proposed “Rules of Engagement” for the Conversation:

1. Please try to have one person speak at a time, so each speaker has an opportunity to complete a thought.
2. Listen to one another and respond in a respectful manner, at least in a manner that you would perceive as respectful.
3. Share ‘air time,’ so all have an opportunity to participate in the discussion.
4. There are no other rules.

How does that sound?

Let’s plan to conclude the conversation at 12:55, so we can use the final 5 minutes to initially reflect on the discussion together.
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