

# Collective Intelligence: An Introduction

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"Collective Intelligence" is the theme of this issue of *Transformation Magazine: A Road Map*

"Collective intelligence has existed at least as long as humans have, because families, armies, countries, and companies have all--at least sometimes--acted collectively in ways that seem intelligent. But in the last decade or so a new kind of collective intelligence has emerged: groups of people and computers, connected by the Internet, collectively doing intelligent things. For example, Google technology harvests knowledge generated by millions of people creating and linking web pages and then uses this knowledge to answer queries in ways that often seem amazingly intelligent. Or in Wikipedia, thousands of people around the world have collectively created a very large and high quality intellectual product with almost no centralized control, and almost all as volunteers!" M.I.T 2012 Conference on Collective Intelligence.

Homo Sapiens (or Us) seem to have outlived Neanderthals because of our higher ability to cooperate in more complex circumstances, and be somewhat less rigid in our existing beliefs. Possibly our Human Being beliefs were more like guidelines than Neanderthal strict principles and rules. Looking at today's personalities, politics, bureaucracy, and relationship dysfunction, I suspect, but have not yet proven, that lingering Neanderthal DNA has now put us, in more complex circumstances, on our own road to non collaborative extinction.

The possibility and practice of Collective Intelligence, a way of thinking and acting beyond the strictures of individual identity, religion, economic systems and corporate myths seems a promising way forward.

In this issue, we explore this possibility.

"Classical modern science described only the surface of things, a single dimension of reality. And the more dogmatically science treated it as the only dimension, as the very essence of reality, the more misleading it became. We may know immeasurably more about the universe than our ancestors did, and yet it increasingly seems they knew something more essential about it than we do, something that escapes us.

Be patient with all that is unresolved in your heart. And try to love the questions themselves. Do not seek for the answers that cannot be given. For you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now and perhaps without knowing it you will live along some day into the answers." Rainer Maria Rilke