

# “Designing Collaborative Ecosystems”

2017 Annual STS Roundtable & Global STS Design Network

in partnership with

Rutgers’ Center for Collaboration in Work & Society

and

Rutgers’ Center for Work & Health

Rutgers University: September 12—15, 2017

## IDEAS for Proposals due April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The purpose of the STS Roundtable<sup>1</sup> is to continually advance and integrate the various theories, principles, and practices of sociotechnical systems (STS) design in order to make them increasingly relevant in today’s world. (*STS is an approach to complex organizational work design with a shared emphasis on achievement of both excellence in performance and quality in people’s work lives.*) The annual Roundtable provides an opportunity for this advancement and integration through one or more specific and relevant topics. For 2017, the theme of the Roundtable will be “Designing Collaborative Ecosystems”, by which we mean a community of systems, usually organizations and individuals, who occupy a section of a task environment (e.g. disability care, forest industry, etc.), and who can collaborate around a central partner or can collaborate as partners to address a shared opportunity or threat.<sup>2</sup>

### Our Objective

In today’s complex, connected and fast-changing world, organizations (e.g. businesses, government agencies, NGO’s) cannot scale or deliver socio-economic value without engagement with a broad set of participants and other systems in their external environment.

We have the opportunity to partner with the Center for the Study of Collaboration in Work and Society at Rutgers University in continuing to increase our ability to learn, innovate, research, and contribute in Collaborative Ecosystems. Using common “touch-points” of the Center and STS RT like healthcare, education, social innovation, and mutual prosperity, **we first take a deep dive in Collaborative Ecosystems, with a focus on the HEALTHCARE SECTOR**, to get a better understanding of necessary principles, methods and knowledge in building an ecosystem. **Secondly**, we want to explore the practice of building collaborative ecosystems in **OTHER FIELDS** (education, social entrepreneurship, etc.) to broaden our understanding: **what general principles and methods are applicable to building collaborative ecosystems?**

### Working Principles for this Roundtable

Our intention is to maximize the active participation of Roundtable attendees, putting emphasis on interactive group sessions and deliberations. Throughout the 3-day Roundtable, we will debrief the learning from these sessions to collectively develop design principles for collaborative ecosystems. This Roundtable is meant to be a learning experience for all participants—presenters and non-presenters alike. Ideally, much of the time, we will be dealing with real clients on real issues, drawing on varied work design methodologies in our network combining perspectives of academics, design thinkers, IT professionals, and organizational practitioners.

<sup>1</sup> Sociotechnical Systems Roundtable Inc. (STS/RT) [www.stsroundtable.com/who-we-are/](http://www.stsroundtable.com/who-we-are/)

<sup>2</sup> “Developing a Viable Disability Care Ecosystem”, Peter Aughton, 2016—see Appendix 1 [www.stsroundtable.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Developing-a-Viable-Disability-Care-Ecosystem.Aughton.pdf](http://www.stsroundtable.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Developing-a-Viable-Disability-Care-Ecosystem.Aughton.pdf)

## Invited IDEAS for PROPOSALS, timetable and procedure

Ideas for proposals do not need to be elaborate. At this stage, we need a **proposal title, one sentence description, participant name(s), and the format** you prefer (presentation: lightning talk, a poster, a paper or case study). We are curious about your **IDEAS** for contribution and your preferred mode of delivery. We are especially looking for new and creative ways in which the diverse participants can interact and find synergy-- your ideas about cooperative/ collaborative contributions are most welcome!

We are looking for program contributions that will engage our Roundtable participants in thought-provoking, diverse deliberations and experiential concurrent workshop sessions that challenge our assumptions, stretch our thinking, and expand our skills. Within the program theme and objective, **we invite you to submit your first ideas for Presentations and Workshops.**

### ***Presentations***

- 'Lightning talks' (max 15 min) to support deliberations or case study workshops
- Innovation Gallery Posters displayed throughout the session (we are discussing a specific gallery for PhD's; please respond if you are interested!)
- Book Announcements available for distribution
- Papers in advance on STS/RT website on theory, practice or research of collaborative ecosystems.

### ***Case Study Workshops***

Case studies in the healthcare sector and other fields will be formulated as workshops (approximately 2 hours) to allow for both presentation of case context and deliberation by participants to highlight and learn from collaborative ecosystem design elements. (*Workshops might be combined with background papers or reports that could be read in advance of the Roundtable meeting.*)

We conceive of each workshop involving some of the following process elements, depending on the case, to produce a highly interactive workshop. This is what we would like to design with you as case presenters.

- Presentation (MAX approximately 20 minutes) of the highlights of the case, including the collaborative ecosystem design elements the case focused on
- Small table group discussion to discuss questions participants would most like to hear answers to
- Plenary Q&A with presenters with input from small table groups
- Deliberation of a key question [deliberations specifically target different points of view around the key question to maximize the learning]. So, the question to be deliberated in a workshop might be something like: "What is the distinctive learning from this case about... [some key design element] and are there any other insights about ecosystem design that stand out in the experience of this case?"
- Synthesis/preparation for Report-Out to the Plenary (2 workshops will be run in parallel) on learnings from the case about ecosystem design.

## **Due date for first ideas for proposals is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

The Design team will review all the ideas for fit with the 2017 theme and then decide what types of delivery can achieve the best design of the overall session. **Ezra Dessers, professor at Leuven University** and **Rick Vanasse, consultant with SPRING Network** will contact presenters by **May 15, 2017** about acceptance/non-acceptance and the design team can be your partner in elaborating the first ideas towards a presentation or case study workshop.

**Please send proposals (and any questions) to both:**

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