

CONVERSATION CAFÉS IN PUEBLA

Conversation Café is a new SICA sponsored program showcased at the 14th Subud World Congress in Puebla, Mexico. It was designed to engage members and experts in their fields in conversations exploring the future and what guidance their latihans have had upon their work.

Conceived by Victor Margolin and developed by Susannah Rosenthal with Paul Nelson, they will be continuing the dialog online at www.conversation-cafe.com and as a format for Conversation Cafés for other Subud gatherings.

What is the Future of Spirituality?
Hardin Tibbs, professional futurist, and Sharif Horthy discussed the future of spirituality and Subud. For example, can spirituality embrace the divisions caused by extremists among our world religions?

What is the Future of Education? Reynold Ruslan Feldman, author, and a panel, including Sherto Gill, author; Mariam Balogun, digital technology teacher at NYC high school of Arts & Science; and Ibu Ismana Haryono, founder of the Cita Buana School in Jakarta, discussed their work. Panel and members broke into smaller groups to explore the topic. E.g., what kinds of changes in education are needed to prepare children for the challenges of our changing world?

[Paul Nelson writes](#) about the *Future of Design* and the *Future of Storytelling*:

SICA brought together some of the brightest and most inventive minds for panels... One was *The Future of Design*. Victor Margolin is a Professor Emeritus of Design History at the University of Illinois – Chicago. He helped conceive of the idea and moderated that event and others.

Victor's statement for the *Future of Design* workshop was: *Design is undergoing a multitude of changes at present. On the one hand both the public and designers are considering new forms of activity and new situations that can be designed. These range from government institutions to hurricane disaster relief programs. On the other hand, there are new proposals for more open design processes, both in terms of making design plans for new products available as open source material as well as involving more people in the design process, particularly when the object of design is a social system or activity.*



WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF SPIRITUALITY?
with Hardin Tibbs and Sharif Horthy
AUGUST 7th 10 to 12 Auditoria

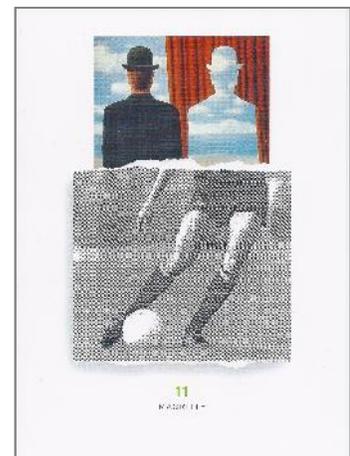
WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION?
with Ruslan Feldman & Panel
AUGUST 8th 2 to 4 Terraza 3rd floor

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF DESIGN?
with Victor Margolin & Panel
AUGUST 10th 2 to 4 Terraza 3rd floor

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF STORYTELLING?
with Paul Nelson & Panel
AUGUST 13th 2 to 4 Terraza 3rd floor

HOW TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE WORKSHOP
with Victor Margolin and Hardin Tibbs
AUGUST 15th 2 to 4 Terraza 3rd floor

GO TO OUR WEBSITE www.conversation-cafe.com
TO SEE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PANELISTS AND THE TOPICS





And the panelists present were: Arifin Graham, a Victoria, BC, [graphic designer](#) (*poster left*); Garrett Thompson, a designer and philosopher who discussed the need for new concepts that would challenge the notion of nation states and Susannah Rosenthal, who was a toy designer for over 15 years and who had the notion of the Conversation Cafe and suggested it to Victor and I during the Subud National Congress in Pittsburgh last May. One final panelist was a Mexican designer German Montalvo, and friend of Victor's who had some remarkably inventive postcards, (*see previous page*).

In the breakout discussions, I suggested we needed new design for capitalism and followed up Garrett Thompson's notion of reconsidering nationstates with my own emphasis on bioregionalism, as evidenced by all my Cascadia preoccupations. It was a lively event and set the foundation for my own panel on *The Future of Storytelling*.

We also had a remarkable panel which, oddly, featured four filmmakers and one poet, (your humble narrator), Mimi Machado-Luces, Matthew Cooke, Myrna Jelman and Honora Foah, (*photo*). All had salient angles on the topic. I was moderator and provided the initial notes for the panel:

In an age of unprecedented instability, with the climate system and capitalism showing signs of breakdown, how to we navigate the challenges inherent in life today? What is the story of our age?...

There were about 60 people, maybe more, in attendance for the panel I hosted and I felt the panel was very successful and very lively. I also

attended *The Future of the Future* and was delighted to see such concepts as the "sharing" economy, [Uber X](#), [Airbnb](#) and other such initiatives noted as shapes the future may take.

Check our [Conversation-Cafe website](#) for guidelines on hosting other conversations and for other ways to add to the conversations. Recordings were made of these first Cafes and will be available as MP3s or transcripts soon. Donations to SICA earmarked Conversation Café will expedite the editing.