



Jerry Michalski &lt;sociate@gmail.com&gt;

## Meeting assets for Jerry Michalski's Zoom Meeting are ready!

Zoom <no-reply@zoom.us>  
To: sociate@gmail.com

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Hi Jerry Michalski

The following assets for the meeting - Jerry Michalski's Zoom Meeting are now available.

### Meeting summary

#### Quick recap

The group explored the challenges and complexities of sense-making in collective intelligence settings, discussing various approaches to achieving consensus and understanding in diverse groups. They examined the role of AI, human connection, and storytelling in facilitating sense-making processes, while also addressing concerns about manipulated collective intelligence and the dangers of premature convergence. The discussion concluded with reflections on the power of diverse perspectives, the importance of clear definitions, and the potential of art and practical approaches in fostering shared understanding.

#### Next steps

- Jerry: Continue facilitating the discussion on what constitutes evidence of sense making happening.
- Group: Explore ways to document sense making outcomes.
- Group: Consider implementing a "humming" consensus approach similar to the Internet Engineering Task Force model.

#### Summary

#### Challenges in Collective Sense-Making

The group discussed the challenges and frustrations of sense-making, particularly in collective intelligence settings. John highlighted the contrast between successful collaborative breakthroughs and limited consensus, while Marc-Antoine emphasized the importance of diversity in perspectives and the need for a structured process to move from exploration to decision-making. Mike built on these points, stressing the necessity of clear goals and the iterative nature of sense-making processes. The conversation also touched on the potential of AI in facilitating sense-making and the need to balance mapping and decision-making.

### **Challenges in Consensus and Sense-Making**

The group discussed challenges in achieving consensus and making sense in various settings, with Mike sharing his experiences from UN conferences and the Internet Governance Forum. They explored the concept of "rough consensus and running code" used by the Internet Engineering Task Force, where participants hum to indicate agreement. The conversation touched on frustrations with disinformation, lack of shared context due to filter bubbles, and the presence of individuals attending meetings for personal gain rather than constructive purposes. Gil raised questions about the definition of "sense-making" and its relation to goals and decision-making, expressing frustration with the lack of clarity on these issues.

### **Challenges in Consensus Building**

Doug expressed frustration with the use of collective language in discussions, arguing that it often sets up a premise for failure by negating individual agency and inclusion. He emphasized the importance of arriving at consent through a process that allows for all voices to be heard and understood. Jerry countered by sharing his experience with Quaker meetings, which use a sense of the meeting approach without voting, and suggested that sense-making can be a valuable process even if it doesn't produce a tangible product.

### **Collective Cognition and Decision-Making**

Jerry and Gil discussed the concept of collective sense-making, drawing parallels to bee behavior and the importance of outliers in decision-making processes. Marc-Antoine shared insights on collective intelligence, emphasizing the evolution of human cognition as collective cognition and the role of shared practices in defining group boundaries. They also discussed the dangers of premature convergence and the illusion of consensus in group settings.

### **Sense-Making and Power Dynamics**

Kevin and Jerry engaged in a philosophical discussion about the concept of sense-making, with Kevin suggesting that it often serves the powerful by defining and controlling others, while Jerry maintained that it is a fundamental human activity. The conversation touched on historical examples of how definitions have been used to justify colonialism and inequality. Gil attempted to mediate by clarifying that sense-making itself is a neutral process, but can be co-opted by those in power. The discussion ended with Jerry expressing

disagreement with Kevin's view, but both acknowledged the complexity of the topic.

### **Understanding Collective Intelligence Dynamics**

The group discussed the concepts of collective intelligence and sense-making, with Klaus emphasizing the dangers of manipulated collective intelligence in the current political environment. Scott defined collective intelligence as the aggregation of individual mental models for predicting and acting on the future. The discussion explored the distinction between individual and collective sense-making, with Doug highlighting the challenge of fixing understandings in a moment of time rather than allowing for constant evolution. Kevin shared his experience with the Socap conference, emphasizing the importance of bringing together diverse perspectives as unlikely allies. The conversation concluded with Jack defining intelligence as the ability to handle expectation failures when models predict the future differently than it unfolds.

### **Integrating Intelligence for Collective Decision-Making**

Jack discussed the concept of "hyperknowledge" inspired by Marc Antoine, comparing it to how children overcome their fear of insects by building a more comprehensive understanding of the world. Klaus emphasized the need for a hierarchy of intelligence that respects different layers of knowledge, particularly in decision-making processes, and criticized the current political system for its disconnect from the natural world. Both speakers highlighted the importance of collective sense-making and the need to integrate various forms of intelligence in decision-making.

### **Human Connection in AI Era**

The group discussed the challenges of human intelligence and the potential risks of over-reliance on AI, with Klaus and Marc-Antoine emphasizing the importance of questioning assumptions and practicing collective sense-making. David and Jerry explored the role of human connection in sense-making, with David suggesting that human connection could serve as a counterbalance to AI and Jerry noting that trusted connections can be a shortcut to sense-making. The conversation concluded with Mike agreeing that human connection is a fundamental aspect of sense-making and sharing.

### **Storytelling and AI in Communication**

The group discussed the power of storytelling in conveying meaning and influencing people, with Mike emphasizing the importance of stories over specific principles and referencing a Harvard Business Review article on CEOs as storytellers. Rick shared his exploration of collective intelligence and slow thinking through AI, introducing a course on developing slow thinking skills and discussing sociocracy as a method for group decision-making. Klaus contributed insights on using spiral dynamics with AI to adapt messages to different cognitive levels and audiences, highlighting the need for communication to be tailored to the understanding of the recipient.

## Sense-Making Without a Single Definition

The group discussed the concept of sense-making, with Gil expressing frustration over the lack of clear definition and questioning its relevance given the homogeneous demographic of the group. Ken suggested an alternative approach of collecting diverse perspectives without aiming for a single definition, while Marc-Antoine emphasized the importance of negotiating shared meaning. Alex pointed out that the discussion lacked a clear objective or solutions, preferring a more practical approach. The conversation ended with Ken sharing a poem, highlighting the universal understanding that can be achieved through art.

AI can make mistakes. Review for accuracy.

Please rate the accuracy of this summary.

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55 Almaden Blvd  
San Jose, CA 95113

[+1.888.799.9666](#)

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