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

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Thu, Nov 13, 2025 at 9:52 AM



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

Recording



Duration: 01:32:26

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Meeting summary

Quick recap

The group explored various theories and hypotheses about the decline of curiosity among younger generations, discussing its relationship to education, technology, and personality traits. They examined different types of curiosity, including cultural and professional curiosity, and how these have evolved with the advent of social media and the internet. The discussion concluded with practical applications of curiosity, such as implementing the Question Formulation Technique to improve discussions and exploring the role of AI in education.

Next steps

- Victoria: Keep the Excalibra board open for continued conversation and contributions from participants
- Victoria: Repeat the Excalibra board link in chat as new people join the room
- Jerry: Add link to the Excalibra board in the email when posting the session online
- Jerry and Victoria: Discuss setting up a session using the Question Formulation Technique

- [Jerry: Add Gabriele to the OGM Google group mailing list using the email address Victoria provided](#)
- [Gabriele: Post any written exploration about the topic to the OGM mailing list once added](#)

Summary

Curiosity's Role in Knowledge Access

The group discussed the topic of "What happened to Curiosity?" and explored various theories and hypotheses. Victoria created an Excalibur board for collaborative discussion, and Jerry demonstrated how to use the board for adding comments and drawings. Victoria emphasized the importance of keeping the discussion open-ended rather than closing it with a single solution. The conversation touched on themes of education, access to knowledge, and the role of academia and subscriptions in limiting information access.

Curiosity's Decline Among Youth

The group discussed the perceived decline in curiosity among younger generations, with Jerry noting a selection bias among the room's participants who are naturally curious. Scott explained that curiosity aligns with the Big Five personality trait of openness, while Gil shared personal anecdotes about younger people's lack of curiosity in conversations and professional settings. The discussion highlighted that curiosity may not be uniformly declining, as it exists on a spectrum and varies across individuals regardless of age.

Curiosity and Critical Thinking

The group discussed curiosity and its relationship to critical thinking, with Alex highlighting how people often avoid challenging their existing beliefs, particularly in polarized areas like politics. Jerry noted that curiosity might be equated with critical thinking, and the conversation touched on how educational systems and media consumption might contribute to a lack of inquisitiveness in young people. Gil shared an etymology insight connecting curiosity to care, and the discussion explored how identity and self-preservation influence one's willingness to question or challenge their beliefs.

Curiosity as a Social Practice

Pete discussed the changing landscape of curiosity, highlighting both innate curiosity and its development as a social practice, particularly in the context of AI and technology adoption. He emphasized the importance of teaching curiosity as a skill, drawing from personal experiences and observations. Stacey shared her perspective on how curiosity, especially when insincere, can feel invasive or like having to justify one's actions, particularly for women who often feel disempowered. Pete acknowledged this issue and suggested that learning to ask genuinely interested questions is a valuable social practice that can help bridge gaps in communication.

Curiosity and Learning Dynamics

The group discussed curiosity and questioning, with Stacey sharing her perspective on how people might avoid asking questions due to lack of experience or discomfort with certain topics. Kevin and Scott contributed insights about finding one's passion and the changing nature of curiosity in both personal and professional contexts. Victoria introduced her friend Gabriele, who joined from Padua, Italy, to share his perspective on internet connections and learning. Louise, who teaches in a French lise, expressed concerns about a potential decline in student curiosity and confidence, particularly

noting increased anxiety around basic decisions and decreased attention spans compared to previous years.

Decline of Mental Arithmetic Skills

The group discussed the decline of mental arithmetic and problem-solving skills among students, with LP1 expressing concerns about the over-reliance on technology like calculators and ChatGPT for tasks that could develop cognitive abilities. Jerry shared his experience with a slide rule and mentioned the movie "Idiocracy" to highlight the potential loss of basic skills in the future. Doug emphasized the importance of connection in curiosity and suggested that younger people's disconnection from traditional educational systems might lead to a different kind of curiosity and agency. Judith discussed the distinction between intrinsic and extrinsic curiosity and highlighted the importance of fostering in-depth consideration of diverse perspectives in education.

Modern Curiosity in a Global World

The group discussed different types of curiosity, particularly cultural and professional curiosity, and how these have evolved with the advent of social media and the internet. Eve highlighted how the sense of place has changed for younger generations, who may find their grounding in digital communities rather than their immediate physical surroundings. Gil emphasized the importance of understanding cultural norms and expectations when engaging with people who are different from us, drawing parallels to Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice." The conversation touched on the challenges of applying outdated ideas about curiosity to a modern, globalized world.

Cultural Decision-Making in Native America

The group discussed cultural differences between Native American tribes, particularly comparing the Eastern Band Cherokee to the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes. Kevin shared a story about how the Cherokee tribe declined an opportunity to create a branded food product for the Taste of Cherokee event, preferring to maintain their traditional practice of feeding people without commodifying food, while the Choctaw and Chickasaw would have embraced the commercial opportunity. The discussion highlighted how different tribes approach business and cultural decisions differently, with Kevin noting that the fastest way to slow down progress with tribes is to probe or rush their decision-making process, which requires patience and respect for their traditional ways of working.

Curiosity: Individual and Collective

The group discussed different aspects of curiosity, both individual and collective. Jerry introduced the concept of an "intimacy gradient," while Alex shared his experience with AI as a tool for learning and understanding. Klaus highlighted the importance of curiosity in collective decision-making, using Brexit as an example. The discussion touched on the challenges of distinguishing between curiosity and misinformation, particularly in the context of climate change and public perception. The group explored how curiosity can be both a personal trait and a collective phenomenon, influencing everything from personal relationships to public policy.

Curiosity and AI Perspectives

The group discussed various perspectives on curiosity, with Scott defining it as "noticing things you didn't have to notice." Pete shared his experience using ChatGPT for health advice during a hospital stay, highlighting the importance of understanding how AI systems work. The conversation also touched on the potential dangers of AI, particularly when users are unaware of its limitations and

capabilities, as illustrated by a Washington Post article that analyzed 47,000 ChatGPT conversations.

AI and Curiosity in Education

The group discussed the role of AI in education, with LP1 exploring how AI could provide individualized attention to students and support diverse learning paces. John shared teaching experiences and emphasized the importance of altering social contexts to encourage curiosity, particularly through techniques like the five whys. Kevin recounted a personal story about encountering a cobra, highlighting the importance of teaching by example rather than direct instruction. Stacey noted the distinction between noticing and being curious, suggesting that while everyone is curious, not everyone has the ability to notice. The discussion concluded with reflections on how directing attention and managing focus can lead to curiosity and learning.

QFT Implementation and Discussion Plans

The group discussed implementing the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) to improve their discussions, particularly around curiosity. Victoria shared her experience using QFT in a seminar about Greek mythology, which led to more productive questioning and participant engagement. Jerry outlined the four rules of QFT and agreed to explore using it in future meetings, with plans to prioritize and act on the top three questions generated. The group agreed to continue the discussion on the OGM mailing list, and Jerry committed to adding Victoria's Excalibra map to the next email update.

AI can make mistakes. Review for accuracy.

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