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AI Practitioner

International Journal of Appreciative Inquiry



THRIVING TOGETHER

A Global Virtual AI Jam

Edited by

Shelagh Aitken

Co-publishers

**The David L. Cooperrider Center for Appreciative Inquiry and
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How to Build an AI Jam

The three-day AI Jam hosted by the [David L. Cooperrider Center for Appreciative Inquiry](#) (CCAI) has become somewhat of an institution in the Appreciative Inquiry world. The Appreciative Inquiry Jam is an annual gathering where AI practitioners can come to revitalize their practice, meet and learn from their peers, and create opportunities for generative connections. Participants will hear from and connect with people who are using a strength-based approach to achieve meaningful outcomes in today's world." Traditionally face-to-face, for the past two years it has been virtual of necessity. But that has given it a breadth of experience, voices and languages that wouldn't have been possible otherwise. This year, when we thought about devoting the May issue to the 2022 AI Jam, based around the theme of Thriving Together, we decided to delay the publication to the middle of the month, to give time for articles, impressions and reflections to be written and drawn. If you want to see what went on at the Jam this year, CCAI has produced a short [video](#), and the [agenda](#) is also available online.

Before the Jam, I contacted attendees, facilitators, participants, organisers, those giving and those receiving plenary sessions, TADtalks, Open Space sessions – everyone – the chance to share their reflections and impressions in this issue. The Cooperrider Center for Appreciative Inquiry shared *AI Practitioner's* details with the Jam mailing list.

And then I participated in the Jam, sharing the richness of the topics, conversations and encounters, "Zoomeranging" (thanks Neena Verma for the new word) between group sessions and breakout rooms. Admiring the skill with which Jessica Blackman, Alyssa Labare and Lindsey Godwin, the CCAI team, navigated their duties as hosts and technicians to keep everyone heading to the room they wanted to be in, introducing speakers and discussions, and just generally making sure that the technology was an asset, not an impediment.

The Jamboard gradually filled with drawings, photos, comments, quotes, all adding to the rich sharing of experience, hopes and reflections over the three days.

When the Jam ended, the articles for the issue started to arrive. A few at first, then more. Some written by those who've contributed to *AI Practitioner* in the past. Some from experienced Jammers. Others for whom this year's Jam was the first.

Some long, some short. Poems, drawings, reflections, impressions. Overviews of the whole three days, detailed discussion of one session or theme. Each bringing their own colour, vibrancy and voice.

In this issue, there are overviews and impressions of the entire Jam (Jessica Borich, Alexandra Arnold, Regina Vanda, Joep. C. de Jong); poems (Neena Verma, Keith Storace); TAD (Timely Appreciative Dialogues) talks (Viven Hau; Rae D'Umay); Open Space sessions (Jill Greenbaum, Rae D'Umay, Fiona Thomas, Petra Veen); Regional catchups (Saskia Tjepkema and Luc Verheijen, M Fernanda T Costa and Heloisa Biscaia, Miriam Subirana) and graphics (thanks to the Jamboard, Jill Greenbaum and Regina Vanda).

I hope that this issue revitalises the goals, dreams and aspirations of those who were there, and gives the flavour and energy of the three day 2022 Jam to those who weren't.

In this issue, we also have our regular columns: the Feature Choice article, written this time by Tracy Scott and Krista Terry Wojdak; the Research, Review & Notes article, the third in a series (the first two articles were published in August and November 2021) describing the research into the interconnections between Social Emotional Learning, Transformative Emotional Intelligence and Appreciative Inquiry undertaken by Kimberly Davis and her colleagues; our Appreciative Resources column, written by Alexandra Arnold, which includes a variety of resources on climate change; and finally, last but not least, Keith Storace's Voices from the Field, which includes the continuation of Faith Addicott and Staecye Randle's series on the principles of AI plus a dialogue on AI and hope for a global future undertaken in parallel with the 2022 Jam between members of the Australian Panel discussion.

Shelagh Aitken

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The David L. Cooperrider Center for Appreciative Inquiry is the global Center of Excellence in Appreciative Inquiry and strengths-based organizational management. Situated in the Robert P. Stiller School of Business at Champlain College, the Center:

- Provides cutting-edge educational offerings in AI and Positive Organizational Development,
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- Learning is at the heart of what they do: they aim to create and facilitate powerful learning processes.
- The professionals from Kessels & Smit want to be good company to each other and to people they work with: they believe the best solutions are developed in partnerships.
- They strive to be a learning organisation, constantly renewing their work processes, structures and approaches. The company is their “laboratory”, where they experiment and find answers for learning and development and organisational questions.

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