



Childhood & philosophy

ISSN: 2525-5061

ISSN: 1984-5987

Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

zorzi, eleonora; santi, marina  
How to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and  
open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)<sup>1</sup>  
Childhood & philosophy, vol. 19, 2023, Janeiro-Dezembro, pp. 1-21  
Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.12957/childphilo.2023.70680>

Disponível em: <https://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=512074919013>

- Como citar este artigo
- Número completo
- Mais informações do artigo
- Site da revista em [redalyc.org](https://www.redalyc.org)

UFRJ  
[redalyc.org](https://www.redalyc.org)

Sistema de Informação Científica Redalyc  
Rede de Revistas Científicas da América Latina e do Caribe, Espanha e Portugal  
Sem fins lucrativos acadêmica projeto, desenvolvido no âmbito da iniciativa  
acesso aberto

**how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community:  
free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)<sup>1</sup>**

eleonora zorzi<sup>2</sup>

university of padua, italy

orcid id: 0000-0001-9337-9109

marina santi<sup>3</sup>

university of padua, italy

orcid id: 0000-0002-2658-3473

**abstract**

This paper presents the collective reflection of a temporary community of inquiry (COI) created during an international workshop at the 20<sup>th</sup> biennial ICPIC conference--“Philosophy In And Beyond the Classroom: P4wc Across Cultural, Social, and Political Differences”-- and the suggestions emerging from that event. The workshop, entitled “Pedagogjazz – improvising and inquiring, community interplay”, was conducted via Zoom, but participants were both online and present in person. The topic focused on the pedagogjazz perspective, and the short activities proposed were aimed at involving the (temporary) COI in a collective discussion about how it would be possible to transform a community of inquiry into an inquiring-jazzing community. Three premises were introduced as common background on which to develop our reflections: the pedagogjazz perspective; the connection between pedagogjazz idioms and the different roles of the facilitator in P4wC; and the idea that jazz, and collective improvisation in particular, can inform COI development. The principles and practices of pedagogjazz and collective improvisation are presented in detail here. During the workshop, Zoom chat and the Wooclap site were used to involve all participants and to gather their contributions and suggestions. A word cloud and three tables were produced and are presented here. Interesting themes, questions and perspectives emerged that can help us reflect in a more complex way on the education of P4wC facilitators across cultural, social and political differences.

**keywords:** pedagogjazz; jazzing; inquiring; P4wC; performance.

**como gerar (educar) uma comunidade de investigação-jazzing:  
sugestões livres e abertas de um workshop internacional (ICPIC 2022)**

**resumo**

Este texto apresenta a reflexão coletiva e todas as sugestões emergentes da comunidade de investigação (Cdi) temporária criada durante um workshop internacional na XX Conferência Bial do ICPIP, “Filosofia dentro e fora da sala de aula”: fpcc através das diferenças culturais, sociais e políticas”. O workshop, intitulado “Pedagogjazz – improvisando e investigando, interação comunitária”, foi realizado via Zoom, mas os participantes estavam tanto online quanto presentes pessoalmente. O tópico focou a perspectiva pedagogjazzística e as curtas atividades propostas visavam envolver a Cdi (temporária) dos participantes em uma discussão coletiva sobre como seria possível educar uma comunidade de perguntas e

---

<sup>1</sup> This contribution was conceived in concert between the two authors after the realisation of the international workshop. For attributions, paragraphs 1, 3, 4, and 5 can be associated with the first author, and paragraph 2 with the second author.

<sup>2</sup> Email: eleonora.zorzi@unipd.it

<sup>3</sup> Email: marina.santi@unipd.it

how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)

transformá-la em uma comunidade de perguntas-jazzing. Três premissas foram introduzidas como um fundo comum para desenvolver nossas reflexões: a perspectiva pedagójazzística; a conexão já desenvolvida entre os idiomas pedagójazz e os diferentes papéis do facilitador na fpcc; e a ideia de que o jazz, e particularmente a improvisação coletiva, podem informar o desenvolvimento da CdI. As perspectivas do pedagójazz e da improvisação coletiva são apresentadas aqui, e os conceitos relacionados são descritos em detalhes. Durante a oficina, o chat do Zoom e o site Wooclap foram usados para envolver todos os participantes e reunir suas contribuições e sugestões. Uma nuvem de palavras e três tabelas foram produzidas e são apresentadas aqui. Surgiram solicitações e perspectivas interessantes que podem nos ajudar a refletir de uma forma mais complexa sobre a educação fpcc da comunidade e dos facilitadores através das diferenças culturais, sociais e políticas.

**palavras-chave:** pedagójazz; jazzing; investigação; fpcc; performance.

**come promuovere (educare) una comunità di indagine-jazzante: suggestioni libere e condivise da un workshop internazionale (ICPIC 2022)**

**astratto**

Questo contributo presenta la riflessione collettiva e tutti i suggerimenti che sono emersi dalla Comunità di ricerca (CdR) temporanea, creata durante un workshop internazionale presentato alla XXa conferenza biennale dell'ICPIC "Philosophy in and beyond the classroom: P4wC through cultural, social, and political difference". Il workshop, intitolato "Pedagójazz – Improvising and inquiring, community interplay", è stato condotto tramite Zoom, ma i partecipanti erano sia online che in presenza. Il tema era incentrato sulla prospettiva della pedagójazz e le brevi attività proposte miravano a coinvolgere la CdR (temporanea) dei partecipanti in una discussione collettiva su come sarebbe possibile educare una comunità di ricerca e trasformarla in una comunità di ricerca-jazz. Sono state introdotte tre premesse come sfondo comune su cui sviluppare le nostre riflessioni: la prospettiva della pedagójazz, la connessione già sviluppata tra le sue parole chiave e i diversi ruoli del facilitatore in P4wC, e l'idea che il jazz e in particolare l'improvvisazione collettiva possano influenzare lo sviluppo di una CdR. In questo lavoro vengono presentate le prospettive della pedagójazz e dell'improvvisazione collettiva, e vengono descritti in dettaglio i concetti connessi. Durante il workshop sono state utilizzate la chat Zoom e il sito Wooclap per coinvolgere tutti i partecipanti e raccogliere i loro contributi e suggerimenti. Sono state prodotte una Word cloud e tre tabelle che vengono qui presentate. Sono emerse sollecitazioni e prospettive interessanti che possono aiutarci a riflettere in modo più complesso sull'educazione P4wC della comunità e dei facilitatori al di là delle differenze culturali, sociali e politiche.

**parole chiave:** pedagójazz; jazzing; ricercare; P4wC; performance.

## how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)

### *introduction*

So why not start from the beginning, leaving the rein, trusting the improvising inquiring process, and the community? Why not think of ourselves, from the beginning, as ‘ignorant’ facilitators who can explain the sense of wonder we feel when faced with the unknown, inviting the community to embark on a wandering and improvising inquiry? (Zorzi & Santi, 2020, p. 15)

These two questions closed the article “Improvising inquiry in the community: The teacher’s profile” (Zorzi & Santi, 2020), leaving open the idea that trusting the community could be an answer to educating the improvisational dimension of the inquiry process, while the facilitator also needs to recognise themselves as “ignorant” in front of the unknown to sustain the community in the wandering philosophical process of inquiry. Reflection on the connection between improvisation and P4wC has followed during these two years, and the 20<sup>th</sup> ICPIC Conference—which took place in Tokyo last August—allowed us to develop a collective international dialogue around some further questions and implications.

Some premises were introduced during the workshop to share a common foundation on which to develop our community philosophical discussion<sup>4</sup>: the pedag jazz perspective (Santi, 2016), the already developed connection between pedag jazz idioms and the different roles of the facilitator in P4wC (Zorzi & Santi, 2020), and the idea that jazz and collective improvisation in particular (Scott, 2007; Woods, 2022) can contribute to the understanding and development of CoI and the education of P4wC facilitators. These shared considerations allowed us to focus on the aim of the workshop, which was working together to determine how to educate a community of inquiry, to transform it into an inquiring-jazzing community. We proposed three questions focused on three main aspects of P4wC: community of inquiry (Gregory & Lavery, 2018; Sharp, 1991), collective thinking (Lipman, 1995, 2003) and facilitators (Kennedy, 2004; Kohan et al., 2017).

---

<sup>4</sup> This paper develops the first and the last premises in particular, because the second was covered in another article: Zorzi, E., Santi, M. (2020). Improvising inquiry in the community: the teacher’s profile. *childhood & philosophy*, 16, 1-17.

how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)

This paper will retrace the path of the workshop, starting from the premises and presenting the tables developed through the online and in-presence activities undertaken as a temporary community of inquiry.

### *some echoes from pedagojazz*

Before presenting the content that emerged from the workshop about the relationship between jazz and collective improvisation and the educational dimensions required to transform a CoI into an inquiring-jazzing community, we briefly explore the pedagogical perspective proposed by the “pedagojazz” approach. In this section, we summarise how jazz is considered a metaphor for a possible framework of rethinking pedagogy and didactics in the current era, and the eight idiomatic constructs of jazz in the educational sense, presented as Marina Santi did in *Education as Jazz* (2016).

In the pedagojazz approach, jazz is proposed as a metaphor to challenge institutional pedagogy and its formal rigidity, and deconstruct its main authoritarian and individualistic traits. In jazz, the minimal and flexible structure promotes improvisation and maximal autonomy by participants. Experts are called to master the art of unlearning and to be open to novices’ proposals to avoid being authoritarian. The collaborative and communitarian dimension is fundamental to generating music and beauty (Barrett, 2012). As the great Nina Simone said, “Jazz is not just music, it is a way of life, it is a way of being, a way of thinking”. Raising awareness about the virtues of jazz means understanding how generative it can be as a metaphor, an educational tool and a force for empathy, dialogue and enhanced collaboration among people<sup>5</sup>.

It is possible to view jazz as a *process*, as a *procedure* and as a *product*. We speak of jazz as a *process* whenever we refer to a musical phenomenon in which one or more musicians address/communicate with others and themselves by using common, shared symbolic and communicative patterns in an attempt to involve themselves and be involved in a new previously unestablished and improvisational path within the playing experience (the *groove*) (Santi, 2016, p. 11). We speak of jazz as a *procedure* when we deal with the methodological dimension of music making

---

<sup>5</sup> UNESCO – <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/jazz> (last consultation 03/10/2023)

and the “technical” devices that enable the sharing of constraints, rules and standards within the dialectics of dialogical discourse, in which all participants are equally in charge of “deciding” as they improvise the path and quality of the product (Santi, 2016, p. 11). In the end, when we consider jazz as a *product* created by the “natural” social actors who are playing, the focus becomes the particular construction of expressions that is called the “jazz piece”. Jazz as a product is a partial and imperfect representation of the possible meanings of the human experience that generated it, especially in terms of its improvisational vocation (Santi, 2016, p. 12).

Eight idiomatic constructs of jazz, well known in Afro-American slang, are described in an educational sense: to intone a soul, fusion, cool, swing version of live pedagogy, free from chains and free of wandering and wondering at the world, immersed in the groove of the moment, devoted to risk and open to the infinite possibilities of improvisation. The polyphonic groove typical of a jam session is considered an inspiring analogy for what should happen in the community of inquiry when the discourse leads to common thinking from which ideas grow together.

Jazz is *jazzing*, an Afro-American metaphor for copulation connected to the enjoyment and pleasure of a shared orgasm. It refers to both the intimacy of the soul in solo performance and the relations in a jam session; “it always triggers a creative process, a generative dimension of shared music making that gives rise to new melodies and sound experiences” (Santi, 2016, p. 14). Jazz is *fusion* because it combines different elements from different genres; it implies the abandonment of “purity” and the opening up to contamination and promiscuity. Fusion is a melting process in which the final product is more than the sum of its parts (interplay; Santi, 2016, p. 15).

Jazz is *free*, with its strong libertarian roots and clear heterodox inspiration. It can be a great antidote to canonical instruction and a powerful antibody against academic pedagogy (reduced to the “pure” reproduction of classic routes). Being free to transgress fixed rules frees the system from the risk of becoming a dogma (Santi, 2016, p. 16).

how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)

Jazz is *swing* because it is playful and full of fun; it is the essential perception of rhythm and its goodness while we listen to and make music. Jazz is *groove* because it is a common flow, a shared direction, a mutual intention, and an intension; the goal of each jazz performance is to find a groove, the state in which the players successfully achieve a mutual orientation to the beat (Barrett, 2012, p. 69). It is a positive feeling that accompanies the achievement of satisfaction without softening the tension of dialectics; it involves collaboration and cooperation, reciprocal care and scaffolding to ensure that every individual involved feels the flow and engages in its fluency (Santi, 2016, p. 17). Jazz is *soul* because it is a form of knowledge pervaded by insight and intuition, nurtured with agency and a harmonious disposition towards events and people. Jazz is *cool* because it reminds us that jazzing also means diminishing, reducing and lessening (less is more). This keeps the experience cool, not cold, and opens up a horizon of possibilities (Santi, 2016, p. 18). Jazz is *improvisation* that is the connatural process, procedure and product of jazzing. During improvisation, participants meet environmental constraints and have the opportunity to create momentary, unpredictable and unrepeatable “music phenomena”. Improvisation is not just a reactive response to a problem but also an ex-active approach to the ongoing activity, open to the emergence of alternative experiences (Gould & Vrba, 1982; Santi, 2016, p. 19).

This approach involves sharing a jazzing, fusion, free, swing, groove, cool, improvisation pedagogy that can deconstruct the school’s indoctrinatory power as an ideological state apparatus and rebuild it as an ideological democratic apparatus (Kennedy & Kohan, 2021, p. 5). It can be a way to go beyond the pedagogical limits of neoliberalism monologue and to look at the CoI (and school) as the place in which new values are invented and discovered and existing regimes of knowledge interrogated and reconstructed (Kennedy & Kohan, 2021, p. 5).

### *How collective improvisation can inform our understanding and development of CoI*

Every improvisation is a relation among improvisers and between improvisers and the environment surrounding them (Zorzi, 2020), but collective improvisation is a process, procedure and product in which inter-participant

dynamics become, in a “real” and concrete sense, the content of the activity. The fundamental site for the cultivation of these inter-participant dynamics is performance, where improvisers’ musical knowledge, aesthetic judgement, negotiation of difference and sense of play circulate in the process of making collaborative music in real time (Scott, 2007, p. 1). The thesis we would like to propose is connected to this “site of cultivation”: What could we learn as a CoI if we perceived our sessions as a performance? As a performative collective improvisation? One suggestion to add to the artistic meaning of performance could be the definition of “performance” given by the World Health Organization (WHO) within the ICF (within an inclusive and social approach):

The performance qualifier describes what an individual does in his or her current environment. Because the current environment includes a societal context, performance can also be understood as “involvement in a life situation” or “the lived experience” of people in the actual context in which they live. This context includes the environmental factors – all aspects of the physical, social and attitudinal world which can be coded using the Environmental Factors component. (WHO, 2001, p. 15)

If we share the idea that inquiring in community can be compared to a collective improvisation, we can reason that the inter-participant dynamics developed in a CoI could be understood as a performance, intended as what participants can do in their current environment while they are involved in a lived experience. So, which features does a performative collective improvisation have?

In collective improvisation, silence and inactivity become invested with the same depth of intention as sounds and are a constitutive element of inter-musician communication within the process (Scott, 2007, p. 1). Performance provides a space for improvisers to not only learn and develop new techniques but most of all “socio-cultural skills and interpersonal relationships” (Woods, 2022, p. 2). The methodologies of collective improvisation strongly demand a bodily presence so that new meanings can be made in collaborative musical performance and all the differences can emerge. The negotiation of these differences – musical differences as a manifestation of human differences – is the salient sociopolitical motivation for successful collective improvisation (Scott, 2007, p. 4).

A collective and free improvisation has a strong pedagogical Interaction that involves inventing new codes and inventing the message at the same time as the

how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)

language (Attali, 1985, p. 134). Musical knowledge – as philosophical knowledge and questions during the community of inquiry – emerges from a communal process of listening and responding to one another such that meaning and music making take place with individual developments of personal techniques following suit (Woods, 2022, p. 2).

Criteria for successful collective improvisation—whether they are ever achieved (or even achievable)—emphasise the relationships that are the barometer of the “wellbeing of the community”. Successful group improvisation is an environment in which everyone is really listening to each other and their impulses and creating an atmosphere of dialogue together, which energetically includes the audience. If I bring my improvising skills to this environment with an honest intention to collaborate and co-create, then there is a good chance that the experience will be successful (Scott, 2007, p. 4).

The responsibility (in the literal sense in which such authority impels a response) of the group once a gesture is perceived is, effectively, to “learn” the proactive player’s micro-idiom (in terms of its form and function/meaning) and to react accordingly in a way that acknowledges recognition of the strong, meaningful idea and the momentary authority it engenders. This process represents the foundation of the pedagogical imperative through which a player works to understand and respond to others during the performance; negotiable spaces between improvisers are founded and developed (Scott, 2007, p. 5).

Although the risk of musical failure is very real during improvisation, whether attributable to basic human fallibility or not, the commitment to an unceasing process of sociomusical learning represents the socially engaged responsibility on which improvisatory success is founded (Scott, 2007, p. 10).

At its best, free improvisation celebrates a set of informal, even loving relationships which can be experienced by everyone present, and brings into existence, at least for the duration of the performance, a society whose closest political analogy is with anarchism, whereby each individual contributes to the wellbeing of the community. (Small, 1987, p. 307)

Sometimes, collective improvisation may not succeed. When authoritarianism episodes occur, they are commonly exemplified by a player’s inability or unwillingness to listen to the other members of an ensemble, often coinciding with

their unresponsive, soloistic musical contributions. This type of musical activity constitutes very basic authoritarianism in which the player effectively suggests that “I have nothing to learn from you, but you have something to learn from me”. Since collective improvisation offers the possibility for socially responsible negotiation of musical differences, such insensitivity effectively represents an antisocial negation of this possibility (Scott, 2007, pp. 5–6).

Recalling the brilliant perspective proposed in the ICF (WHO, 2001), we could also have other factors that can be obstacles to the success of collective improvisation as performance or detractors of its quality. These include personal factors (e.g. character, different expertise, different background knowledge, different social structures or cognitive bias) or physical factors (e.g. climate, terrain, space or buildings) if they are transformed into barriers by the contexts. From this “performance” perspective, it is important to remember that the activity promoted (collective improvisation or inquiring in community) has to first protect the opportunity to perform for everyone (novice or expert); otherwise, failure is guaranteed.

There is a moral framework in which the mutable musical authority must be grounded; it is for this reason that collective improvisation is not merely a metaphorical model of social practice, but also that it is the social practice itself (Scott, 2007, p. 6), as a community of philosophical inquiry aims to be. An improviser must engage in a heuristic search for the means for interpersonal, dialogic communication within an ensemble that, in turn, requires the same heuristic investment. Authentic improvisers emerge not “out of nowhere”, but from the social, pedagogical framework of improvisation itself. Intersubjective communication, articulated in the negotiative space created within performance, is contingent on the recognition of differences (Scott, 2007, p. 7). Collective and free improvisation is essentially a spontaneous form of co-creation (not simply creation) in which a musical form or language emerges through the act of performing (Fischlin et al., 2013, p. 36), articulating the possibility that improvisation offers for the transgression of fixed, hierarchical systems of thought and social/economic control. In collective improvisation, the same principles that rule the community of philosophical inquiry (CPI) are applied in collective governance (Kennedy & Kohan, 2021, p. 10), and as

how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)

such, the dialogical circle; collective improvisation is essentially a space where relational, sociopolitical, research and philosophical aspects can meet.

However, the inextricable nature of ethics, politics and aesthetics in improvisation cannot be learned as an abstraction, away from the act of collective music making; thus, the improviser's "goals" cannot be pursued outside of performance. Following this principle, we invited the workshop community of inquiry to perform together, acting as a collective "inquiring-jazzing-thinking" community.

The pedag jazz perspective and the contribution of collective improvisation were offered to the temporary CoI as "stimuli" from which start reasoning together about the three fundamental P4wC dimensions: community of inquiry (Gregory & Lavery, 2018; Sharp, 1991), collective thinking (Lipman, 1995, 2003), and facilitators (Kennedy, 2004; Kohan et al., 2017). To sustain the collective inquiry, three different questions were posed, and the *Wooclap wall* was used to gather the suggestions and reflections that emerged: Which features could have an inquiring-jazzing community? Which features could have inquiring-jazzing thinking? Which conditions should/could we nurture to educate a jazzing facilitator?

The temporary CoI who attended the workshop was composed of about 14 participants. The idea of gathering data and suggestions during the workshop was based on the great opportunity offered by the ICPIC Biennial Conference: the participants know and practice P4wC around the world and understand and reason about Lipman's theoretical proposals and their implications. It is for this reason that we consider the ideas collected on this occasion to be interesting solicitations and perspectives that can inform complex thinking about the P4wC education of the community (CoI) and the facilitators across cultural, social and political differences.

At the improvisational technical level, we attempted to respect three basic rules of improvisational processes: the "yes, and" (Sawyer, 2011), minimal structure, maximal autonomy (Barrett, 2012) and the safe creativity environment (Weinstein, 2016).

The rule of the "yes, and" in theatre states that with each turn of dialogue, the performer should accept what has been established in the previous turn and add something to it (Sawyer, 2011, p. 34). This rule sustains the idea that participants in a

collective improvisation must construct and connect their contributions to the others': proposals should not be refused or negated and the meaning and sense of what the performance is producing is realised only by listening and answering others. This principle can traduce the *groove*, *swing* and *fusion* aspects of pedag jazz, valorising the collective dimension of improvisation and the rhythmic dimension of the collective dialogue. A methodological rule that oriented the workshop was "minimal structure, maximal autonomy": jazz works because the process is designed around small patterns and minimal structures that allow freedom to embellish, minimising consensus around core patterns and allowing diversity to flourish (Barrett, 2012, p. 71). This means defining a few limits and shared rules and then leaving participants free to explore and creatively imagine horizons and perspectives that could also be unthought by the proposers. This rule reminds proposers and the community that empty spaces and times can be truly generative (*cool*) and that exploiting emptiness could maximise opportunities to create momentary, unpredictable and unrepeatable "dialogue phenomena" (*improvisation*). A "safe creativity environment" must be created in which everyone is accepted equally, regardless of their level of intelligence or ability. In this environment, it is safe for every participant to risk creatively and be free from conventional constraints (Weinstein, 2016, p. 50). It means to use materials, words or exercises that can sustain a warm and inclusive environment and promote an accessible situation for everyone. In this way, all participants can express their authenticity, reveal themselves (soul), experiment with shared freedom (free) and enjoy the activity together while having fun (jazzing).

### *features of an inquiring-jazzing community*

The first activity proposed after the premises were shared was brainstorming to reflect together on the similarities among the three different processes: interplay, improvising and inquiring. Participants were invited to write their contributions in a word cloud (Fig. 1) and to add possibly insightful explanations in chat or in a collective discussion. A collective narration is presented, attempting to express fluid reasoning using the cloud words offered by our temporary CoI.



|                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What features could an inquiring-jazzing community have? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understanding the importance of silence in dialogue</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Listening to the sounds: voices, noises, whisperings, body moves</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Joy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Willingness and openness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Embracing the unknown</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inventing together from mistakes and embracing what comes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Being comfortable with boredom that might come from repetition</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improvisation, sensations, ordering chaos and creating rhythm</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Putting different and unwanted instruments together</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Educating the community to take another's point of view through dialogue and fragments of communication</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ability to adjust</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chronological timelessness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Time to do some meta-thinking about dialogue</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documenting the session: mind maps, pictures, drawings</li> </ul> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Table 1. Possible features of an inquiring-jazzing community

What emerges from the collective reflections is that an inquiring-jazzing community is educated to *understand the importance of silence, and all the sounds emerging (voices, noises, whisperings and body movements)* from participants and environment; it is used to feel *joy* working together and to be *willing and open* not only towards the inquiring process but also towards *embracing the unknown*. An inquiring-jazzing community is comfortable *with mistakes (it embraces what comes)* and also with the *boredom that might come from repetition*, because it knows that repetition is an essential dimension of improvisation, as well as variation. We need to repeat to catch the unrepeatable, to look with an insightful glance at minuscule things. Improvisation is a usual practice that emerges in the ability of the community to *order chaos and to create or find a common rhythm among all the different questions or interventions without surrendering to the frustration of nonsense*. An inquiring-jazzing community is not scared of the *possibility of putting different – and probably unwanted – instruments together*; it is used to *taking others' points of view through dialogue and fragments of communication* because fusion and groove are their essential constituents. It is a *chronologically timeless* community because the collective

how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)

heritage it produces can connect the past, present and future of every participant, as well as the community of philosophical inquiry itself. An inquiring-jazzing community needs *time to do some meta-thinking about dialogue and practice*, to better their reasoning or to recognise some critical points. *Documenting the session as much as possible with mind maps, pictures and drawings* can help a group grow as a community. To answer the final question: Is the community (or the facilitator) *able to adjust* the jazzing and improvisational complex process? Collective improvisation, as in P4wC, is a multi-narrative environment that enables those who engage in it—facilitators and students—to tolerate multiple perspectives. It values questions over answers and feelings of uncertainty and contingency over comfort (Kizel, 2021, p. 13). To take such a perspective, the community needs to be familiar with this practice and have an inquiring and improvising habitus (Bourdieu, 1992). It is a way of looking at the unforeseen that implies the ability to decide on the spot that something warrants collective thinking, that an unscheduled suggestion deserves to be the focus of an inquiry, that it should be investigated, explored, discussed and clarified further (Zorzi & Santi, 2020).

Improvisation is a process in which participants are asked to connect what is happening with what has gone before and/or with what will follow, find a sense and lend value to the whole. Flexibility must be nurtured to enable an improvising inquiry in the community (Zorzi & Santi, 2020, p. 10). An inquiring-jazzing community can be preparatory for wandering because in jazzing and improvising, individuals educate themselves on the unrepeatable and find meaning together in the small sounds, voices and ideas, even when they get lost, and this can also sustain the wonder of the philosophical inquiry.

### *features of inquiring-jazzing thinking*

P4wC practice places learning in a space of questions rather than in a corpus of answers, promoting a community that facilitates a form of thinking and learning that resists an educational hierarchy that claims omniscience. Improvisation is regarded as a better way of learning than predetermined content, liberating the learner from disciplinary boundaries (Kizel, 2021, p. 5; Kizel, 2016). Focusing on the verb “to improvise” leads us to consider how every CoI discussion and reasoning

can hide an improvisational window that can be transformed into an opportunity for inquiry, in the sense of a deeper investigation, knowledge co-construction, discussion and negotiation of meanings (Zorzi & Santi, 2020). Table 2 lists the features that inquiring-jazzing thinking could have.

|                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Which features could inquiring-jazzing thinking have? | <input type="checkbox"/> Always searching for the minuscule<br><input type="checkbox"/> Braveness<br><input type="checkbox"/> Chronological timelessness<br><input type="checkbox"/> Confidence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Looking for (or inventing) the rhythm and pace of thinking<br><input type="checkbox"/> Thinking between the sounds, within the silences<br><input type="checkbox"/> Generating something different that can be re-generated |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Table 2. Possible features of inquiring-jazzing thinking

Inquiring-jazzing thinking is reasoning that always promotes the *search for the minuscule*, because every word, sentence, and most of all also every question can hide more than what is explicit: minuscule glances can be observed and valorised in this kind of inquiry. It is a *brave* process able to elicit discordance and dissonance because it considers many possible and valuable perspectives in time, space and culture; it is *chronologically timeless* thinking. Reasoning in an inquiring and jazzing way means constructing questions and answers *between sounds and within silences*, having *confidence* that every participant respects and *looks for (or invents) the rhythm and pace* of collective thinking. It means to *generate something that can be re-generated* and rethought differently, with different minuscule glances, even if the community is the same.

The whole process allows for opening conditions that allow for improvisation as a foundation for free thinking and creativity based on imaginative and inventive thinking (Kizel, 2021, p. 10). Improvising is a feature of inquiry in the community and a representation of the community research effort. The improvisational opening is intrinsic in the P4wC way of promoting inquiry in the community. Recognising, interpreting and promoting the improvisational perspective in the community philosophical inquiry helps to protect its dialogical and democratic nature by opposing the need to obtain preconceived results (Echeverria & Hannam, 2017). Following Gur-Ze'ev (2010), the heart of improvisation lies in the movement of

how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)

co-poiesis prompted by the love of life, giving birth to the totally new and wholly unexpected as a form of non-instrumental playfulness that manifests responsibility to live at its best. It thus combines non-dominating dialogical relationships with experience and openness.

Maybe an inquiring-jazzing community can be a space that allows every individual to express their “wind of thinking”, a space in which “uncomfortable” questions could also emerge and not just questions about how knowledge is built. A space where one does not necessarily get to a dialogical synthesis or an absolute truth but manages to face the possibility that there is no synthesis and deals with the anguish that derives from it. This space is a dialogical but unforeseeable and unexpected intersection, a space that cannot even be thought of without interlocutors (Demozzi & Ilardo, 2020, p. 13). To educate inquiring-jazzing thinking, we need to be capable of acting, exploring and provoking, pushing our reasoning in unknown, absurd, unconventional and imaginary directions, letting even meaningless and pointless variations occur (Zorzi & Santi, 2021, p. 11). We need to foster creativity in inquiry (Santi, 2017), because creativity is a human expression of a disposition to wonder, wander and respond to novelty. This is possible if the adult starts from the assumption that the unknown related to the exercise of thought (which becomes “unforeseen”) can take place and should be included in the practice (Demozzi & Ilardo, 2020, p. 14).

### *conditions we should/could nurture to educate jazzing facilitators*

If we accept the idea that collective improvisation can inspire and add something more to CoI because of its specific performative features, we must then ask how we can educate facilitators to improvise and promote collective improvisation in a CoI.

|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Which conditions are required to educate a jazzing facilitator? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Adventure</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Attentive to emerging questioning</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Attentive to microscopic sonorities</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Attention and a-tension</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Learning different P4C/P4wC approaches</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Studying</li></ul> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ignorance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Disposition to embrace and search for the unexpected</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fostering an actual CoI</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Finding time and place to practice dialogue with others</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Being among friends</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exercising</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Time to rehearse (just like jazz musicians)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Musical time that might be very close to philosophical time</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The possibility of moving in circles (in thinking, with the body, dreaming, hoping)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (Un)systematic variation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (In)dependence</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> De-training</li> </ul> |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Table 3. Suggestions for educating a jazzing facilitator

Embracing our temporary CoI suggestions, we can imagine the educational path of a facilitator as an *adventure* in which the facilitator is invited to be *attentive to all that emerges around them*: questions, and *microscopical sonorities*. They must develop *attention* towards the environment (the CoI), but at the same time, an *a-tension* to be comfortable in the inquiring process. They must *study* and familiarise themselves with the *different P4wC approaches*, while also remembering that we are all *ignorant* in front of the inquiry process and all the unknown and unexpected questions that can develop. A jazzing facilitator is educated to *embrace and search for the unexpected* and this is possible only by *fostering an actual CoI* and *finding time and place to practice dialogue with others*. They are educated *among friends* with whom they can *exercise* their skills and thinking and with whom they need to take *time to rehearse* and then reflect. An educational path for jazzing facilitators could invite them to think of *musical time as very close to philosophical time*, learning to perceive the rhythm of the thinking, the silence and the sounds of every thought, and learning to embrace the *possibility of moving in circles (in thinking, with the body, dreaming and hoping)* together. A jazzing facilitator learns to be familiar with the *variations* that are so radically present and *(un)systematic* in a P4wC session, even if variations are never the same. In the end, a jazzing facilitator is invited to reason about the possibility of becoming autonomous *and independent* from theories and suggestions learned, but always remembers that to be a facilitator, they must always perceive their *dependence* on community reasoning and dialogue. An educational path for a jazzing facilitator is

how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)

preparation to be unprepared (as in improvisation), an educational course to “de-train” cultural structures and fixed preconceptions and to embrace reasonings across cultural, social and political differences.

Free pedagogy and improvisation could support the process of liberation that falls under what Freire (1970) called radical pedagogy – freedom from certainty. The foundational elements in this radical pedagogy process are adaptability and freedom from compliance (Kizel, 2021, p. 7), and facilitators, as active counter-educators, find ways to become flexible, act critically, observe reality from many angles and thus enable participants in the community to do the same (Kizel, 2021, p. 9).

As soon as I realise I am playing a familiar melody, I detach myself from the sax and let a few bars pass. Improvising means intervening with a completely cleaned up score, from the first to the last note. The most important thing is to move away from fixed functions (Hamilton & Konitz, 2007, p. 103).

### *Some horizons for continued navigation*

How can we generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community? Improvising and inquiring are two human practices that – starting from our fragility and incompleteness – invite us to always find different and relational ways to be in the world, keeping in touch with others and depending on them to create meaning and sense. “Improvisation” and “inquiry” are collective and communitarian processes that do not exist in isolation and solipsism. These practices are generated from encounters among individuals, among thoughts, among the unforeseen and among voices and aspirations. These processes can educate participants to intone a soul, fusion, cool, swing version of live pedagogy, free from chains and free of wandering and wondering at the world, immersed in the groove of the moment, devoted to risk and open to the infinite possibilities of improvisation. We need to create more and more occasions for inquiring and improvising – most of all in education – to stay in touch, to stay human, to feel contact with one another, to remind ourselves that alone we are finished and fragile, but together we can become an “antifragile” system (Taleb, 2012).

In the end, what can we recognise as particular features of a jazzing community? Many characteristics that emerged from the workshop resonate as characteristics of a good community of inquiry or of an expert facilitator. As in improvisation, “new” does not necessarily mean original or innovative; it means something that comes from the origin, that is new and intimate for participants and for their paths, something that was not there before that performance.

In this sense, looking at CoI as a jazzing community can allow us to reason about its generative process, lighting up a “new” point of view. Collective improvisations occur at a site of cultivation: the *performance*. This means remembering that every session must be accessible to everyone and must activate participation processes exploiting different and “artistic” languages (sharing the ICF approach). A jazzing community as collective improvisation focuses attention on widespread trust in the process beyond the abilities of participants and facilitators. It does not mean that “anything goes”, but that the improvisational jazzing process will necessarily produce something unexpected, and the community must recognise and valorise its quality and beauty.

Our temporary community used words such as movement, dance and music, remembering the importance of using different languages to warm up the community<sup>6</sup>. Inspired by theatre, music or dance, it is possible to develop active and creative engagement in participants, which can support work alongside critical and caring thinking in philosophical inquiry (D’Olimpio & Teschers, 2015, p. 5). These methods of encouraging students to actively participate in stimuli through physical and dynamic responses (rather than just verbal responses) can diversify the CPI format by allowing new means of physical engagement with philosophical ideas related to participants’ lives (Dewitt & Kingan, 2021, p. 20). Supporting and educating an inquiring-jazzing community could also avoid passive (non)engagement with social and political spheres, because the jazzing perspective makes participants move across cultural, social and political differences in a-tension between a harmonic balance and a revolutionary discordance.

---

<sup>6</sup> For some examples and insights, see Preston-Roedder, E. (2020). What can philosophy learn from improvisational theater? *Precollege Philosophy and Public Practice*, 2, 18–35; Dewitt, Z., & Kingan, E. (2021). Forum theatre meets philosophy for/with children: Physically exploring challenging situations in the community of philosophical inquiry. *childhood & philosophy*, 17, 1–25.

how to generate (educate) an inquiring-jazzing community: free and open suggestions from an international workshop (ICPIC 2022)

We leave these questions and reflections open to another future collective dialogue, which could start from the word cloud or the tables created by our temporary workshop community and shared here in a narrative but static way. Thank you again to all the workshop participants for this inspiring dialogue among the past and possibilities, that was the present, and was a present: chronologically timeless.

## references

- Attali, J. (1985). *Noise: The political economy of music*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Barrett, F. (2012). *Yes to the mess: Surprising leadership lessons from jazz*. Harvard Business Review Press.
- Bourdieu, P. (1992). *Risposte. Per un'antropologia riflessiva*. Bollati Boringhieri.
- D'Olimpio, L., & Teschers, C. (2015). *Playing with philosophy: Gestures, performance, P4C and an art of living*. Conference for the Philosophy of Education Society of Australasia (PESA).
- Demozzi, S., & Ilardo, M. (2020). Educational deontology in the community of philosophical inquiry. *childhood & philosophy*, 6, 1–16. doi: 10.12957/childphilo.2020.45955
- Dewitt, Z., & Kingan, E. (2021). Forum theatre meets philosophy for/with children: Physically exploring challenging situations in the community of philosophical inquiry. *childhood & philosophy*, 17, 1–25. doi: 10.12957/childphilo.2021.53904
- Echeverria, H. & Hannam, P. (2017). The community of philosophical inquiry (p4c) – a pedagogical proposal for advancing democracy. In M. R. Gregory, J. Haynes, & K. Murris (Eds.). *The Routledge International Handbook of Philosophy for Children* (pp. 3–10). Routledge.
- Fischlin, D.; Heble, A. & Lipsitz, G. (2013). *The fierce urgency of now: Improvisation, rights and the ethics of cocreation*. Duke University Press.
- Gould, S. J., & Vrba, E. S. (1982). Exaptation – a missing term in the science of form. *Paleobiology*, 8(1), 4–15.
- Gregory, M. R., & Lavery, M. J. (2018). *In community of inquiry with Ann Margaret Sharp. Childhood, philosophy and education*. Routledge.
- Gur-Ze'ev, I. (2010). *Diasporic philosophy and counter-education*. Sense.
- Hamilton, A., & Konitz, L. (2007). *Conversation on the improviser's art*. University of Michigan Press.
- Kennedy, D. (2004). The role of a facilitator in a community of philosophical inquiry. *Metaphilosophy*, 35(5), 744–765.
- Kennedy, D., & Kohan, W. (2021). some ethical implications of practicing philosophy with children and adults. *childhood & philosophy*, 17, 1–16. doi: 10.12957/childphilo.2021.61025
- Kizel, A. (2016). Philosophy with children as an educational platform for self-determined learning. *Cogent Education*, 3(1), 1–11.
- Kizel, A. (2021). the facilitator as self-liberator and enabler: ethical responsibility in communities of philosophical inquiry. *childhood & philosophy*, 17, 1–20. doi: 10.12957/childphilo.2021.53450
- Kohan, W., Santi, M., & Wozniak, W. (2017). Philosophy for teachers: Between ignorance, invention, and improvisation. In M. R. Gregory, J. Haynes, & K. Murris (Eds.). *The Routledge International Handbook of Philosophy for Children* (pp. 253–259). Routledge.

- Lipman, M. (1995). Moral education higher-order thinking and philosophy for children. *Amsterdam: Early Child Development and Care*, 107, 61–70.
- Lipman, M. (2003). *Thinking in education*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge University Press.
- Preston-Roedder, E. (2020). What can philosophy learn from improvisational theatre? *Precollege Philosophy and Public Practice*, 2, 18–35.
- Santi, M. (2016). Education as jazz: A framework to escape the monologue of teaching and learning. In M. Santi, E. Zorzi (Eds.) *Education as jazz. Interdisciplinary sketches on a new metaphor* (pp. 3–27). Cambridge Scholars.
- Santi, M. (2017). Jazzing philosophy with children: An improvisational path for a new pedagogy. *childhood & philosophy*, 13(28), 631–647. doi: 10.12957/childphilo.2017.30038
- Sawyer, K. (Ed.) (2011). *Structure and improvisation in creative teaching*. Cambridge University Press.
- Scott, T. (2007). The pedagogical imperative of musical improvisation. *Critical Studies in Improvisation*, 3(2), 1–12.
- Sharp, A. M. (1991). The community of inquiry: Education for democracy. *Thinking in Education, The Journal of Philosophy for Children*, 9(2), 31–37.
- Small, C. (1987). *Music of the common tongue*. Wesleyan UP.
- Taleb, N. (2012). *Antifragile: Things that gain from disorder*. Random House.
- WHO (2001). *International classification of functioning, disability and health* <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42407/9241545429.pdf;jsessionid=39B462609A921B87C2657909578FB3E1?sequence=1>.
- Woods, P. J. (2022). The collaborative pedagogies of solo improvisation: Learning through performance in noise music. *Critical Studies in Improvisation*, 15(11), 1–12.
- Zorzi, E., & Santi, M. (2020). Improvising inquiry in the community: The teacher's profile. *childhood & philosophy*, 16, 1–17. doi: 10.12957/childphilo.2020.46692

submitted: 20.10.2022

approved: 23.03.2023