

The Recalibrating Our “Moral Compasses” (ROMC) Survey Project

What Collaborating on The ROMC Survey Project Might Look Like (Draft)

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I believe 5 universities or colleges, collaborating on this ROMC Survey Project, would give the project enough credibility to attract the most appropriate and relevant survey respondents—and would create the faculty-student volunteer teams needed to realize this project’s potential to make significant contributions to the fields of collaborative problem solving, interfaith peacebuilding, and community service.

This five page document provides brief descriptions of 11 areas of project development as a way of helping potential collaborators get a feel for how comprehensive and conscientious the preparation can be—and what kind of highly relevant educational opportunities could be accessible to students at universities/colleges that become collaborators on this project.

[Note: These descriptions are not offered as an indication of what an established Board of Advisors would provide as task descriptions assigned to working groups.]

1) Identifying 300 people who could provide a wide range of high quality responses to the survey

The ROMC Survey Project proposes to be a survey of 300 people from around the world--

- a) who are well known in fields of activity associated with creating a peaceful and sustainable world
- b) who many people will recognize as voices of experience speaking honestly and truthfully about what could be the most critical time of decision-making in the history of life on Planet Earth.

This writer (from outreach efforts he has made in the past, with other projects) has accumulated a long list of people and organizations where research can begin (both people to ask for recommendations, and people who might be highly qualified survey respondents)[Ex: see p. 34-200 in “Invitation Package for Possible Board of Advisors”, and “Partial List of Sources Explored in Research Leading up to this ROMC Survey Project” (the latter document is in the Press Kit for The ROMC Survey Project).]

This writer also suggests that the selection process could be related to the eventual content of the

“Example Challenge Assessment” (see #4 below), as input gathered by the survey on working definitions of “right livelihood” and “moral compasses” would be tragically deficient if at significant majority of the input did not align with the critical challenges which require the most urgent attention.

However, the Board of Advisors for this project will be selected in part for their wide range of knowledge in fields associated with creating a peaceful and sustainable world—and they will have important input on the question of what kind of qualifications a survey respondent should have.

It is also worth emphasizing here that this ROMC Survey Project can provide highly relevant educational experiences for student volunteers/interns. Involving student volunteers/interns in the process of research and biographical sketch writing, as support to the Board of Advisors decision-making process provides a significant opportunity for research. There could even be a section of the ROMC Survey Project website which makes the research which leads up to the Board of Advisors selection accessible, as a significant outcome of the project.

2) Revisions and fine-tuning of the questions to be asked in the survey

This writer believes that the questions he has proposed are sufficient to highlight the potential of this ROMC Survey Project. However, as the project progresses, there will be insights gained which could suggest that different questions might yield much more valuable input. Thus, one of the working groups for this project will be focusing on revising and fine-tuning the questions, and doing pre-survey tests to confirm the value and wording of the questions.

3) Revising and fine-tuning the presentation of the survey

The 74 page ROMC Survey Project Prospectus (in the Press Kit, at <http://www.cpcs.co/romc-survey-project.html>) may provide some elements of structure for the final survey presentation (especially, it is hoped, by the inclusion of an “Example Challenge Assessment” and an “Example Solutions Guide”). However, that 74 page Prospectus was written more for potential collaborators than for survey respondents. The finalized packet which survey respondents receive, and the information on the ROMC Survey Project website which describes the project, may go through numerous revisions (especially as insights are gained by different working groups) before reaching a most valuable final version. Such a process, which involves integrating the work of many other working groups, may take 6 to 9 months.

4) Revising and fine-tuning the “Example Challenge Assessment” and the “Example Solutions Guide”

This writer sees these pieces as keys to illustrating the need—and the potential—of this survey. So much attention can—and should—be given to refining these pieces for maximum effect. Here again, the research necessary to refine these pieces would provide student volunteers/interns with highly

relevant educational experiences. Can we know that such working group assignments are possible, and fail to share such a process of discovery with students/interns who are yearning to know more about what kind of community service opportunities might be accessible to them in the future?

5) Building the clearinghouse websites which will grow from possible crowdsourcing input—and eventual survey responses—for the following survey topics: critical challenges, field specific solutions, collaborative problem solving models, input related to questions about right livelihood and “moral compasses”

Here again, the work involved to create the websites can lead to highly valuable aggregation destinations, which would provide highly relevant educational experiences for student volunteers/interns.

6) Collaborating organizations will participate in creating an indicator/index, which could be a most valuable guide to investors at all levels of society [the investments of time, energy, and money (the “votes”) that each of us make in the everyday circumstances of community life become the larger economy].

The information this ROMC Survey Project will be accumulating—on critical challenges, field specific solutions, collaborative problem solving models, right livelihood and “moral compasses”—can provide more than enough of a foundation to create an indicator/index which would be highly useful to investors at all levels of society. So there is important research to be done by a working group on this subject, especially research into the key features of other peacebuilding and sustainability indicators, socially responsible investment indexes, green bonds, etc. Organizations like Local Governments for Sustainability, the Community Indicators Consortium, the Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investing, and the Calvert Fund can provide starting points for this working group. Here again is an opportunity for many highly relevant educational experiences for student volunteers/interns.

7) Preparing for the selection of 30 responses (out of the 300 received) for a free Ebook

The free Ebook(of 30 selected responses to the survey) is one of the goals of this project which, along with the clearinghouse websites, could catalyze more surveys of a similar nature, and many collaborative problem solving initiatives at the local community level (in response to significant evidence of unprecedented challenge ahead). In advance of administering the actual survey, and receiving responses, logistics can be explored for offering the Ebook at networking and destination sites for key audiences, for educational tours to share the results of the survey can be planned, and for educational videos for YouTube can be in progress—and key features of results presentation can be mapped out.

8) Administration and Logistics

For a large scale survey project like this to achieve high quality results, the Board of Advisors will need to select a team of project coordinators, some of whom may be paid staff. This team of project coordinators will need to have an actual office, with all the appropriate technology necessary to coordinate such an effort. It may be that such an office can most easily be found on the campus of one of the collaborating universities/colleges.

9) Fundraising

This writer has not created any timelines, or an estimate of the financial resources which might be necessary to carry such a large project to completion. He realizes the absence of these features may seem like a shortcoming of his presentation. However, he does not feel the project's potential value is diminished because he by himself cannot provide all the pieces necessary to make a complete project proposal. This project presentation—even in the limited version it is now in—provides much of the necessary background, evidence, and justification for those who are more experienced in these matters to write and secure grants... even if they are for similar projects which won't involve this writer. The need for surveys of this nature is such that hundreds of similar surveys may be undertaken, during the duration of the unprecedented culture change ahead, before the need for such surveys is exhausted.

And then there is the many opportunities for crowdfunding campaigns. It seems to this writer that this kind of survey project is just the kind of project crowdfunding was created to support. There need not be any sense of "jumping out of the blocks" to get an inside edge as the first survey of this nature completed. What will matter most is creating a model which can inspire the kind of work which most needs to be done in the next 20-30 years. If the preparation work is done well, the funding will come.

10) Social Media Outreach

There are many elements of the ROMC Survey Project which can benefit from maximum input from individuals and organizations which are outside of the core group of collaborators. Thus, there should be a social media outreach working group, which would carry out assignments given to them by the Board of Advisors, and the project staff.

11) Brainstorming/Troubleshooting Working Group

The ROMC Survey Project is a kind of brainstorming effort in itself, and a valuable outcome would depend on having some kind of innovative approach to troubleshooting problems as they arise. If project development runs smoothly, and much is accomplished quickly, the brainstorming/troubleshooting working group may not be needed. But there are likely to be unforeseen

problems which could slow any one of the working groups, at any given time. The brainstorming/troubleshooting working group could be made up of people on other working groups who switch over when sticking points arise. In this way, there will be a plan for needed reinforcements, and the reinforcements will be people who are familiar with at least some of the projects finer details.

Concluding Comments

This brief overview of “What Collaborating on The ROMC Survey Project Might Look Like” provides only a fraction of the important information which would be provided by a project development plan created by a Board of Advisors for this project. However, in this “idea” stage of the project, this sketch of what collaboration might look like is offered as a glimpse into the kind of educational experiences which await teams of faculty and students, if their university/college decides to become a collaborator on this project.

Readers of this “What Collaborating on The ROMC Survey Project Might Look Like” document who believe they can help refine this overview are invited to send their comments, questions, suggestions, and recommendations to Stefan Pasti, ROMC Survey project coordinator, at stefanpasti@gmx.com . This writer believes the current Press Kit for this ROMC Survey Project illustrates enough potential for this project to develop further; however, he is in every way aware that many more people would need to add their contributions before the project’s potential to make significant contributions to the fields of collaborative problem solving, interfaith peacebuilding, and community service can be realized.