

# BETTER TOGETHER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE PROSOCIAL WORLD COMMUNITY

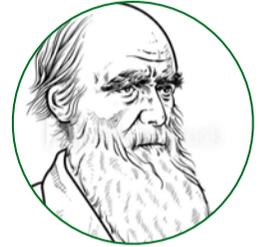
FEBRUARY 2021



ISSUE NO. 14



WHAT'S  
NEW?



## Introducing the Darwin Circle, a group of major donors dedicated to accomplishing Prosocial World's mission!

[Prosocial World](#) (PW) is at an inflection point in its history. After being incubated as a project within the Evolution Institute for years, it became an independent nonprofit organization in August 2020.

The Darwin Circle is a group of major supporters who work with President David Sloan Wilson and a dynamic Board of Directors to advance PW's mission: **To catalyze positive cultural change to consciously evolve who we are, how we connect with each other, and how we interact with the planet. We are co-creating a new story of what's possible for humanity.**

A curated list of invitees attended the Inaugural Darwin Circle Lecture, featuring Toby Shannan, COO of Shopify, with comments by Rita Colwell, PW Board member and former president of the National Science Foundation.

[Shopify](#) is the Canadian e-commerce company that works with millions of businesses worldwide. Toby has an inspired vision for Shopify and has thought deeply about evolutionary and complex systems theory as a Trustee of the Santa Fe Institute.

Toby has already begun to implement PW's governance and change methods within Shopify and has become the first person to join the Darwin Circle with his financial support. For a taste of Toby's lecture, we invite you to listen to his podcast with David titled [Evolving the Future of Corporations](#).



Rita has an illustrious career as an ecological and molecular microbiologist in addition to presiding over the NSF and many other important administrative posts. She has also been a powerful force for equity in science, as she describes in her recent book [A Lab of One's Own: One Woman's Personal Journey Through Sexism in Science](#). We are honored that she has joined the board of PW to help achieve its mission.



Rita Colwell

The inaugural lecture took place on February 15 via Zoom, from 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Eastern US time to allow participants from Europe to take part. The 90-minute session included a short introduction to the vision of PW by David, Toby's Lecture, comments by Rita, and plenty of time for Q&A with our distinguished current and prospective Darwin Circle members. Other Darwin Circle lectures will be scheduled at quarterly intervals.



Toby Shannan

Participants are invited to join the Darwin Circle with a minimum contribution of \$10K annually significantly contributing to our world-changing mission.

- Prosocial World Executive Committee



## WHAT IS THE PROSOCIAL ARC?

We are faced with the challenge of a whole new global environment in which we're asked to cooperate, not just with those we know well but with people who are practically strangers. Never before have we so frequently been faced with the challenges of coordinating with groups with perspectives that differ radically from that of our own.

But, also, never before have so many people had access to the tools to create cooperation on a vast scale. Instead of identifying their differences, we need to look at what they have in common. We need to consider that each example of a group of individuals operating in a given context is trying to achieve a common goal.

The question becomes: How can these groups support themselves to act together in such a way that satisfies their own interests, the interests of the group, and the interests of the larger systems of which the group is a part?

The answer lies in working at multiple levels, increasing our **Awareness** both to notice our own reactivity but also to step back and take a bigger, more compassionate perspective on others, our **Relationship quality** by being careful to build trust, openness and compassion, and group **Cultures** that support purpose, equity, inclusion, and transparency. This is why we have called our process the Prosocial **ARC** and we believe it is a method for helping any group, anywhere in the world

The **Prosocial ARC** is a unique, practical, applied, behavioral approach that contributes to a significant worldwide research effort using evolutionary theory as a unifying theoretical framework wherein purpose is a function of three levels:

1. **A**wareness of the personal interior
2. **R**elationship quality
3. **C**ulture we create in groups using the CDPs

The Prosocial book (Atkins et al., 2019) explains these modules in more depth. The Prosocial ARC process is designed to be flexible. You can adjust how you implement it and use the modules in any order, or any combination, to suit your context.

### **Prosocial Facilitator Training teaches all five modules of the Prosocial ARC:**

1. The personal ACT Matrix
2. The collective ACT Matrix
3. The Core Design Principles
4. Goal setting and tracking
5. Research tools

You may be wondering why we felt the need to start calling it the Prosocial ARC. Well, the decision was made with great care but is also flexible as we work more closely together, share our ideas and best practices, and grow Prosocial World.

The Prosocial ARC is the foundation of training that Prosocial World provides. **Here's what we were thinking:**

1. We needed to provide some clarity by moving away from using the generic term, "prosocial" and making it interchangeable with the training, Prosocial World website, and PW as an organization.
  - a. We learn the ARC Process in Prosocial Facilitator Training (PFT)
  - b. The website is "prosocial dot world."
  - c. Prosocial World or PW is the entity or non-profit organization that manages the community and offers the training.
2. We needed to use specific language to define and differentiate this Prosocial World offering as the unique program based in evolutionary science, contextual behavioral science and Ostrom's generalized core design principles.

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## PROSOCIAL PROJECTS

Get excited! Stu Libman, MD is presenting a webinar on functional assessment when doing ACT Prosocial. Stu is among the world's foremost Prosocial facilitators. He brings a breadth of application experience together with remarkable warmth and clarity.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/2PgC5Qg>



Stu Libman



**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMIT & ACT IN SIERRA LEONE, WEST AFRICA.**

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Lori Wiser and Jeff Genung on PW's Executive Team took a 4-day intensive Platform Design Bootcamp from Boundryless, leaders of Platform-Ecosystems thinking worldwide.



As we continue to evaluate PW's strategic growth needs and increase value for all facilitators, partners, and stakeholders within our network, platform design thinking will help lead us to better long term solutions faster.

It was an intense 4 days working from 6:00 am to 12:30 pm US EST, but every day brought more excitement as Lori and Jeff found more and more application to PW and to facilitating greater connections within the Prosocial World Community to increase engagement both inside and outside of it.

We look forward to deploying what we've learned in service of PW to co-create a vibrant and organic ecosystem that realizes positive global change.

Read more about Platform Design Thinking [here](#).

### Prosocial ARC Process

We incorporated the word, "noticing" into our use of the ACT Matrix because we knew awareness was an critical keystone upon which we considered our relationships to our inner and outer worlds and to each other in the context of the agreements we make to maintain the agreed-upon culture of our group using the CDPs. **Awareness. Relationships. Culture - ARC.**

We hope this helps clarify why we changed the name and how the Prosocial ARC Process helps define and differentiate this powerful, scalable method to help groups of all kinds and sizes work better together.

PW treats cultural change explicitly and innately as an evolutionary process, similar in its fundamentals to the process of genetic evolution. This enables us to apply insights from the social, behavioral, and evolutionary sciences to solve the problems of our age.

