

# Stretch Collaboration: An Experiential Seminar on How to Work with People You Don't Agree with or Like or Trust

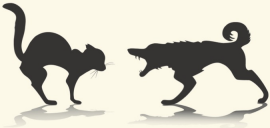
Adam Kahane's bestselling book, *Collaborating with the Enemy*, addresses an increasingly central challenge of our time: how to work effectively with complex and conflictual situations that we find problematic and want to change, but that—no matter how much we wish to—we cannot change alone or by working only with our colleagues and friends.

The book offers a radically unconventional approach, Stretch Collaboration, to dealing with such situations. This approach consists of three stretches that are simple but not easy: embracing conflict and connection, experimenting a way forward, and stepping into the game.

Foreword by **Peter Block**  
Bestselling Author of *Community and Stewardship*

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# Collaborating *with the* Enemy



How to Work with People  
You Don't Agree with  
or Like or Trust

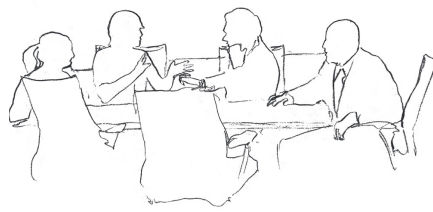
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## Adam Kahane


Bestselling author of *Solving Tough Problems* and *Power and Love*

### Two Approaches to Collaboration

	Conventional Collaboration	Stretch Collaboration
How we relate with our collaborators	Focus on the good and harmony of the team (one superior whole)	Embrace conflict and connection (multiple diverse holons)
How we advance our work	Agree on the problem and the solution (one optimum plan)	Experiment our way forward (multiple emergent possibilities)
How we participate in our situation	Change what other people are doing (one paramount leader)	Step into the game (multiple cocreators)



*Conventional*



*Stretch*



Adam and his colleagues in Reos Partners have developed a one-day seminar to teach the principles and practices of Stretch Collaboration. This seminar is intended for groups of people, from a single organisation or from across multiple organisations, who need to work with diverse others—including with people they don't agree with or like or trust.

The seminar consists of a structured set of individual reflections, hands-on small-group exercises, and whole-group dialogue. Participants will learn how to:

- Decide when to collaborate and when instead to force, adapt, or exit
- Overcome the challenges that are intrinsic to all collaborations
- Work with multiple perspectives and positions through employing both engaging and asserting (love and power)
- Shift the basis of how they work with others: their way of talking and listening
- Use disciplined experimentation as a strategy for finding a way forward
- Recognise their own role in and responsibility for the situations they are trying to change
- Discover new options
- Apply these principles and practices to their own most important and daunting collaborations