



## A Lesson from the IF Journey

Walter Isaacson has written a marvelous book titled **The Innovators** – in which he explores the history of technology innovation that has produced things we now use in everyday life such as the Internet. He guides us through the work done by pairs and groups of innovators from the last 150 years ranging from Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace – to Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. Isaacson's observation is that these innovators were able to create breakthroughs because they stood at the intersection of science and art – Ada Lovelace referred to it as “poetic science.”

When I was discussing the book with my partner Adriana, she pointed out that the same idea is present in the field of Integral and Integral Facilitation. The innovators of computers and the internet link beauty, poetry and humanity – to engineering, technology and applications. And those innovations have changed how we live in very significant (not always positive) ways. So what will happen as new ‘innovators’ combine the masculine *doing* of business and economics with the feminine *being* of spirituality and sensing? And why couldn't this interplay have the same power to change our way of living and being on par with innovations like the Internet?

Fields such as Integral Facilitation is still in its first incarnation but much like the early work of the technology innovators – the seeds of new ways and expressions are clearly evident. Having applied some the basic techniques to business situations over the past 9 months I have been surprised by what has happened and how my colleagues have reacted. Many have expressed real curiosity about the Integral field and training once they became aware that we were engaged in ‘something different’ in the workplace. I would not be surprised to see several more ‘business types’ showing up at a future IF course. And perhaps one day AQAL and the Enneagram will become a standard part of

training for people in business schools because of its value in creating more sustainable relationships. It could be very cool.

One last reflection from the history of technology innovation: the things we use today such as iPhones, computers, the internet and all forms of human gadgetry became manifest through groups of people that were willing to collaborate across boundaries of culture, beliefs and orientations. Charles Babbage (who created the first computer) was a mathematician and inventor. Ada Lovelace was the daughter of Lord Byron and had a strong orientation in the humanities. There are no 'individuals' who were singlehandedly able to make these changes happen (no, not even Edison) on a scale that mattered. So these changes apparently do take a village...or a sangha. I believe that the members of the IF tribe are forming this village especially when listening to the diversity of experiences and talents that have been brought together (and there is clearly something going on up in Canada).

Adriana and I had the pleasure of taking a drive one night with Thomas Hubl and discussing an idea he sourced – which he refers to as the “SubtleNet”. In the SubtleNet everyone has a kind of network address that can be reached energetically much in the way that we send email over the internet. The SubtleNet provides a way to communicate that greatly expands our ability to relate to each other beyond email, text, Twitter, etc. because it compliments those innovations (try his trick of energetically connecting with someone BEFORE sending that email and you will get the gyst). This is the kind of innovation that stands at the same intersection of 'poetic science' and could change our way of being (also - secretly I am hoping that Thomas and Diane will collaborate more in the future).

So my deepest gratitude to all the innovators in the field of Integral Facilitation – faculty, cohorts, and all those who have contributed to our development. I can't wait to see what happens next.