

The Table of Free Voices



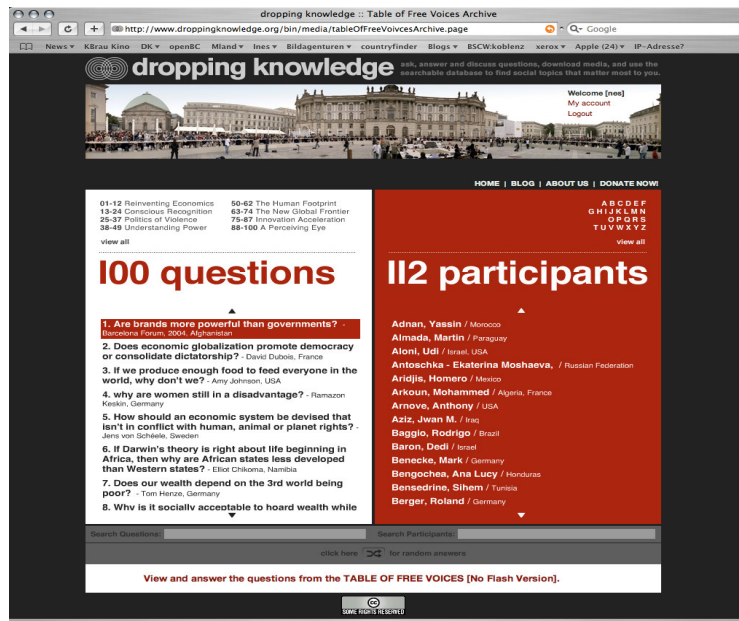
Sanar Yurdatapan

In a world drawn in fire, blood and tears, in a world where the jungle rules are imposed on humanity once again, the witnesses of the century should have some words to say to the present and the future.

- Sanar Yurdatapan, novelist, Turkey, and Table of Free Voices participant

To launch its global dialog platform dropping knowledge hosted an unprecedented event: The Table of Free Voices.

On September 9, 2006, 112 individuals came together in central Berlin to engage with 100 questions raised by the global public. The participants took their places around a large table – 38 meters in diameter – located in historic Bebelplatz square. Each place was equipped with a video camera, allowing the individual answers of each participant to be recorded simultaneously. The resulting 700 hours of footage can now be viewed and discussed on the dropping knowledge website.





How do we stop our governments from going to war?

- Glen, South Africa

100 Questions

Selected by vote by dropping knowledge users, the 100 questions asked at the Table of Free Voices represented a global sampling of the most pressing questions confronting today's world, covering themes like climate change, energy security and ethical governance, while also highlighting less reported issues of global importance.

What is God's religion? - Miraj Khaled, Bangladesh



**Hafsat Abiola and
Willem Dafoe**

Participants had three minutes to answer each question in the language of choice. Nigerian democracy and women's rights activist Hafsat Abiola and Hollywood actor Willem Dafoe were the event's two moderators of the event, who ensured a thoughtful pace for asking and answering questions.

If you had one piece of knowledge to give to the world, what would it be? - Anonymous, USA

Participants

Over the last three years, dropping knowledge has amassed a database of over 1,000 inspiring individuals all of them nominated by the dropping knowledge user-community. Of these, 112 visionaries from around the world ultimately participated at the first Table of Free Voices.



left to right: Wim Wenders, Tegla Loroupe, Raymond Federman

Among those who agreed to drop their knowledge at the Table of Free Voices were the human rights advocat Bianca Jagger, Oakland Institute Founder, Anuradha Mittal, human rights activist and athlete Tegla Loroupe, novelist Raymond Federman, filmmaker Wim Wenders, photographer Oliviero Toscani, Club of Budapest, Presiden Ervin Laszlo, and founder of Sun Microsystems Bill Joy.



Eliot Weinberger

What if all Chinese people want a car?

Let's hope they want a very small car. The problem in China is that they make all mistakes the west already made.

- Eliot Weinberger, author, USA, and participant the Table of Free Voices

Bebelplatz

Surrounded by architectural landmarks of imperial Prussia, Bebelplatz is a square with deep historical and symbolic significance, bordered by four important intellectual, cultural and religious institutions: the Old Library of Humboldt University; the Berlin opera house, Staatsoper; St. Hedwig's Cathedral; and Unter den Linden, a central boulevard running through east Berlin. In May 1933, Nazi officials used the square to burn books from the adjacent university library were burned in the square. Today, Bebelplatz features a memorial of the burning by Israeli artist Micha Ullman, its glass panel peering down on an all-white underground library with empty bookshelves.

About dropping knowledge

A non-profit initiative, dropping knowledge operates as an international non-governmental organization with 100% stakeholder perspective. A public resource, it cannot be owned and is freely accessible to all for all time. dropping knowledge's Founding Partner is the Allianz Group. Its Founding Supporters are the Mark & Sharon Bloome Fund and the Wallace Global Fund.

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