Focus Group 4 Summary

PLACARD Workshop

Charles Jeffrey Danoff, contact@mr.danoff.org
Mr. Danoff's Teaching Laboratory

Mary Tedeschi, mtedeschi@pace.edu
Pace University

Sridevi Ayloo, sayloo@citytech.cuny.edu
New York City College of Technology

Joseph Corneli, joseph.corneli@hyperreal.enterprises
Raymon Puzio, rsp@hyperreal.enterprises
Hyperreal Enterprises Limited

At 3pm Japan Standard Time (JST) on Friday, March 1st, the second day of AsianPLoP, we conducted Focus Group 4 (FG4) that was named "PLACARD Workshop". PLACARD is a synthesis of: Causal Layered Analysis (CLA), Project Action Reviews (PAR), and Design Pattern Languages (DPL). The acronym was first introduced by the 2021 PLoP paper "Patterns of Patterns". One of the facilitators was onsite. Two joined remotely via Jitsi from New York City.

After introducing PLACARD, we collectively did a Project Action Review about the AsianPLop 2024 event as a whole and examined it with Causal Layered Analysis. This CLA iceberg figure was used to introduce the concept:

European Space Futures - Using Causal Layered Analysis on the Director General's Proposal at ESA's CM16 - An Introduction of Critical Futures Studies to Space Strategies - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-CLA-Iceberg-Source-Inayatullah-Sohail-Appendices-The-Causal-Layered-Analysis_fig1_329686603 [accessed 7 Apr, 2024]

Figure 1 – Focus Group 4 Participants
Picture by Takako Kanai
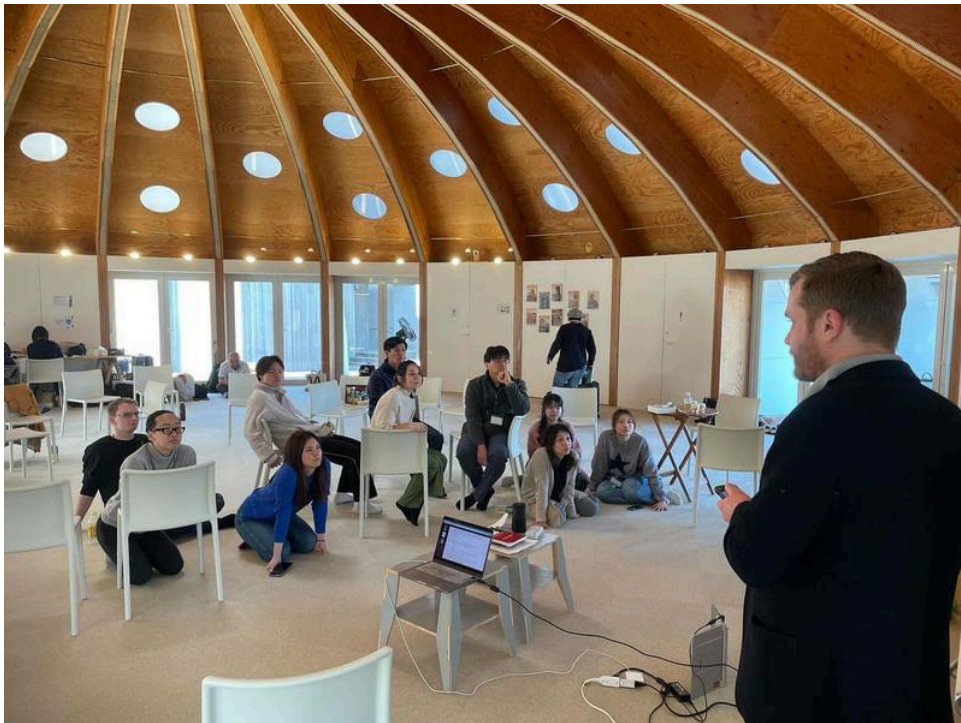
Figure 2 – Another Photo of Focus Group 4 Participants
Picture by Kiyoka Hayashi

Project Action Review

We did a collective PAR where participants shared back about
AsianPLoP 2024. The onsite facilitator took notes. The bullet points
below highlight some of our discussions.

Review the intention: what did we expect to learn or make together?

- Deeping an understanding of patterns
- Get feedback on our papers and meet others
- Many are experiencing PLOp conference for the first time, so
  learning what it is and what is PLoP culture

Establish what is happening: what and how are we learning?

- The history of PLoP, especially Asian plop
- More people found out about my paper
- Learned by using patterns
- Interesting presentation on the essence of pattern languages

What are some different perspectives on what's happening?

- Creating a new community in real time
- Not only learning about history but making it in this very nice
  new venue

What did we learn or change?

- Change my paper
- Learned about many different types of pattern language

What else should we change going forward?

- See organizers and volunteers more energetic after event
- Organizers sometimes burn out after an event, not continuous
- Want to start new projects with other attendees

Casual Layered Analysis

As a group we examined each CLA layer and how they applied to AsianPLoP 2024.

Problem/Litany Layer

- How to grow and implement patterns
- Hard to choose among all the feedback you get about which you will put into paper, include negative critiques

Causes

- Pattern community in japan and asia is smaller than other regions
  - Want to grow that community

Worldview

- Role of language is big, some people only speak one
  - One reason why Iba lab language will change to only being English university student finishes in 4 years
- Generative AI to translate into other things quickly

Myth / Metaphor

- Pattern language is itself a langues
  - Power to overcome different languages
  - If its a good pattern language, doesn't matter if it's in English or Japanese
- AsianPLoP is much bigger than just far East Asia
  - Should run more PLoPs in different parts of the world

Appendix

Pre-Conference Submission Abstract

This workshop will be based on ideas we introduced in our paper "Patterns of Patterns" that was submitted for PLoP 2021, specifically PLACARD. PLACARD is a synthesis of Project Action Reviews (PARs), Causal Layered Analysis (CLA) and Design Pattern Languages (DPL). Combining these three together "suggests that the methods need not be run in a fixed order, but are interwoven together.

- Context: In the course of working on a project: we use the PAR to get a sense of our working context.

- Problem: Although we may encounter many difficulties in this context, our effort to understand them faces a central challenge, namely the fact that the problems span different layers and scales of complexity, so it can be hard to understand where the difficulties actually come from: accordingly, we use the CLA to understand and frame the problems and their interconnections.

- Solution: Once we have grasped the problem, we need to elaborate an actionable solution that remains adaptable to ongoing changes in the context: we use DPL to elaborate the solution (returning to PAR and CLA as needed)." (Corneli et. al, https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.10497)

We wrote an experience report of implementing PLACARD in workshops across the world in our subsequent paper "Patterns of Patterns II" (Corneli et. al, https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.08426) that was submitted for PLoP 2023. This workshop will introduce participants to the PLACARD and explain how they can use it in their own work. We will then use it to reflect on the AsianPLoP event itself and produce an artifact to share with conference organizers.

Figure 3 – Included with our PDF Focus Group Submission
Image generated using OpenAI's DALL·E