# Polyvagal Theory & the Science of Team Science

#### March 10 10am-3pm

In this virtual armchair dialogue, Dr. Stephen Porges and Dr. Stephen Fiore discuss transdisciplinary approaches to solving the world's *wicked problems*.

*Wicked problems* are complex challenges with multiple and conflicting perspectives on best solutions.

UN SDGs are great examples of wicked problems.

A problem becomes "wicked" when its complexity exceeds the ability for one profession or one societal sector to address it. Wicked problems need multistakeholder, multidisciplinary teams to tackle them.

A problem becomes *"super wicked"* when time is running out to solve the problem's impact on society.

Working across disciplines to solve wicked problems can be stressful because of divergence in paradigms and disciplinary values. Disagreements or lack of understanding can cause attaining transdisciplinarity to fall short.

# This virtual workshop will discuss this challenge and offer insight and methods for its management.

#### 10 Characteristics of Wicked Problems

- 1. There is no definitive formula for a wicked problem.
- 2. Wicked problems have no stopping rule—there's no way to know whether your solution is final.
- 3. Solutions to wicked problems are not true or false; they can only be good or bad.
- 4. You cannot immediately test a solution to a wicked problem.
- 5. Every solution to a wicked problem is a "one-shot operation" because there is no opportunity to learn by trial and error—every attempt counts significantly.
- 6. Wicked problems do not have a set number of potential solutions.
- 7. Every wicked problem is essentially unique.
- 8. Every wicked problem can be considered a symptom of another problem.
- 9. There is always more than one explanation for a wicked problem because the explanations vary greatly depending on the individual's perspective.
- 10. The planner/designer has no right to be wrong and must be fully responsible for their actions.

For more information or to register, visit: onehealth.tennessee.edu/polyvagal-theory-team-science.

### Dr. Stephen Porges



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