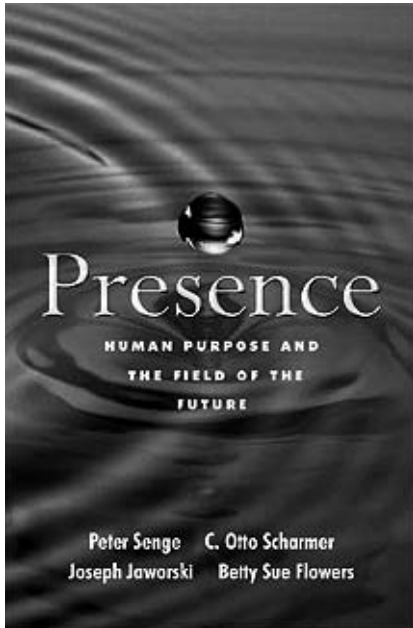


Presence: Human Purpose and the Field of the Future

By Peter Senge, C. Otto Scharmer, Joseph Jaworski, and Betty Sue Flowers

Based on years of personal experience and extensive research, this book's journey of discovery offers a new vision for a future we can all help shape.



"Bill McDonough, the esteemed American architect, says his work has led him to a simple question: 'What will it take for us to become indigenous once again?'—not as we were, but as we might be? I think if we can find our place, we will find our purpose."
—Peter Senge, *Presence*

About SoL

Founded in 1997, SoL's purpose is to create and implement knowledge for fundamental innovation and change. By providing a variety of forums, projects, capacity building opportunities, and virtual infrastructures, SoL enables individuals and institutions to expand their capacity for inspired performance, creating results together that they could not create alone.

SoL publishes an e-journal, *Reflections*, ten times per year, that is available by subscription or as a benefit of membership. A portion of the net proceeds from SoL publishing sales are reinvested in basic research, leading-edge applied learning projects, and building a global network of learning communities.

More information about SoL's organizing principles, membership, professional development opportunities, events, resources, and publications can be found at www.solonline.org.

How would the world change if we learned to access, individually and collectively, our deepest capacity to sense and shape the future? This is just one of the questions posed by the authors of a book that combines unusual personal honesty with rigorous critical thinking.

Presence: Human Purpose and the Field of the Future gives the reader an intimate look at the development of a new theory about change and learning. In wide-ranging conversations held over a year and a half, Senge, Scharmer, Jaworski, and Flowers explore their own experiences and those of one hundred and fifty scientists and social and business entrepreneurs in an effort to explain how profound collective change occurs. Their journey of discovery articulates a new way of seeing the world, and of understanding our part in creating it—as it is and as it might be.

Radical and hopeful, *Presence* synthesizes leading-edge thinking, first-hand knowledge, and ancient wisdom to explore the living fields that connect us to one another, to life more broadly, and, potentially, to what is "seeking to emerge." Seven capacities underlie our ability to see, sense, and realize new possibilities. Developing these capacities accesses a deeper level of learning that is the key to creating change that serves the whole—ourselves, our organizations, and the communities of which we are a part.

About the Authors

Peter Senge is a senior lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management, and the founding chair of SoL, the Society for Organizational Learning, a global network of learning communities addressing profound institutional change. A renowned pioneer in and writer about management innovation, Peter is the author of the widely acclaimed *The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization* (Doubleday/Currency 1990).

C. Otto Scharmer is a Lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Visiting Professor at the Helsinki School of Economics, cofounder of SoL and the Global Leadership Initiative, and author of the forthcoming book *Theory U: Leading From the Emerging Future*.

Joseph Jaworski is the chairman of Generon Consulting, and cofounder of the Global Leadership Initiative, founder of The American Leadership Forum, and author of the critically acclaimed *Synchronicity: The Inner Path of Leadership* (Berret Koehler, 1996).

Betty Sue Flowers was a professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin and an international business consultant prior to her current role as the director of the Johnson Presidential Library and Museum.

Praise for Presence

A remarkable book, *Presence* is a journey from the present to an unknown future, a journey of exploration rather than dogma, and a journey toward a vision of humanity at its highest. Like a good documentary film, *Presence* is a book with "emotional truth," a wonderful combination of intellectual and visceral experience.

Robert Fritz, *The Path of Least Resistance*

If you believe, as I do, that an organization is ultimately a human community, then nothing is more important than how we sense our future and act to create it together. This is something all creative business leaders know yet have found almost impossible to talk about—until *Presence*.

Rich Teerlink, CEO (retired), Harley-Davidson

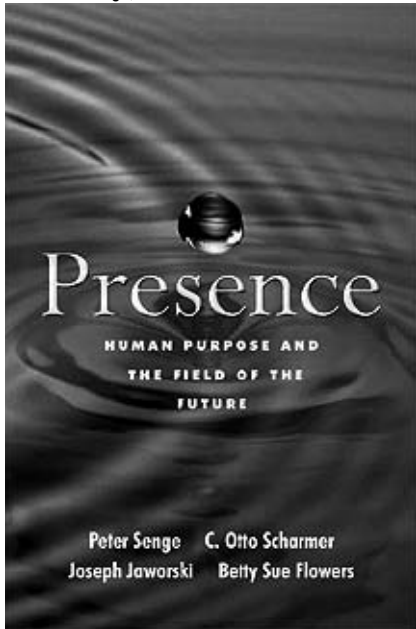


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Orders placed through www.presence.net or www.solonline.org come with free access to The Presence Workbook, a companion guide of capacity-building exercises, practical tips, and suggestions for further reading from seasoned practitioners.

A portion of the net proceeds of SoL publishing sales supports basic research, leading-edge applied learning projects, and building a global network of learning communities.

Order additional copies and access reader resources at www.presence.net. For information about bulk orders including discount rates, please contact Nina Kruschwitz at +1-617-300-9595 or nina@solonline.org.

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