

CHINA CROSSROADS

Saturday, April 17th, 2021, 16:30 – 18:00

Complexity Science: Getting Things Done with Less Stress and Better Results in Business and Life

Nick Obolensky

Founder and CEO of Complex Adaptive Leadership
Faculty of the European Centre for Executive Development
Author of [Complex Adaptive Leadership](#)

Ian Anderson

Managing Director of Synthomer China

Matt Whately

Executive Director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce



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We all live in increasingly uncertain and complex times. Black Swans fly in and out. However, few people have heard of the science of complexity. It has roots in physics, biology, chemistry, and mathematics (to name a few “hard” disciplines”) and emerged in the 1970’s. Nick Obolensky has applied this new science in many situations around the world, as a soldier on the battlefield, a FTSE 100 Director, business school professor, consultant, and entrepreneur. He will explain some of the key lessons everyone can use from this important new science, which Stephen Hawking called the most important science for humanity in the 21st century. He will share the results gained from a survey of over one hundred executives around the world who have applied lessons from this new science. He will be joined by Ian Anderson, the China MD of Synthomer, and Matt Whatley, the Executive Director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Both recently learned of the lessons from this science and have applied it. Ian will share the specific personal benefits he has gained, and Matt will share the benefits to his everyday work and his team.

[Nick Obolensky](#) is Founder and CEO of Complex Adaptive Leadership (UK) and MD of Agile+ Consultants (China). He belongs to the faculty of CEDEP in France (INSEAD Fontainebleau campus) as a Professor of Leadership. He links complexity science, blended with ancient Chinese wisdom, for leaders to navigate VUCA times better in a practical way. This enables dynamic self-organization to emerge and get better results, faster for less effort. His approach was recently awarded the EFMD Gold Award for Executive Development beating many leading blue-chip business schools around the world. His award-winning approach has been employed by a variety of international MNCs (Rolls-Royce, Dow Chemical, GE, UBS, IBM, Société Générale, Rio Tinto, Nokia, Ali Baba) as well as public sector organizations (e.g. in UK, Russia, Indonesia). Nick holds an MBA from IMD (where he graduated as Valedictorian), and is a qualified Chartered Management Consultant. His other achievements include Master Scuba Diver, twin engine private pilot, and mountain guide

[Ian Anderson](#) is Managing Director for China at Synthomer, a UK-based chemical manufacturer with two factories, \$120 million in sales, and 150 staff in China. He has worked in the chemical industry for almost all of his career, and his previous responsibilities have covered Europe, United States., Middle East, South Africa, and Southeast Asia. He holds a BA from Cambridge University in Modern Languages.

[Matt Whately](#) is Executive Director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. After working in the public sector at Industry Canada, Indian & Northern Affairs Canada, and the Department of National Defense, he moved to the private sector, joining Bell Canada. After relocating to Shanghai, he founded Boar, a sports gear and apparel sourcing company and co-founded Five: IT, a creative tech agency. He holds a BA in History and Political Science from the University of Ottawa.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a “crossroads” of the world and itself at a “crossroads” in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.