



Stefaan van Hooydonk

Stefaan van Hooydonk consults global corporations, leadership teams, and individuals to help build stronger curiosity muscles. He is the founder of the Global Curiosity Institute and author of the bestselling book *The Workplace Curiosity Manifesto*.

KEY TOPICS

- **The Power of Curiosity**
- **The Power of Workplace Curiosity for Leaders**
- **Workplace Culture**
- **Individual and Organisational Growth**
- **Future of Work**
- **Change**

BIOGRAPHY

Stefaan van Hooydonk is the founder of the Global Curiosity Institute and author of the bestselling book *The Workplace Curiosity Manifesto*. He consults global corporations, leadership teams, and individuals to help build stronger curiosity muscles. Furthermore, he helps them in baselining individual and workplace curiosity and supports them with designing and implementing intentional curiosity improvement projects and learning initiatives.

Background

Stefaan started his career in investment consulting in China. From there he moved to set up the executive education arm of a major business school in Shanghai, China Europe International Business School (CEIBS). He ran CEIBS for 5 years. Subsequently, he set up global learning teams and innovative corporate universities for Nokia (China/Finland), Agfa Healthcare (Belgium), Philips (The Netherlands), Flipkart (India), Saudi Aramco (Saudi Arabia), and Cognisant (UK). His last role was that of Chief Learning Officer for Cognisant, where he oversaw learning and development for over 300k associates across the globe. Additionally, he has been globally recognised for his innovative approach to learning, people, and technology. Stefaan has a master's degree in economics and in Chinese, together with postgraduate degrees in Marxist economics from China, cross-cultural management from France, and an executive MBA from Rutgers University. Moreover, he is a certified executive coach.

Personal Life

A Belgian national, Stefaan has been married for 25 years to Jeltje Peletier. Jeltje is a successful psycho- and yoga therapist. Together they have 4 children: Rik, Femke, Koen, and Menko. He practises meditation daily, is a

marathon runner and food forest amateur and bee keeper, and is pursuing a master's degree in philosophy.

Session Abstracts: The Power of Curiosity

1. The Power of Curiosity

Every person is born with a healthy dose of curiosity. Some people can maintain this level through adulthood. Many, however, see their original strength diminish over time. The same happens with systems like start-ups. Early start-ups have a high predisposition to exploration, only to see that this mindset deteriorates once the company expands, focuses on efficiency, conforms to rigid standards, and finds it harder to learn from mistakes. Curious organisations are more successful than incurious ones, especially in times of change. Not only are they constantly looking for ways to improve their current operations, but they are also constantly scanning the industrial horizon for new opportunities. In this session, Stefaan will explore what we know about curiosity, why it is important in our professional lives and our organisations, and reflect on strategies to get better at it.

2. The Power of Workplace Curiosity for Leaders

The shadow a manager casts on the team is one of the biggest drivers of productivity, engagement, and the feeling of well-being of the team. Those managers who do this well uplift the team. Those who don't stifle it. The key to effective task management and people leadership is curiosity. Curious leaders are good at operationalising the present as well as securing the future. They create psychological safety for the team to thrive. Curious leaders represent a high level of cognitive, empathic, and self-reflective curiosity. Curious leaders are curious about the world around them, the people they work with, and their own internal conscious and unconscious drivers. They go out of their way to engage with their team, also in times of crisis. They stretch their teams to excel in the present and embrace the future. In this interactive session, Stefaan explores what we know about curiosity, why it is important for leaders, professionals, and teams, what the barriers are and what leaders can do to get better at intentional curiosity for themselves and the people in their care. Every participant will be invited to do a curiosity assessment and will get a report on their individual curiosity profile.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

"Stefaan's session at a full-day hybrid conference got the most attention in live online chat and breakout rooms, was the most engaging with both an in-person and live online audience and he was able to adapt his delivery for both audiences and work with the team in the moment to make the most of the hybrid event. His content and delivery is motivating and fascinating and I look forward to working with him in the future."

– Jo Cook, Founder, Lightbulb Moment Limited

"In an uncertain and complex world your ability to learn is in my opinion the only sustainable competitive advantage. In his ground breaking book 'the workplace curiosity manifesto' Stefaan van Hooydonk states that the #1 driver for individuals, teams and organizations to boost their ability to learn is to become more curious. How? Well it all starts with asking more questions. We have invited Stefaan for multiple client events and each time the participants strengthened their muscles to be curious, gained new insights and walked a way with a lot of inspiration to make the world more curious. And that's exactly what we need at this moment in time."

– Camiel Gielkens, CEO Schouten & Nelissen Group

""Stefaan has proven an excellent speaker choice at the events I chair. He is clearly deeply knowledgeable about workplace curiosity and is able to share his expertise in an engaging way with his audience. He backs this up with his global experience as a Chief Learning Officer in large corporations, which provides real gravitas and credibility. There's no doubt that Stefaan is providing leading thinking and practice in this field and I have no hesitation in recommending him.""

— Donald H. Taylor, Chair of London Technology Conference