

# Human Centered Business Agility

speed to market

customer value

business value

**The  
focus of  
Business  
Agility**

flexibility

process





speed to market

customer value

business value

flexibility

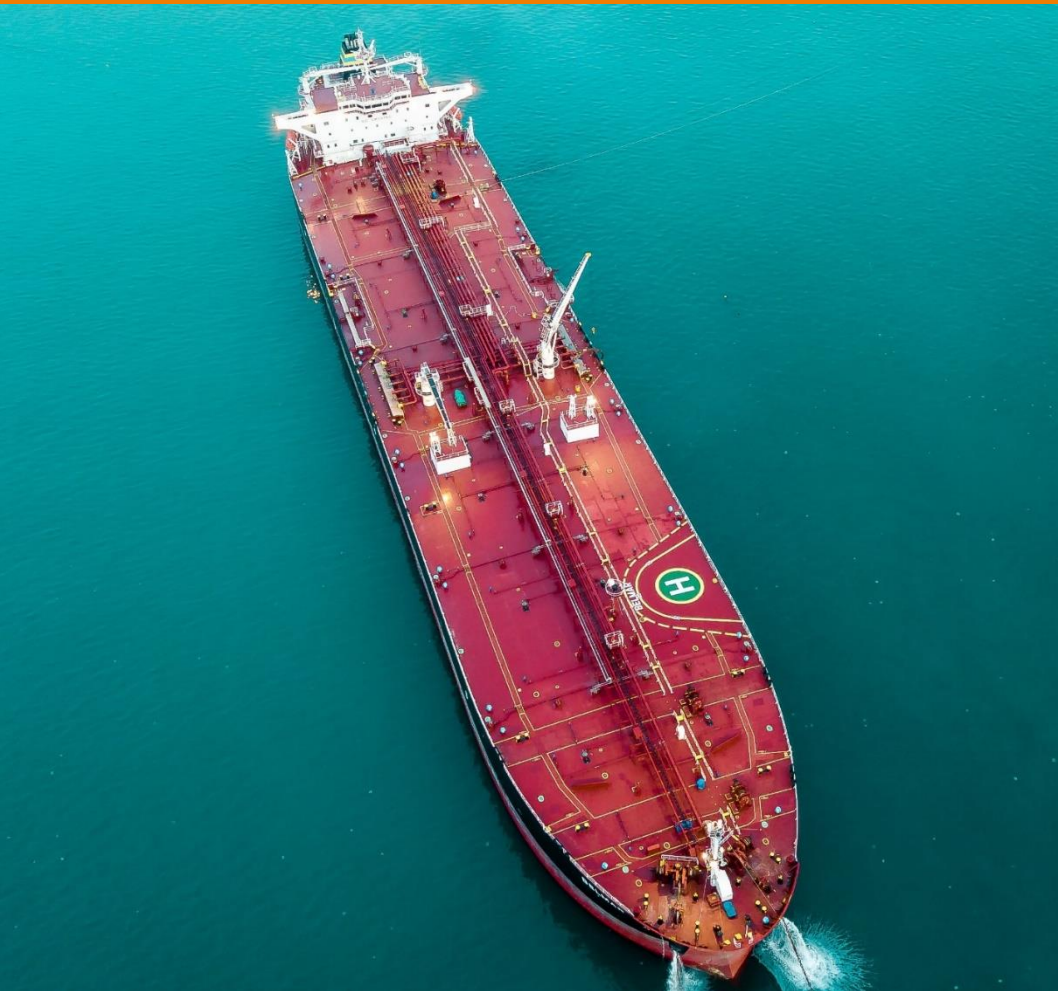
process

human individuals  
and teams





NOT a metaphor for  
business agility



a metaphor for  
business agility

# CONTEXT

complexity  
uncertainty  
change



a metaphor for  
business agility



SO WE NEED TO BE

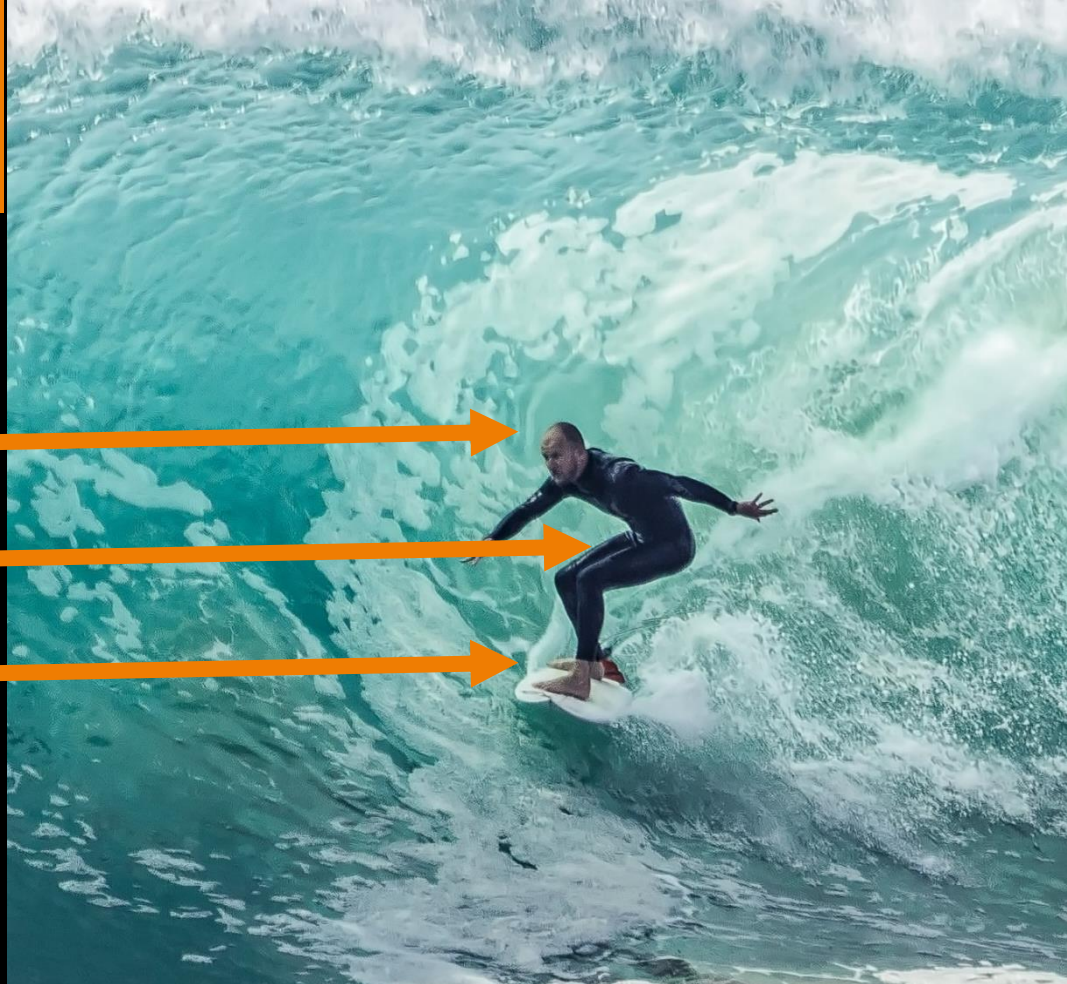
resilient  
adaptive  
creative



a metaphor for  
business agility

BY EVOLVING

values  
behaviours  
capabilities



a metaphor for  
business agility

# Business Agility is...

evolving values, behaviours and capabilities  
to be more resilient, adaptive and creative  
in the face of complexity, uncertainty and change,  
leading to better business outcomes and wellbeing.



Meet Sam





What if...

the surfboard is  
just there to  
stop us falling in  
the water...

and the surfing  
is down to us?



# Human Centered Business Agility

The search for value and meaning in work through deliberate practice in curiosity, trust, collaboration, flow, adaptation and lagom\*.

\* “just enough” (Swedish)

# Research on meaning at work

Finding meaning at work is a key driver of employee engagement and effectiveness.

To find work meaningful, people need:

- authenticity
- self-efficacy
- self-esteem
- purpose
- belongingness
- transcendence
- cultural and interpersonal sensemaking

Brent D. Rosso, B., Dekas, K. & Wrzesniewski A. (2010),  
*On the meaning of work: A theoretical integration and review*,  
Research in Organizational Behavior, 30 (2010), 91-127





Executive Recruitment Example

Tell me about a time when you've  
been so bored in an interview that  
you've fallen asleep.



# Make it collaborative



# Make it real



Doing strategy together







How will business agility help me  
deal with Brexit?



# Breaking bread together

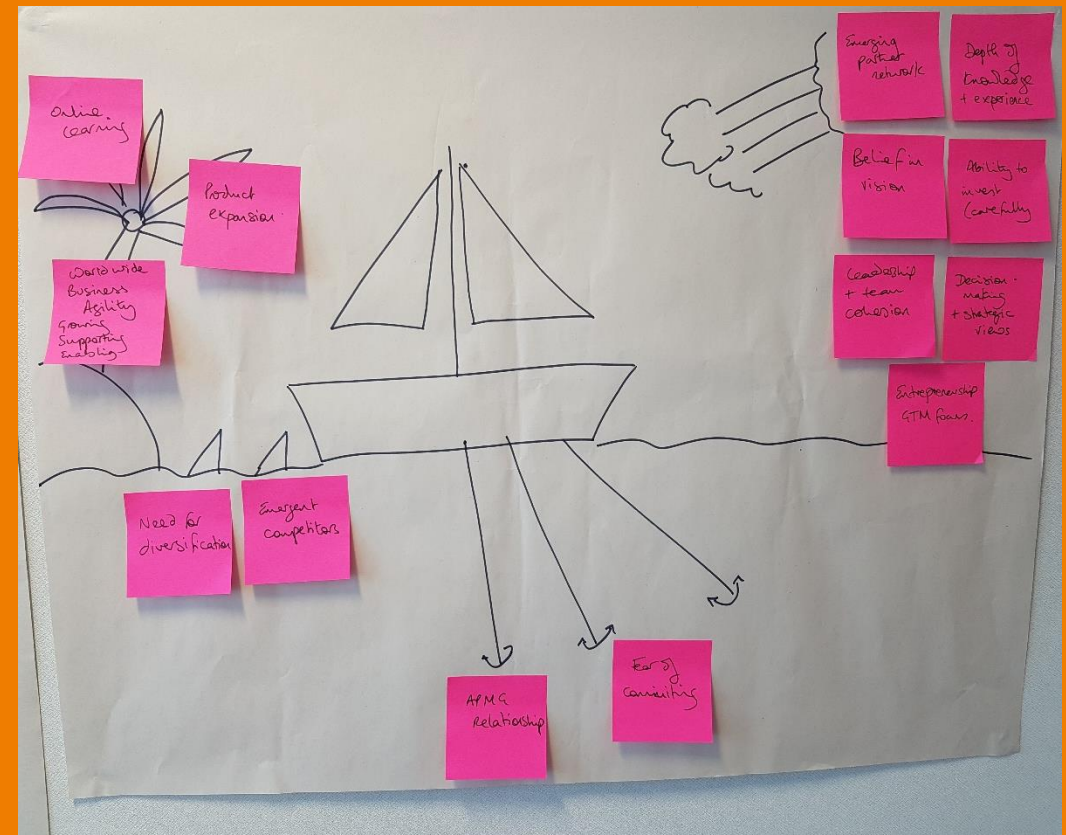
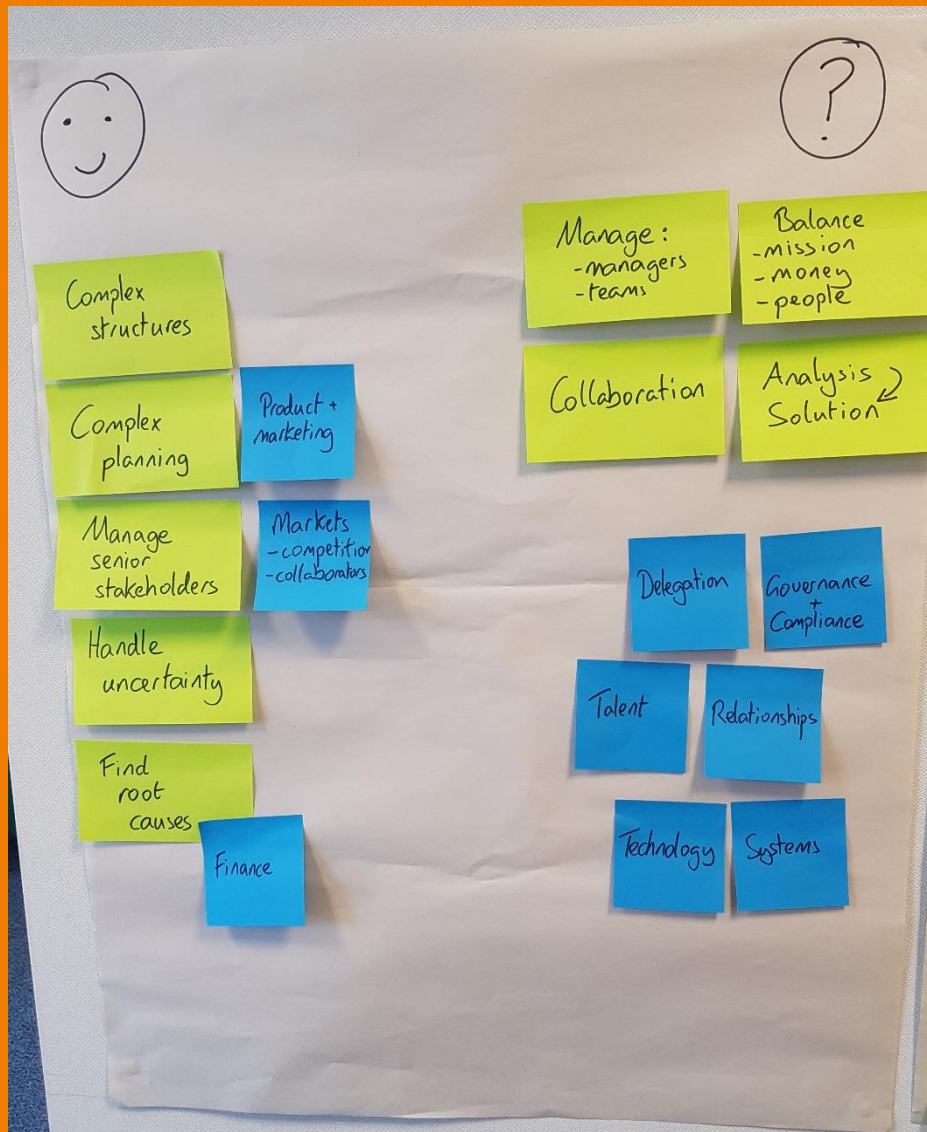






Staff team interview





# The Interview



# What did we learn?

People are more real when context is more real.

Real collaboration is hard to do, but better for everyone.

A little trust allows people to shed some armour.

Who the people in front of us really are.

# Research findings



“I am so fucking sick of talking about Scrum. [laughter] I don't give a shit about Scrum, I don't give a shit.

It almost makes me feel a little bit dirty, it almost makes feel like I'm pimping something.

I think at the beginning, early stages, I probably advocated some of those things more, but more because I genuinely felt it, I genuinely felt it. It seemed like this is something good here.”

***Luca***



We need to  
talk about...



Wagner E., Newell S., Ramiller N., Enders J. (2018),  
*From public ideology to socio-material reproduction of agile principles: The case of pivotal labs*,  
Information and Organization 28 (2018) 192–210

what about...?

The search for value and meaning in work through  
deliberate practice in curiosity, trust, collaboration,  
flow, adaptation and lagom\*

frameworks

agile ideology

How could you make the search for  
human value and meaning more central  
to your business agility journey?





# Get in touch

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