



# Introduce **disorder** into your organization to leave room for **chance**

## The challenge

Being organized is valued in personal as well as professional life. However, excessively rigid organization limits our propensity to be lucky. Indeed, the more we value order and planning, the more we close ourselves off from opportunities that could become “lucky breaks”. An excessive desire to minimize uncertainty and manage the impact of risk at all costs tends to give us exactly what we bargained for. How can we introduce just the right dose of disorder in our personal organization to leave room for opportunities, without taking needless risks?

## Leave room for chance

Cultivating chance requires accepting a certain amount of uncertainty into your personal organization.

A rigidly organized and packed agenda does not leave room to take advantage of unexpected opportunities.

Manage your time more flexibly.

- **Keep some time free in your schedule.** Opportunities rarely work out if you don't devote a minimum amount of time to them.  
E.g.: You may have some interesting experiences if you manage to linger a bit longer after a fascinating meeting, take the time to have a coffee with someone you meet by chance or walk into a bookstore to buy a book you see in the window.
- **Learn to take your time.** A constantly packed agenda does not allow you time to listen to topics that aren't directly productive.  
E.g.: Take time to meet with people face to face; plan for space between two meetings to leave yourself the option of diverging from your schedule for the day.

New ideas often occur when you move outside your habitual circles.

Try to meet people whose profession, activities and contact network are different from your own.

- **Organize improbable meetings.** Meetings of people from dramatically different backgrounds may lead to unsuspected opportunities.  
E.g.: Introduce your gym friends to your PTA acquaintances; attend conferences on topics that have nothing to do with your regular subjects of interest.
- **Regularly move the lines in your organization.** Changing the routine makes people more attentive to opportunities.  
E.g.: Reassign roles; build ad hoc project teams; reorganize the workspace; ask the members of a committee to sit in a different spot at each meeting.

Seizing opportunity requires being accustomed to rapidly changing your plans.

Use fun exercises to develop your agility and your ability to cope with the unexpected.

- **Introduce play into your behavior.** Having fun makes it easier to adopt behavior conducive to luck.  
E.g.: At a cocktail, set an objective to strike up a conversation with everyone wearing a red accessory; think of ways to modify your offering by integrating the first object you notice during a trip or a walk.
- **Let chance decide minor matters.** Making decisions in a non-rational manner gets you used to chance and to not reflexively rejecting it.  
E.g.: Throw dice to decide where to dine out; for a minor purchase, select the first supplier who calls, without applying any other criteria.