

**Beverly  
Wenger-Trayner**



## About me

### Social learning consultant

I'm a social learning consultant who works with organizations to develop strategies and practices for cultivating communities, networks and other forms of social learning.

I am also a yoga instructor and practitioner. I like that place between the infinite possibilities of what it means to be human and the tactile aspects of the here and now.

### Complex settings

Working with people in international settings and complex landscapes is where I feel most at home – especially when it includes the integration of new technologies and social media in innovative ways.

### International clients

While my clients come from all sectors the biggest projects I've worked on have been with organizations such as the International Labour Organization, Nuclear Threat Initiative, The World Bank, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.





# WENGER-TRAYNER

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**Here are bios of various lengths for use in announcements, programs, and brochures. Feel free to pick, mix, and match.**

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## **General-purpose bio (250 words)**

Beverly Wenger-Trayner is a social learning theorist and consultant known for her work with international organizations. She has been working for over twenty years with organizations to convene social learning systems, facilitate events, and develop social media strategies, particularly when it is to bring together people from different cultures, professions, or perspectives in the service of a common goal.

Brought up in Kenya, living most of her life in Portugal but with ten-year stints in the UK and the US, she is a cross-boundary person herself. Once an activist for international equitable development, her passion has matured into an intellectual drive to help people and institutions get better at making a difference. Recently, she acted as learning consultant for the World Bank on a long-term development project in Africa. Her report on using the value-creation framework in this project has attracted the attention of practitioners and evaluators across the international development community.

Beverly is co-founder of the Social Learning Lab in Sesimbra, Portugal. This is a social learning space for hosting workshops, events, and retreats for people across the world – in-person and online. The purpose of the lab is to develop social learning theory, practice, and leadership with the hope of becoming an inflection point for small and big stories about learning to make a difference. She has co-authored three books – Learning to make a difference: value-creation in social learning spaces, Systems convening: a crucial form of leadership for the 21st century, and a Guidebook for communities of practice.

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## **Shorter bio (145 words)**

Beverly Wenger-Trayner is a social learning theorist and consultant known for over twenty years for her work with international organizations including cross-boundary processes and the use of new technologies.

Brought up in Kenya, living most of her life in Portugal, with ten-year stints in the UK and the US, she is a cross-boundary person herself. Once an activist for international equitable development, her passion has matured into an intellectual drive to help people and institutions get better at making a difference.

Beverly is co-founder of the Social Learning Lab, in Sesimbra, Portugal. The purpose of the lab is to host workshops and events for people across the world and to become a wellspring of ideas, writing and connections for developing social learning capability at scale. Learning to make a difference, Systems convening, and a Guidebook for communities of practice are their three most recent publications.

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## Even shorter bio (99 words)

Beverly Wenger-Trayner is a social learning theorist and consultant known for her work with international organizations, cross-boundary processes, and the use of new technologies. Brought up in Kenya, living most of her life in Portugal, with ten-year stints in UK and US, she is a cross-boundary person herself.

Beverly is co-founder of the Social Learning Lab in Sesimbra, Portugal. The purpose of the lab is to host workshops and events for people across the world and to become a wellspring of ideas, connections, and writing. Learning to make a difference and Systems convening are their two most recent publications.

## ALTERNATIVE BIOS

Not in any order or with any preference. Choose the one that best matches your needs.

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### Alternative 1

Beverly Wenger-Trayner is the co-founder of The Social Learning Lab and an internationally renowned social learning theorist and consultant who has worked for organizations ranging from The World Bank, The Nuclear Threat Initiative, ABInBev, to the Center for Competency in Humanitarian Negotiations. She is the co-author of two books and numerous resources about social learning leadership.

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### Alternative 2

Beverly Wenger-Trayner is a social learning theorist and consultant known for her work with international organizations, cross-boundary processes, and the use of new technologies. By day she's at her computer working with clients, writing books, reports, or manuals, or getting things organized for the next event. At night she's busy wondering how she got here, why the world or her kids are as they are, and if she's making the most of who she is.

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### Alternative 3

Hi, I'm Bev. I'm a social learning theorist and consultant. I can already see my family's eyes roll – but what do you actually do for your work, mum?

I work with people, projects, and organizations who are trying to make difference. Not because I know what they should do, but because I can think strategically and practically about what to do when no one person holds the answer about what should be done. And, most importantly, I'm ready to learn on the go because we don't know until we try. I talk, I think, I analyze, I reflect, I imagine, I organize, I bob and weave and do, I wonder, I frame and reframe ... and I write stuff. And while I can do it on my own, the results are invariably better when I'm engaging with the voices of others who have similar or different experiences and perspectives. (NOTE FROM ETIENNE: No wonder their eyes roll!)

Click on the link below to access my images folder.

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DOWNLOAD



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## Trajectory

### Consultancy

1999 saw the start of my consultancy work when I took on a tutoring position for the Online Education and Training course with the University of London. At the time I was mostly a lecturer at a Business School in Portugal. As I got offered more projects I left Higher Ed and started my own company in 2007.

### Brief history

Before that I had been working for the British Council and freelancing at Universities in Lisbon. Until 1989 I was living in UK where I was a community development worker sponsored by Oxfam and Christian Aid to promote aid, trade and human rights in the city of Leicester. A Master's degree in Development Studies started me on that journey. Previously, and on a different track, I worked for a Marine Consultancy as I figured out what to do with a degree in Business Studies.

# Global nomad

An ex global nomad

I'm now based in Sesimbra, Portugal – a smaller but neighboring town to Setúbal. Portugal has been my home for 30 years, with a ten year break, living in Grass Valley, California. Before that I lived in U.K. for ten years. I was brought up in Mombasa, Kenya where I lived for my first twenty years. A lot of life before COVID was spent on the road, traveling internationally. Nowadays I want nothing more than to stay put.

## Publications

Wenger-Trayner, B., Wenger-Trayner E. (2019) Designing for change: How empowered students can lead an education revolution. Stanford University.

Wenger-Trayner, B., Wenger-Trayner, E., Eryigit-Madzwamuse, S., Cameron, J., and Hart, A. (2017) Boundaries and boundary objects: an evaluation framework for mixed methods research. Accepted for publication by the Journal of Mixed-Methods Research

Wenger-Trayner, B. (2017). Financial governance: accounting for social learning in a regional network in Africa. Journal of Knowledge Management for Development. Vol 13, No 3

Wenger-Trayner, E., Wenger-Trayner B. (2016) Communities of practice go to university. Foreword in McDonald, Jacquie and Cater-Steel, Aileen (eds.) Communities of practice: facilitating social learning in higher education. Springer Nature

Wenger-Trayner, E., and Wenger-Trayner, B. (2014) Learning in landscapes of practice: a framework. In Wenger-Trayner, E., Fenton-O'Creevy, M., Hutchinson, S., Kubiak, C., and Wenger-Trayner, B. (Eds.) Learning in landscapes of practice: boundaries, identity, and knowledgeability in practice-based learning. Routledge

Wenger-Trayner, B., and Wenger-Trayner, E. (2014) Systems conveners in complex landscapes. In Wenger-Trayner, E., Fenton-O'Creevy, M., Hutchinson, S., Kubiak, C., and Wenger-Trayner, B. (Eds.) Learning in landscapes of practice: boundaries, identity, and knowledgeability in practice-based learning. Routledge

Wenger-Trayner, B. (2014) Learning partnerships in the program for capacity building to strengthen good financial governance in Southern and Eastern Africa. Available at <http://wenger-trayner.com/resources/publications/strategic-evaluation-of-network-activities/>

Wenger, E., Trayner, B., and de Laat, M. (2011) Promoting and assessing value creation in communities and networks: a conceptual framework. Rapport 18, Ruud de Moor Centrum, Open University of the Netherlands

Arnold, P., Smith, J. & Trayner, B. "One more tool – or exploring the practice of introducing new technologies in dispersed communities", Springer Publishers.

Arnold, P., Smith, J. & Trayner, B. (2009) "Where do we meet next time? – negotiating places, identities and technologies in an autoethnography of a community of practice" Observatorio (OBS\*), OberCom, Lisbon.

Arnold, P., Smith, J. & Trayner, B. (2007) "Narrative, community memory and technologies – or writing a literature review in high modernity". In Community Informatics, Identity and Empowerment, Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Trayner, B., Smith, J. & Bettoni, M. (2007) "Participation in International Virtual Learning Communities: a Social Learning Perspective". In Web Information Systems and Technologies, Springer Publishers.

Arnold, P., Smith, J., Trayner, B. (2006) "Narrative: designing for context in virtual settings". In Managing Learning in Virtual Settings: the Role of Context, Figueiredo, A.D. e Afonso, A.P (eds) Hershey, PA: Idea Group, Inc.

Trayner, B. (2004) "Babel in the international café". In Communities and Technologies, Huysman, M. Wenger, E. Wulf, V. (eds) Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Mavor, S. & Trayner, B. (2003) "Exclusion in international online learning communities". In Electronic Learning Communities: Current Issues and Best Practices, Reisman, S. (eds) Connecticut: Information Age Publishing.

Trayner, B. Matos, J.P., Silva, A.F. "Comunidades de Prática: Partilha de Experiências e Saberes" in S@bER+, Revista para o Desenvolvimento da Educação e Formação de Adultos No 15, Dezembro. 2002.

Mavor S., & Trayner, B. "Aligning Genre with Practice: an Interdisciplinary Perspective for Course Design and Teaching in Higher Education". In International Journal of Languages for Specific Purposes, Vol 20, nº 4, April 2002, Pergamon Press, Elsevier Science.





## Some traits

### Pioneering

I have a strong pioneering and inventive streak that has become sharper and more focused over the years.

### Global

My early activism in global politics and justice, followed by an involvement in teaching English as an international language, has grown into an interest in new literacies, systems convening, governance and accountability. I'm interested in how these enhance the social learning capability of a system at multiple levels of scale.

### Playful

Like my mother, who was playing on the internet before most people had even heard of it, I love messing about with online tools and apps.

### Empathic

I am an experienced facilitator in many different settings – and have been successful in bringing unlikely people together to work on common goals.

### Distributed

I'm good at coordinating distributed teams and at getting things done at a distance. While my tendency is to be very organized I also thrive on improvising and on the unexpected.

### Researcher and writer

Researching and writing are things I love doing – although this gets overshadowed as I live with a master wordsmith who has written seminal works!



# Personal bio

## Work-life partnership

I live and work in partnership with Etienne Wenger-Trayner. We have shared the same last name since we got married in September, 2011. We think we're living happily ever after.

## Kids

Etienne and I have five kids between us, two of whom are mine. My son is part of the Mavor-Trayner endeavor. Sally Mavor and I were co-authors and close friends. When she died in 2003 I adopted her son.

## Interests

I love sports and playing more generally. Kids give you a good round around. I'm training to be a ninja (Bujinkan Budo Taijutsu) and play tennis regularly and do yoga. I'm a trained yoga instructor but haven't (yet) given classes. I like swimming, even in cold water. And I'm interested in wines and cooking when I have the time.



## Contact me

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## Social Media

