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Hi Bev

Here's wishing you renewed hopes and new beginnings in 2023.

And a big thank you to everyone we've worked with in the last year, everyone who has come to our events, everyone who shared their stories with us. We learn, grow, and get inspiration from our work and life with you.

This new year message starts with some reflections on 2022, followed by highlights for 2023.

2022 highlights

Great quote

Man, sometimes it takes a long time to sound like yourself. - Miles Davis

Interesting surprise

We had been concerned that COVID would cause some communities of practice to shut down. But this is not what happened. It took a global pandemic for some people to reach out to others in the same boat and ask each other "Yikes, what do we do now?"

A reconsideration

After the COVID restrictions, we were so relieved to plan some in-person and hybrid events that we neglected online workshops, even though they had worked surprisingly well. We'll have to rethink this in the coming year.

Humility

A weakness of our theorizing about social learning is that it has little to say about what happens when mental-health issues are involved.

Influential book

Heidegger's children by Richard Wolin, with a [brief review here](#).

Best photo

Sesimbra clouds - an ever-changing view from our lab. (Original pic., no edits)



2023 highlights

CoP guidebook

We're planning to formally publish our new guidebook on communities of practice at the end of January. We're excited! We'll send a separate newsletter about it then.

An event "cluster" in May

This year, at the Social Learning lab in Sesimbra, Portugal, we are experimenting with *event clusters* to make it worth your while if you are traveling from far. There is a weekend in-between events for some sightseeing. You can join single events or register for the cluster at a discount.

In May 2023, we have our second CoP summit, sandwiched between "Cultivating CoPs" and "Cutting-edge BEtreat":

Tuesday - Friday, May 16 - 19

Cultivating CoPs

Yearly state-of-the-art intro to our tools and frameworks and their application to your project.

Monday - Tuesday, May 22 - 23

CoP summit 2023

A chance to see what people are doing across sectors and regions, take leadership in discussing common challenges, and to network with other leaders.

Wednesday - Friday, May 24 - 26

Cutting-edge BEtreat

Exploring advanced themes: this year, the experience of "being" in a social learns space.



An annual summit

We're planning to grow the CoP summit into an annual event. We'd like to end up with an evolving "map" of what's happening in the world of CoPs. Here are some resources to invite others who might like to come:

- [Link to summit webpage](#)
- [A PDF leaflet about the summit](#)
- [A slideshow](#)

Calendar of events

Later in the year

We are also planning:

- A July state-of-the-art workshop in Bellingham, USA
- A September cluster of two three-day workshops on systems convening and monitoring/evaluation using our framework
- An October cluster of two four-day retreats: a reading retreat and a writing retreat



Resources

FAQ's

Throughout the year, we intend to keep adding some goodies to the resources section of our new website. Meantime, we have revamped our FAQs here.

See you in 2023!

Hopefully see you some time next year. Don't forget that as well as our own events we can also host your retreat, off-site, or training event at our lab.

Love!

Bev and Etienne



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