Hi Bev

There's something in the air. We've got three kinds of "translations" in the pipeline:

Translating social learning theory into micro-modules

The Danida Fellowship Center is creating short (5-minute) modules on social learning that will be publicly available later this year. Some are based on the interview with us for their Knowledge in Action talk streamed live from the Social Learning Lab in May. Watch it here.

And look out for the modules!

Translating the CoP guidebook into Ukrainian

Following the Arabic translation, we are proud to announce that a Ukrainian team has completed translating our guidebook on communities of practice in and across organizations.

Ukrainian book launch event:

- Friday June 13th

- 13:00-15:00 Kyiv time (12:00-14:00 Central European Time)

- [Join on Zoom](#)

- [Live stream on LinkedIn](#)

СПІЛЬНОТИ ПРАКТИКИ

ВСЕРЕДИНІ ТА МІЖ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЯМИ

Етьєн Венґер-Трейнер,
Беверлі Венґер-Трейнер,
Філ Рейд, Клод Брудерлейн

Translating cutting-edge conversations into tools

We had an exciting and productive "cutting-edge BEtreat" at the Social Learning Lab in May. These workshops build on an agenda negotiated at the event and based on what participants—all experienced social learning leaders—would like to produce or discuss. It was productive in the sense that everyone was committed to creating something new and useful.

Social learning sprint

One group designed a kit for a "mini crash course" to introduce social learning to their colleagues and managers. The idea is to give an introduction to, as well as a direct experience of, social learning in 90 minutes or less. We are producing a beta version to be published soon for anyone to use.

Intruders and intrusion

Another group identified different types of "intrusion" into social learning spaces. They created thirteen cards (plus one joker) featuring archetypes of intruders, what it looks like in practice, root causes, and mitigation strategies—including how intrusion can become enabling. The cards can be used for self-reflection (we're all guilty of intruding at one point or another!) or for helping point out to an intruder what he or she is doing.

These tools are being readied for publication. Stay tuned!

We also had some exploratory conversations:

Mental health

Etienne and Bev asked for an initial conversation about how to incorporate issues of mental health into their new book on social learning ethics. Mental health and its effect on society is an issue that is gaining increasing recognition and relevance in this century: we cannot ignore it when talking about something like social learning. If your

learning theory moves from "transmission" to mutual engagement in social learning spaces, you have to acknowledge that you are opening learning to a broader range of human experiences, including disruptive ones. The group agreed that this was an important topic to include, but questioned the framing in terms of mental health, which suggests diagnostic classification.

A social learning leader's mindset

The group began mapping skills, mindsets, attitudes and aptitudes of a social learning leader. They feel they made a start, but with a long way to go. It became clear that while there are overlap, there is a distinction between a facilitator mindset and a social learning leader's mindset. An unresolved question came up: does social learning leadership requires a shift in identity?

To be continued.

Use of AI

This was less of a topic of conversation and more an invitation to experiment. We used AI to record, transcribe, and summarise discussions. We used it to analyse where there were tensions in group discussions. We used it to join conversations and make suggestions. We used it to create an infographic of a conversation. While the use of AI was undeniably helpful for the work of the group, an interesting reflection about it was the question: are we just creating more "stuff"? While we use it to help with the work, to what extent are we creating more summaries, analyses, and things to think about? What's "good enough" and what's "too much stuff"?

Stay connected!

Bev and Etienne

in