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Hi Bev,

We've been deep in writing mode lately—two books are taking shape, we are creating some new practical tools, and we just wrapped up our first in-person writing workshop. Here's what we've been up to and what's coming in 2026.

Our first writing retreat was a winner

Last October, we held our first five-day reading/writing workshop here at the lab in Sesimbra. Five of us spent mornings writing and afternoons giving each other feedback—with meals together, lunches at the lab and dinners at local restaurants.



All round thumbs up for the food!

Four pieces

The group worked on four very different pieces:

- A PhD student rewriting her proposal at the request of her committee
- A management coach putting finishing touches on a book on leaders passing the baton

- An academic and coach co-editing a collection on social learning in coach education
- The two of us (Bev and Etienne) drafting our first chapter on "Intrusion in social learning spaces"

Learning

It was intense and energizing. What we learned:

- Five days is what it takes to make significant progress on a piece of writing
- Three people (maybe four) plus the two of us is the sweet spot if we want to do justice to each other's evolving pieces
- Sharing our own work for feedback, which everyone appreciated, gave the feeling that we're all in this together

The next Writing Retreat is October 12-16, 2026. If more than three or four people sign up, we'll host another one rather than squeeze in more participants.

Sign me up for the
writing retreat!

Two new books in progress

We're working on the next two volumes of our series on Learning to make a difference.

Social learning capability. This is a theory update—it re-articulates our social learning theory on the new foundation of social learning spaces. Think of it as a structured glossary for social learning theory, with clear explanations of key concepts and how they fit together. We are also hoping to include brief explorations of the implications for various areas, such as business, education, government, international development, health, international relations, etc.

Social learning ethic. This is about embodying the theory as a way of being in the world. What does it actually look and feel like to be a social learning citizen? What do we do? How do we open social learning spaces and address intrusion when it shows up? How do we maintain agency and identity as we move through different spaces?

These are two companion books that we hope to release at the same time.

Within the next 6-18 months, we'll have first drafts ready and we'd love feedback from readers who work in these areas. If you're interested in being an early reader, just reply and

let us know which book (or both!) sounds most relevant to your work.

Practical resources

To accompany these two books, we're also creating a suite of guides and tools for use in your practice. For examples:

- **Card deck on intruders** — A set of cards to help groups reflect on and discuss different types of intrusion in learning spaces (in partnership with Danida)
 - **Value creation guide** — A concise, ten-page practical guide to using the value-creation framework
 - **Leadership groups resource (updated)** — We first published this in 2013, and we are completely revising it based on what we've learned since.
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Teacher professional development

We have been commissioned by UNESCO to do some research on social learning approaches to teacher professional development. If you know of an outstanding innovative project, especially outside of Europe/USA/Canada, do let us know. We would like to speak with them.

2026 Workshops at the Social Learning Lab

All workshops are in Sesimbra, Portugal except the June workshop in Bellingham, Washington.

May

- May 12-15: Communities of practice (I)
- May 18-19: CoP summit
- May 20-22: Cutting-edge BEtreat

June

- June 23-26: Communities of practice and Systems Convening (Bellingham, WA, USA)

September

- Sept 9-11: Systems convening
- Sept 14-16: Beyond evaluation

October

- Oct 6-9: Maturing communities of practice (II)
- Oct 12-16: Reading/writing retreat

Take me to the
calendar!

Thanks for staying connected with our work. We'd love to see you at the lab this year—or hear from you about the books and resources we're developing.

Bev and Etienne

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