

Leadership within an International CoP for PhD Students: Person-centred Practice Research

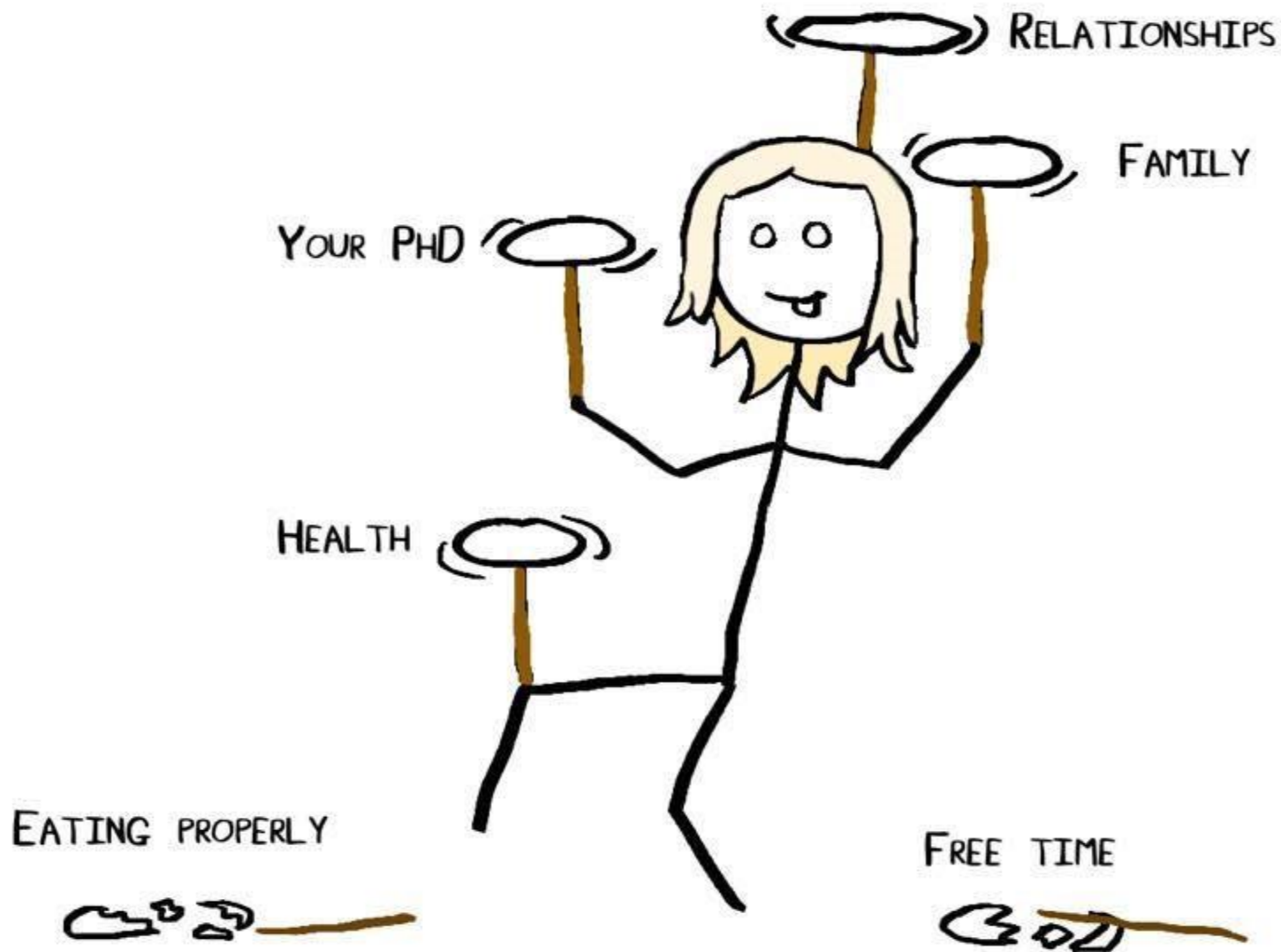
Professor Jan Dewing

**Sue Pembrey Chair in Nursing; Division of Nursing &
Director for the Centre of Person-centred Practice Research QMU Edinburgh
President: QMU Edinburgh Honor Society**



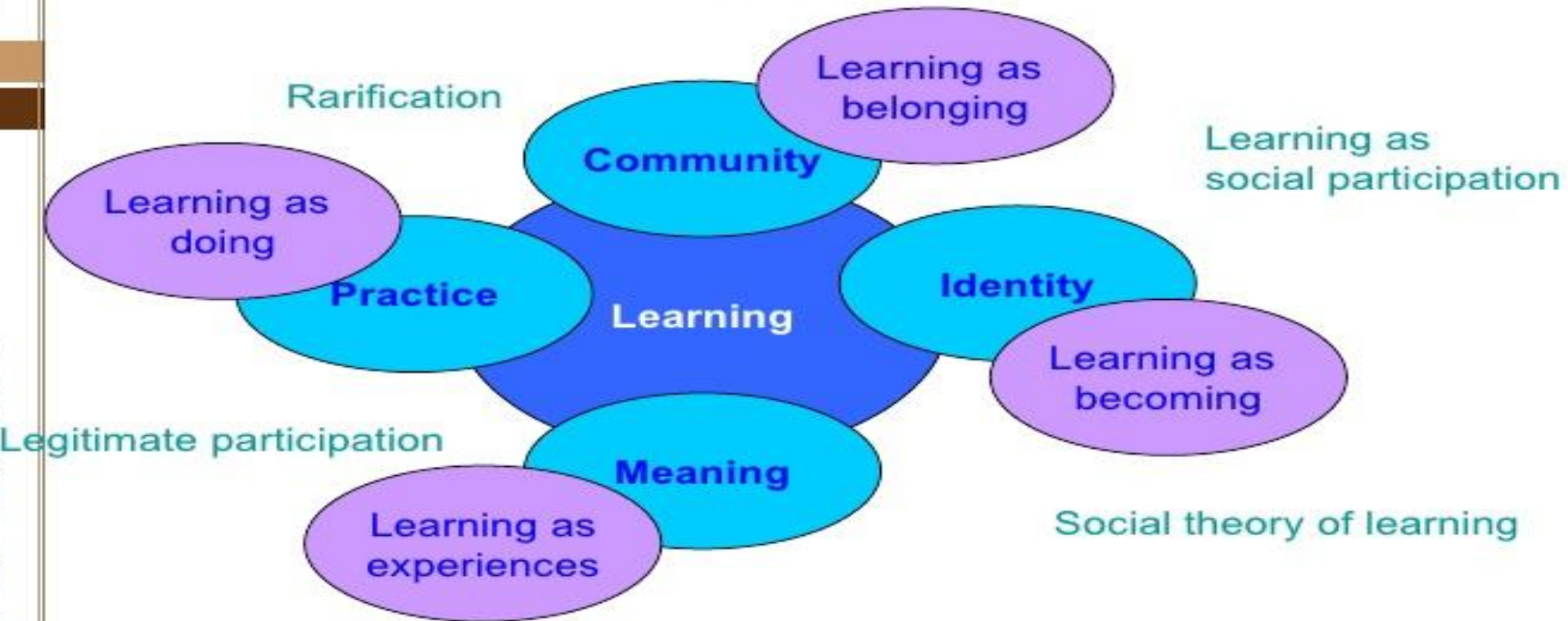
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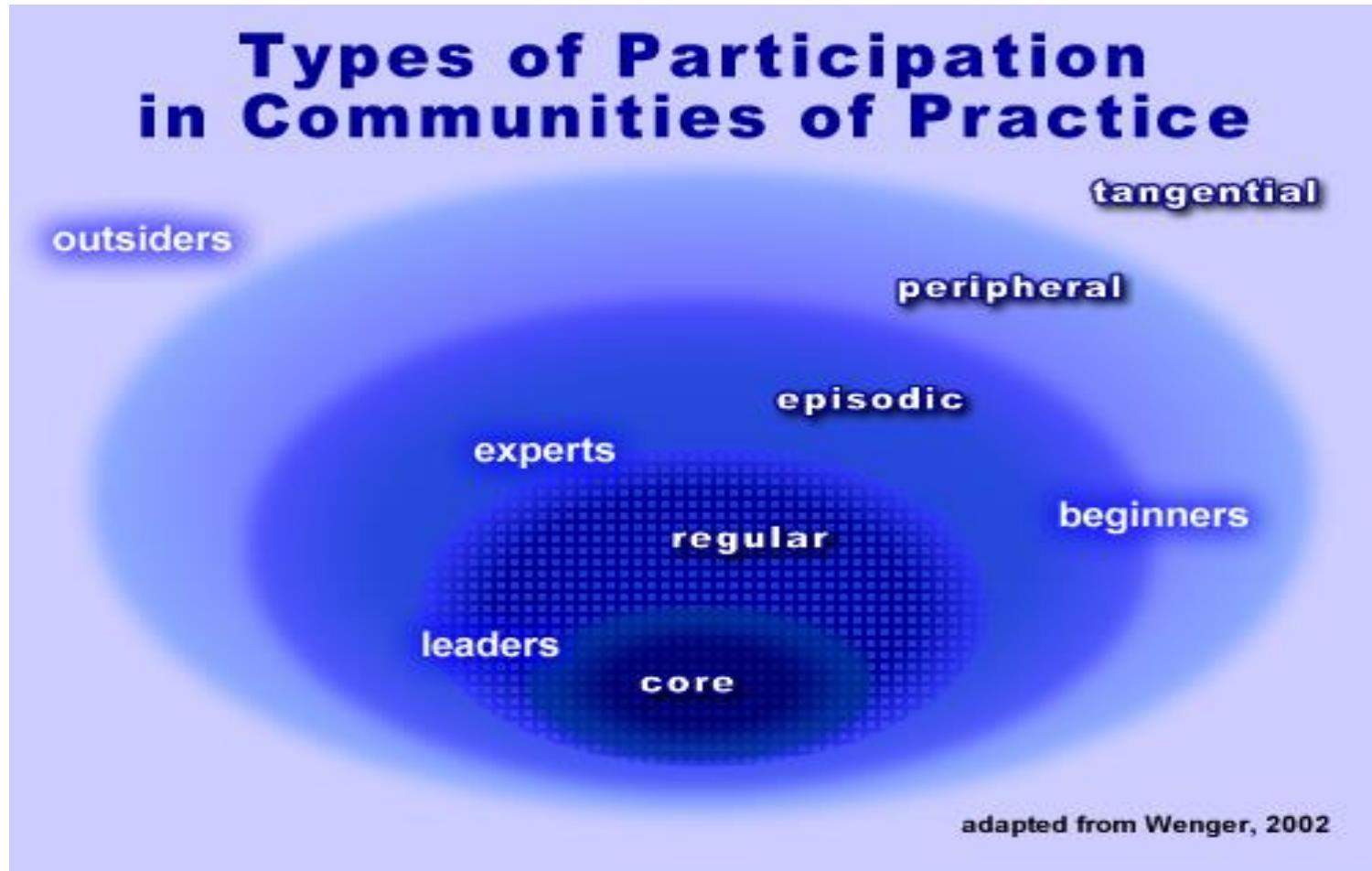


TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING DURING
A PHD CAN BE A BIT TRICKY

Wenger's Community of Practice



Domain, Community & Practice



Our History



- 2010 Initial PhD Student CoP set up at Ulster University Northern Ireland
- 2013 CoP moved academic homes and expanded and became part of a larger International Community of Practice
- 2017 20 members from different countries
- Mix of face to face and virtual sessions and connections
- focus is on person-centred participatory research



SICoP and the Four Elements

Fire is the passion at the hearth of the SICoP

Keeping true creativity alight

Diversity is honoured, inclusive interaction occurs

And warmth & acceptance burn bright

Water is our source, the stream of consciousness

That enables action research to flow

It invites wonderful imagination into our minds

And allows our knowledge to grow

Air is the element of energising space

Empowering SICoP members over time

The colours of their intellectual wisdom come together

To blend and to merge and to shine

Earth is the platform on which the SICoP stands

Spanning our research time and beyond

It honours the different constellations of its participants

And nourishes a life-long bond

By B.M. Lynch

Foundations: values and beliefs

Fire is the passion at
the hearth of the
SICoP

Keeping true creativity
alight

Diversity is honoured,
inclusive interaction
occurs

And warmth and
acceptance burn bright

‘Passion relates to the palpable feeling that I experience when the students in the SICoP share both the positive aspects and the challenges they are facing during the course of their PhD study and/or their present life experience.’

(Brighide)



Foundations: values and beliefs

Water is our source,
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It invites wonderful
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minds

And allows our
knowledge to grow

'The SICoP offers an atmosphere without competition. There are no wrong questions. [...] That was my experience at the first meeting I attended and I already had the feeling of being an accepted member of the group.'

(Francis)



Foundations: values and beliefs

Air is the element of
energising space

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and to shine

'Sharing our stories, struggles and triumphs, has sometimes felt like stepping into a green restful glade, becoming refreshed, re-energised and supported, better able to continue on my PhD journey.[...] Now, as I move closer to the end of my PhD journey, the SICoP feels more like a garden than a glade; a garden which we have tended and nourished and which holds new surprises for us every time we return.'

(Donna)



Foundations: values and beliefs

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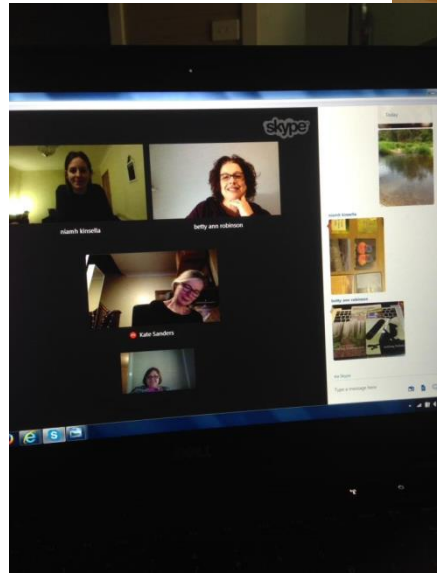
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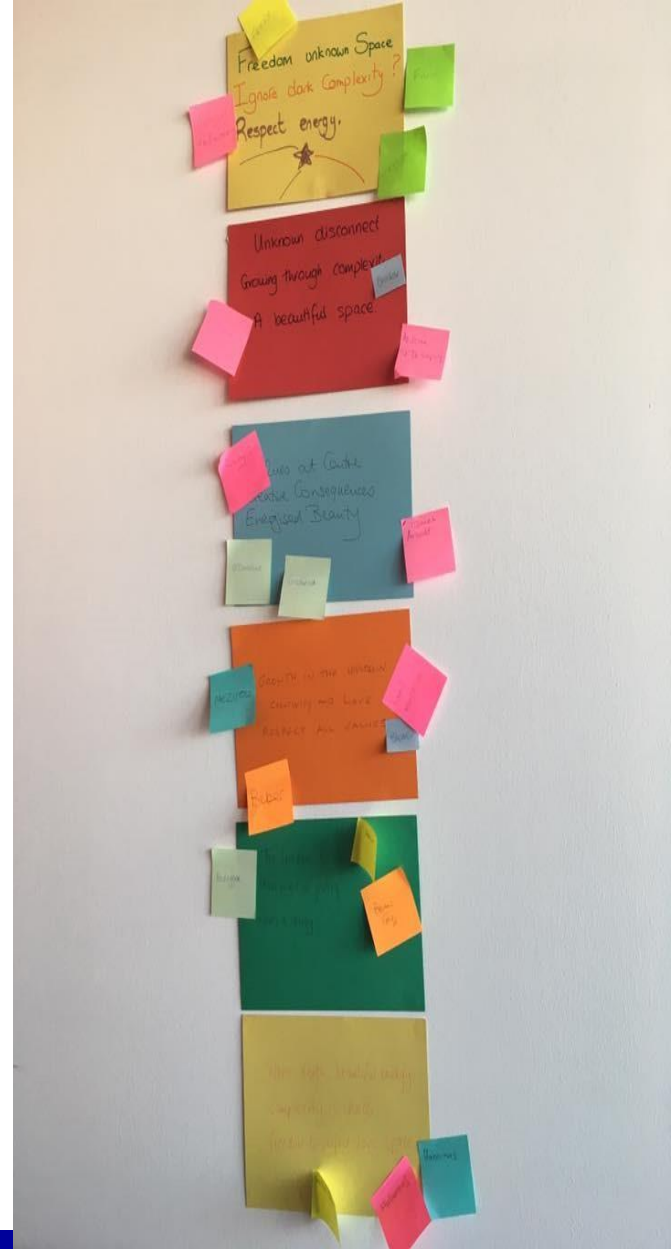
*'Spending the evening together
was just as important for
learning and bonding as the
structured daytime activities.
We started to "live" person-
centredness, getting to know
each other as individual
persons, not just PhD students'*

(Shaun)





Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH



April
2017

