

TRANSITIONING IN TURBULENT TIMES

Reconfiguration and Reframing

How should I think better about what to think about next?

Robert Burke

The motto of Melbourne University is *Postera crescam laude* – which means to grow in the esteem of future generations. If we are to grow in the esteem of future generations we will need to ensure they have one. Leaders and organisations themselves are becoming more conscious – self-aware and reflective. But are they changing quickly enough to deserve the esteem of future generations?

I believe we are moving, albeit slowly, from the command-control ego-driven organisation to the learning organisation to the learning and healing organisation. Each step involves seeing the organisation less in mechanical terms and more in Gaian living terms. The key organisational asset becomes its human assets, its collective memory and its shared vision.

The problem is that the command-control ego driven organisation is still very dominant as is the command-control ego driven government. For example, if we are to overcome the threat of global warming, attitudes and worldviews about regulatory frameworks will have to change from regulations that are based on national self-interest to global sovereignty. The elements that make up this ethic of control are founded on certain habits of thought and action. The late Michael White of narrative practice fame put it this way (Michael White (2011) 'Narrative Practice: Continuing the conversations p.111) I have added the titles:

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY	GLOBAL SOVEREIGNTY
ETHIC OF CONTROL	ETHIC OF CARE
On my terms	Trusting of others
Control of self/others as priority	Partnership/cooperation as priority
Continued responses	Responsiveness to others
On automatic	Spontaneity
Seen to be right	Honesty in regard to truth and personal failings
Emotionally disconnected	Emotionally connected
Sense of entitlement	Humility
The elements that make up this ethic of control are founded on certain habits of thought and action. These habits of thought and action can be quite intoxicating and toxic. Giving one's life over to these habits renders one's life an instrument of the ethic of control.	The elements that make up this ethic of care are founded on integrity and on certain skills of relationship that open space for one's own life and for the lives of others. Engaging with this ethic contributes to the development of a congruence of preferred purpose, values, beliefs, hopes, and dreams, on the one hand, and on one's actions, on the other hand.

Source: Adapted from Michael White (2011) 'Narrative Practice: Continuing the conversations p.111

In my view the learning and healing organisation means exploring more about how you learn and the influence of that on your own particular worldview. Some contemporary worldviews that deserve exploring are the following, sourced from:

<http://hsc.csu.edu/pta/scansw/images/futgraph.gif>

What Worldviews What questions	Left wing, Socialist, Contemporary	Right wing, Modernistic, Private enterprise	Alternative economics, Green	Doomsday, Conspiratorial, Fundamentalist	De-constructivist, Post modernist	Evolutionary, Constructivist, New era
Is the future dark or bright?	Bright	Bright	Gloomy (realistic?)	Dark for world, Bright for saved	Uncertain	Bright
What matters most?	The state, the masses, the group (Sociocentric)	The economy and its growth (Econocentric)	The planet and its life (Ecocentric)	God and his plan for mankind (Theocentric)	The autonomous individual (Egocentric)	Consciousness and the evolving life process (Biophillic)
What are the sources and nature of knowledge?	Materialist science and Marxist-Leninist traditions	Science and technology provide information	Critical theory and concerned science	The scriptures	Philosophy, cultural theory, linguistics literary criticism	The constructive, participatory process found in life and the universe
What are the roles of private citizens and government?	Governments play a major role in ownership of means of production and in social control	Minimum of government is desirable. Corporations have great power and influence	Government must ensure justice, reduce poverty and disease, assist conservation and sustainable development	"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's". Be law-abiding but use your influence for moral good	Governments should enhance freedom and encourage creative activity	Governments, local, regional, national should encourage envisioning, insight and creativity in education and planning

Exploring our own worldview is the process of "what I see with a thought".

During my psychotherapy studies I was taught that there are Nine Senses – Internal & External, and a failure to understand the impact of them can lead to confused and limited self-awareness. These nine senses are:

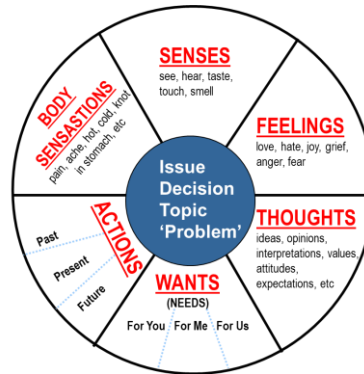
1. See
2. Hear
3. Taste
4. Touch
5. Smell
6. External voice
7. Internal voice
8. Internal feelings
9. External body sensations

There are thought to be six emotions associated with awareness; love, hate, fear, anger, joy, and grief. Love and hate are on a continuum as is fear and anger. Joy ranges from mild to ecstasy, and grief is entirely individual. Jealousy may be a combination of fear and lack of self-love and also shame and guilt.

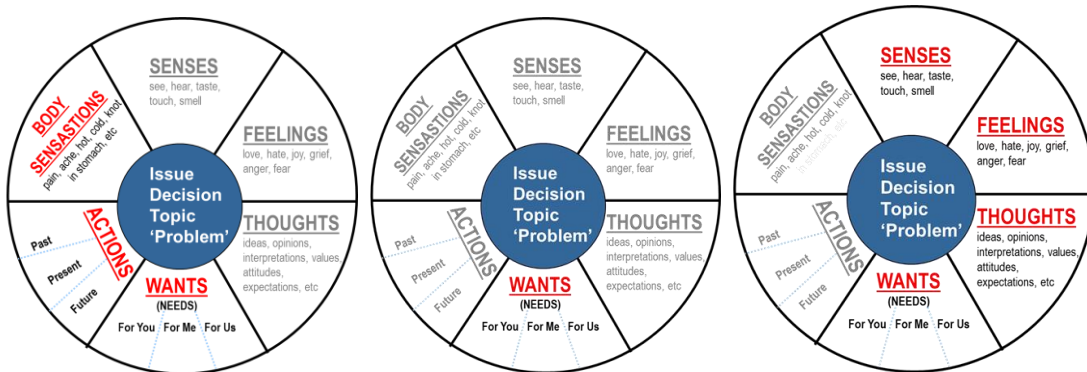
The self-awareness wheel is a method of helping yourself and others to be less confused and less limited about their own self-awareness and their own worldview.

What the self-awareness wheel is and how to use it is illustrated below:

Self-awareness wheel



Confused / Limited Awareness



How to use the self-awareness model

