



TU Delft

PARTICIPATORY VALUE EVALUATION

NEW MYTHS



Connor
McMullen

HOW TO USE THIS WORKSHOP?

- You'll need something to write with
 - Printed worksheets, but easily done online. Do what's comfortable.
- You'll need something to write about. It could be your project, or research, or anything else you want to try to make sense of.

An experiment in
participatory sense-making
through storytelling.

Writing is a uniquely solitary
process.

SOME RULES

- Have Fun!
- Safe Space?
- We're going to play, share and discover together. Enjoy the adventure.
- "All models are wrong, some models are useful."
 - George Box, 1976

TODAY'S PLAN

- **Warm-up & Reading**
 - 20 minutes
- **Workshop Session A**
 - 15 minutes
- **Break**
 - 15 minutes
- **Workshop Sessions B, C, D**
 - 15 minutes
- **Break**
 - 15 minutes
- **Stage Performances**
 - 30 minutes
- **Cooldown**
 - 15 minutes

Today will be a running a condensed version of this plan.

NEW MYTHS?

- “Paradoxically, as science prospered materially, in the public mind it has lost its ideological function as the unique bearer of the True, and therefore of the Good. Now the challenges of global environmental and other complex political and technical issues present new tasks for science; and in future, instead of discovery and application of facts, the new most public achievements for science will be made in this work.”
 - Funtowicz & Ravetz, 1990
- “Myths are other people’s religion. Well, what’s religion? It’s a popular misinterpretation of poetry.”
 - Joseph Campbell, Lectures on Mythology
- “Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful.”
 - Rita Dove



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

- “ All the world’s a stage,
And all the men and women merely players...”

- William Shakespeare, As You Like It, 1603

What part do you play?

- “But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.”

- George Orwell, Politics and The English Language, 1946

Our *lingua franca* is hyper-specific.

- “What is a net, but a collection of holes tied together with string?”

- Alan Watts (origin unknown)

What happens when we see new metaphors?

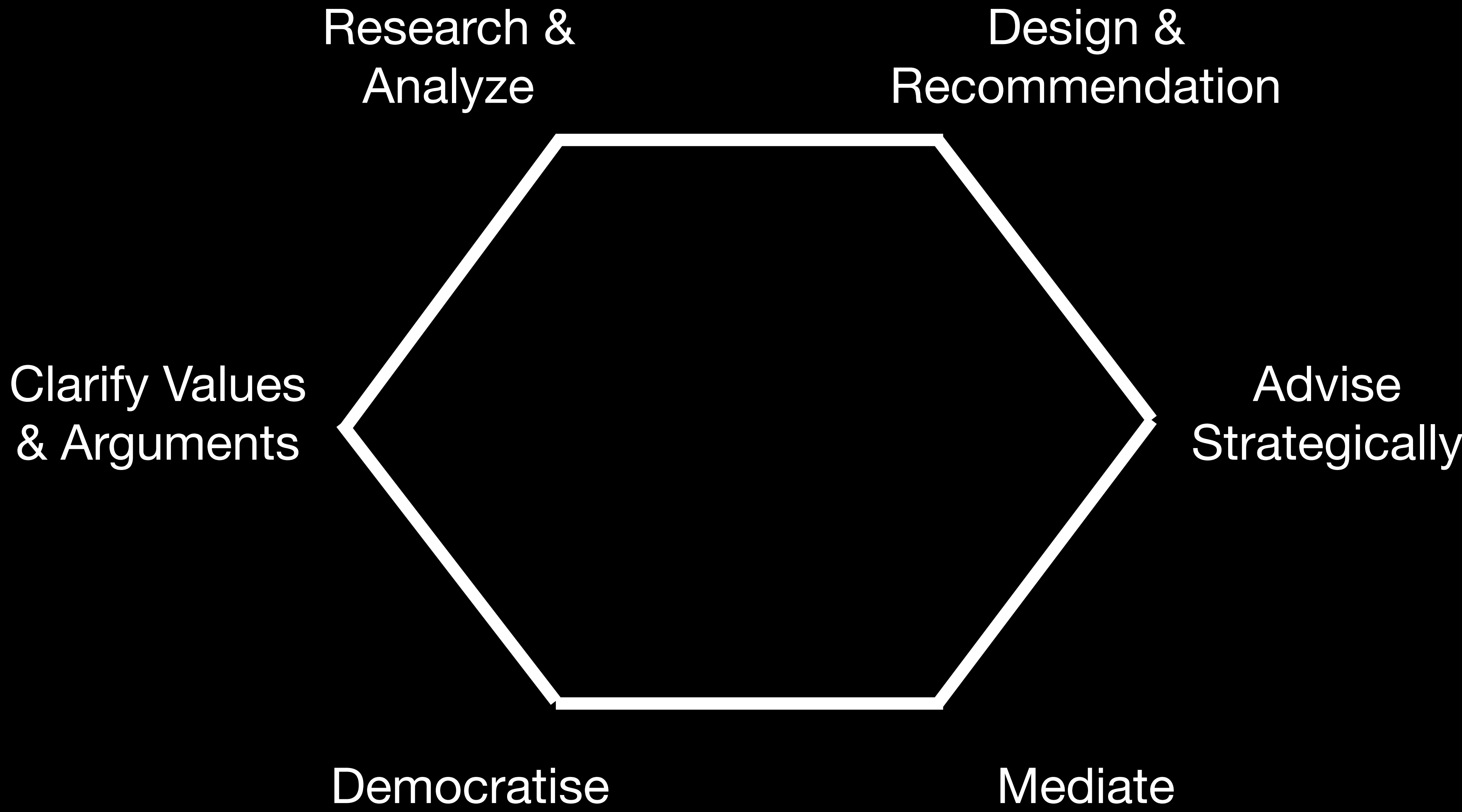
TOOLS OF THE TRADE II

- “We are not claiming that physical experience is in any way more basic than other kinds of experience...Rather, what we are claiming about grounding is that we typically conceptualize the nonphysical in terms of the physical—that is, we conceptualize the less clearly delineated in terms of the more clearly delineated.”
 - Lackhoff & Johnson, *Metaphors We Live By*, 1980
- Metaphorical Muscles
 - Telling stories
 - Sharing stories
 - Sharing experiences
 - Exchanging experiences

Grounding the abstract.

What changed about the *denotation*?

What changed about the *connotation*?





CREATING CONFLICT

- “It was a pleasure to burn.”
 - Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451, 1953
- “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...”
 - Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities, 1859
- “It was a dark and stormy night.”
- “Once upon a time...”

Introduces potential for conflict. Info.

Encapsulates message. Beauty.

Shared signals and emotions.

OPENING LINES II

- “There is a problem in the world.”
 - Bob van der Laaken
- “In a gentle way, you can shake the world.”
 - Mahatma Gandhi
- “Every villain is a hero of his or her own story.”
 - Christopher Vogler, Writer’s Journey, 1992
- “Maybe there is a beast...maybe it's only us.”
 - William Golding, Lord of the Flies, 1954

The hidden sentence.

Don’t declare disaster.

Take care with framing.

Try framing the problem as
from within, instead of
without.



PARTNERS IN PARTICIPATION

- “No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true.”
 - Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter, 1950
- “I am not who you think I am; I am not who I think I am; I am who I think you think I am.”
 - Dennis Cooley, Inscriptions: Prairie Poetry, 1992

What masks do we wear?

Who sees them?

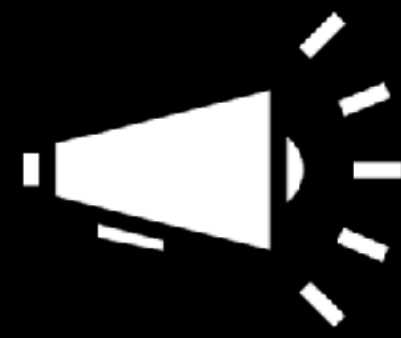
PARTNERS IN PARTICIPATION II



Created by Malbosz Kowalewski
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Hero

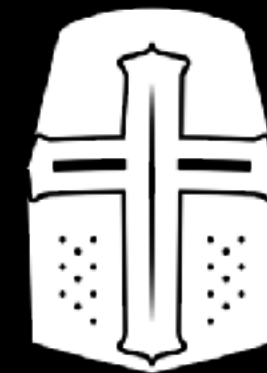
Searching for wholeness
Main function is to grow



Created by Chamaleon Design
from Noun Project

Herald

Issues challenge
Can be positive or negative



Created by Domián Pasignani
from Noun Project

Threshold Guardian

Tests if hero is ready to enter
special world



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Mentor

Gives gifts...that are earned
Guides hero for part of journey



Created by b farias
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Ally

Equals or sidekicks
Can be turned good or bad



Created by Maxicons
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Shadow

A worthy opponent
Often chases or challenges



Created by Linevectors
from Noun Project

Trickster

Cuts down larger characters
Challenges status quo



Created by sulpanh
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Shapeshifter

Catalyst for change
Keeps Hero guessing



WHAT'S THE POINT?

- “It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.”
 - J. K. Rowling, Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets, 2002
- “The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places.”
 - Ernest Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms, 1929

What hard choices are you enabling?

Who will break?
Who will heal?

What does this approach change for a community?
For an organization? For an individual?



EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES

- “You need three things in the theatre – the play, the actors and the audience, and each must give something.”
 - Kenneth Haigh

COOLDOWN I

- What have we created?
- Joseph Campbell's Four Functions of Mythology
 - Mystical
 - Cosmological
 - Sociological
 - Pedagogical



COOLDOWN II

- What have we used?
 - Post-Normal Science
 - Funtowicz & Ravetz (several, early 1990's)
 - Hexagon Model
 - Mayer, van Daleen, Bots (2004)
 - Character Archetypes
 - Christopher Vogler (1992), based on the works of Joseph Campbell
 - Literature, Framing & Metaphor

COOLDOWN III

- What are the next steps?
 - For you: Weaving a web of stories nested under one grand narrative.
 - For me: Improves, adjustments and changes.
 - For us: Keep telling stories!

THANK YOU!