

Summary

Email and Societal Norms Discussed

Randy and Matthew discussed an email Randy had sent concerning the inner and outer circles. Matthew confirmed that he had read the email and found it to be insightful. Randy also shared his experiences with a German girlfriend who questioned common societal norms, drawing parallels to the concept of being on the outer circle and hearing things that those on the inner circle might not.

Progress and Guest Speakers in Abt. Framework Course

In the eighth session of the Abt. Framework course, Randy and Matthew welcomed Dr. Nancy Oldnell as a guest speaker. Matthew provided updates on the progress of the course, including positive feedback from week two of working circles and a call for volunteers on November 8th and 9th. Randy introduced the old inner circle, outer circle diagram and mentioned that books have been distributed by Rachel Hardison. Randy also discussed the progress of a recruited writer and two structuralists in understanding science over the years, and introduced two guest lecturers, Scienta Pedilla and Park Hal. For next week, Randy introduced Brian Palermo, a trained actor, who will be focusing on improv techniques for listening.

Diabetic Ulcers and Wound Care: A Discussion on Amputations and Access to Care

Maya discussed the issue of diabetic ulcers being a leading cause of amputations in the U.S. and the importance of regular wound care and offloading. Randy provided feedback on Maya's work, suggesting a more positive framing and emphasis on improving access to high-quality diabetic care. They also discussed the concept of defining stories and the journey from point A to point B. The meeting was momentarily interrupted due to technical issues. Upon resuming, they continued their discussion on the reason why patients weren't receiving well-validated interventions, concluding that it was due to a lack of access to high-quality diabetic foot care.

Intervention, Narrative, and Storytelling: Focusing on Borderline Personality Disorder

Maya and Randy emphasized the need for a more specific and persuasive intervention, and discussed the importance of understanding the audience's needs. Later, Randy and Seyma reviewed Seyma's work on Borderline Personality Disorder and agreed on the need for a more focused narrative, exploring the link between ovarian hormone fluctuations and BPD symptoms. They also discussed the high suicidal ideation rates among individuals with BPD and the need for more effective treatments. The team also discussed the use of storytelling to communicate the severity of the issue and the potential for positive change. Randy suggested structuring the narrative around a dream, a nightmare, and an action plan, using the acronym 'Abt'. BK shared his experience from a previous working circle and the group discussed the 'Abt' framework in relation to cardiovascular disease. The conversation concluded with Randy summarizing the key takeaways from the meeting and encouraging the use of the 'conversational Abt' framework to distill complex ideas into simple, compelling narratives.

Roadmap and Public Communication Emphasized

He emphasized the need for a clear and simple roadmap to address this issue. Finally, Nancy introduced herself as a marine scientist who has shifted her focus towards communicating science to the general public through writing and social media.

Narrative Power: Focusing on Solutions in Science and Conservation

Nancy shared her experiences in science and conservation, highlighting the significance of focusing on solutions rather than just the problems. She introduced initiatives such as a Twitter campaign and ocean earth optimism summits to showcase positive actions. Nancy

compared medicine and planet health, stressing the importance of effective communication in both fields. She emphasized that while facts are crucial, a compelling narrative is necessary to engage audiences, especially in politically charged contexts. Nancy warned against a sole focus on problems and emphasized the need for a positive narrative that includes solutions and successes. Matthew confirmed that they had previously discussed the basics of Joseph Campbell's hero's journey in a class.

Activism and Environmentalism in Aaron Brockovich and Rachel Carson's Stories

Nancy presented the stories of Aaron Brockovich and Rachel Carson, who both experienced significant changes in their ordinary worlds. Brockovich, initially unemployed, discovered evidence of her community's poisoned water and became an activist, eventually leading to a lawsuit against Pacific Electric for over 300 million. Carson, known for her nature writings, became aware of toxins and confronted the chemical industry, leading to the banning of Ddt in 1972. Nancy discussed the theme of Carson's work, focusing on the hero's journey and the use of dream and nightmare constructs. She highlighted Carson's idyllic description of a beautiful natural world at the beginning of the book, which was later followed by a mysterious blight and maladies. Nancy also mentioned how Carson amplified the pain to make the story more powerful and revealed her intention to show that such bad things had happened to many communities around the world.

Narrative, Progress, and Coping Mechanisms in Conservation.

Nancy discussed the importance of creating a narrative to show progress in solving problems and building momentum. She used the example of conservation successes, starting from the publication of "Silent Spring" in 1962 to the DDT ban in 1970, and beyond. She acknowledged that progress is not always linear and mentioned the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement in 2017, but the subsequent reentry in 2019. Matthew asked about strategies for maintaining optimism, and Nancy shared her personal coping mechanisms. Randy praised Nancy for embodying the principles of the Aldo Leopoldo Fellow training program and for effectively synthesizing the material. He also emphasized the importance of active listening in communication and mentioned a forthcoming presentation by Brian Palermo.