

24. Net positions.

Focusing on the net results involves the consideration of the way to reach them. A general misconception identifies the result with the sole goals, and tends to reach them by any means necessary. In care-work, means are part of the goal themselves, just as we are part of the context.

The point is if the results are congruent with the given aims and goals. The point is to whom they belong, if to individuals-in-need or to self-maintaining the structure. For this I consider thought-provoking to always look at the positions and movements of anyone taking the floor. I consider interesting to see what part each actor is taking.

When analysing the evolution of a relation of care, it is interesting to imagine the various positions as dots on white paper, and follow their movements. The dots, once connected, usually are quite evocative.

Having the courage and the curiosity to connect the dots looking backward lead to learn how to draw an inner portrayal.

There is no other way than to look inside backward. People just « ... can't connect the dots looking forward, you can only connect them looking backwards ... believing that the dots will connect down the road will give you the confidence to follow your heart, even when it leads you off the well worn path...»⁸⁶

In my work, I always like to remember that without questioning our own inner dots to define our positions and movements, it is hard to become part of any solution.

If one is not participating to the solutions, it is usually part of the problem.

If one lives in the lowland in the middle of nowhere, there won't be

⁸⁶ Ref.: Steve Jobs Speech at Stanford, 2005

any problem to consider the earth as flat. Everyone knows it is not, but look around: from a lowland in the middle of nowhere, it really looks flat.

Stepping at this competence might sounds naif for some, closed minded for others. It is not a problem by itself. Not even an issue, except in term of aesthetic. Unless one decides to sail to India. Then the prejudices strongly influence the journey and the net results. Columbus spoke the glory of this story of progress and innovation, while natives felt the effects.

The point is not to choose between a half loaf or no bread. It is not the question between a bird in the hand or two in the bush. The question is what one makes out of it, and how.

The key point calls in to question one's position, movement and the inner grammar under which one is doing something. Or one is skipping to do something. Again, the role of the “do” and “do-not” part are on the floor.

As a math professor taught me over 20 years ago, when there is a problem, one can apply the given rules, or challenge own competence and find a creative way to solve it instead. When there is a problem, a solution is always implied. There are no reason to worry on the problems; if we don't, a lot of energy (and activities, as the Greek ancestors called it) will be available instead of angst. Going for the solutions might be more productive, ethical and decent. It also avoid the risk of becoming stactical, stacked in a given position. It would free the energy to circulate around, the body will appreciate.

Opposite, when one decides or prefers to take position, it tends to become stactical. The logical consequence is the need to keep and maintain that given position. The whole net results would end up with a defensive struggle to repeat usual movements, to reproduce the problem and the status quo. The risk to become part of the problem increases. A person-in-need might secretly agree with my math teacher, and wish that the care-worker went out in the green and got wacky, instead.