

# Coaching psykologi

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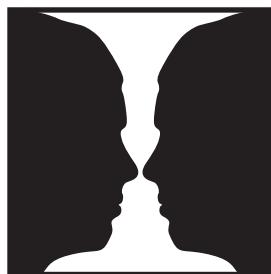
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3-4 February 2015 – 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Coaching Psychology  
**EXCELLENCE ACROSS BORDERS**

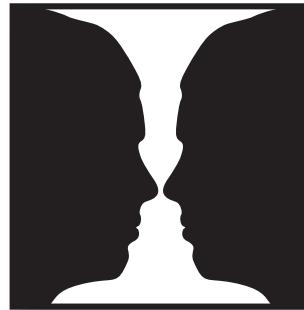
5-8 February 2015 – Society of Consulting Psychology Mid-Winter Conference  
**FIT TO CONSULT?**



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## Formanden har ordet

Af Jens Boris Larsen

Vi har sikkert alle været ude for, at nogen har spurgt os, om vi er enige i, at coaching er et modelune, et forbigående fænomen, som vi dyrker for en stund, inden vi går videre til det næste modelune.

Det er ikke sådan, at jeg ikke mener, at markedet for coaching ikke kan ændre sig. Menneskers præferencer for, hvad de efterspørger, kan naturligvis ændre sig for coaching, som det gælder for alt andet. Disse ændrede præferencer kan give sig udtryk i, at nogle ikke længere efterspørger coaching, at der stilles andre krav til den coaching, som de vil betale for, eller at man endda ønsker at bruge coaching i endnu højere grad end tidligere, fordi man har fundet en form, som man synes, man virkelig kan bruge til noget.

I sig selv kan dette ikke afgøre, om coaching er et modelune, omend det forhold at coaching stadigvæk efterspørges af private og offentlige virksomheder og af enkeltpersoner i højere grad kunne indikere, at det ikke var tilfældet.

En del af problemet med at komme tættere på sagens kerne kan skyldes, at det er en udfordring at indkredse helt præcist, hvad coaching er, eller at de, der mener, at coaching er et modelune, begår den basale logiske fejl at sætte lighedstegn mellem den form for coaching, som de kender til, med hvad coaching egentlig er – eller også kan være. Man kan

også tale om coaching på en måde, så det virker oversolgt og ”hypet”, selvom der i denne ”hype” kan gemme sig en substans, der faktisk har varig værdi. Når ”hypen” bliver figuren, der skubber substansen i baggrunden, så kan man komme til at tro, at ”hypen” omkring coaching er coachingen selv og begå en fejl, der minder om den, hvor man ikke opdager, at den coaching man kender til – og hvordan man taler om den – i virkeligheden kun er udtryk for en mindre del af det samlede coachingfelt.

Løsningen på disse problemer består bl.a. i at skære alt det overflødige væk og, hvad der kendtegner coaching i sin almene form. Hvis coaching ikke skulle være et modelune, må dens almene form have aspekter, som har værdi, også når tidsmodetendenser skifter. Dette synes faktisk at være tilfældet.

Jeg vil således mene, at det er muligt at argumentere overbevisende for, at coaching er intimt forbundet til (refleksion over og udvikling af) menneskelig handling. Det er dette, som alle coachingformer har til fælles. Der, hvor de adskiller sig fra hinanden, og nogle gange i væsentlig grad, så man nærmest ikke kan fatte, at der skulle være tale om coaching, der kan komme ind under denne almene form, er deres forståelse af, hvad det vil sige, hvad formålet med coaching er, hvor og hvordan og på

hvad man lægger vægten, og hvordan det gøres i praksis – om man tænker lineært eller cirkulært, simpelt eller komplekst, i enkeltpersoner, i relationer eller i kontekster osv.

At denne form i en vis forstand er tidløs hænger sammen med de egenskaber, som kendetegner menneskelig handling til alle tider og steder – fx at mennesker handler, at mennesker, når de handler, handler på baggrund af deres præferencer, og at disse handlinger har til hensigt at gå fra en mindre ønsket tilstand til en mere ønsket tilstand. Et yderligere aspekt, der så at sige er indbygget i betingelserne for menneskelig handling er, at fremtiden er uvis med potentiel set mange muligheder, der kan sættes i spil. Coaching er enkelt sagt en måde at skabe et refleksionsrum, som gør det muligt at etablere et mere kvalificeret handlegrundlag. Det er når løsningen på, hvordan et problem skal håndteres, og hvordan der skal handles, ikke ligger lige for, at coaching kan komme ind i billedet. Da mennesker altid vil kunne stå i sådanne situationer, uanset tid og sted, vil coaching altid principielt set kunne være relevant. Det er dette forhold, der gør, at coaching i virkeligheden ikke er et modelune.

Det afgørende er, om coaching også i fremtiden kan anvendes til at udvikle menneskers handleevne på en måde, som de finder relevant, vedkommende og tidssvarende. Så længe vi formår dette, vil vi sandfærdigt kunne sige, at coaching er kommet for at blive.

## Kontakt

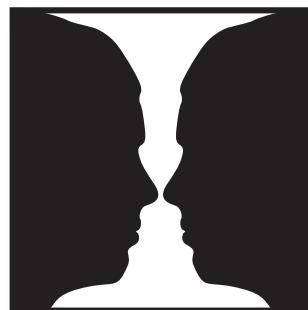


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## Redaktionelt

Af Ole Michael Spaten

Formidling af viden til interesserede i coaching: det er det tidsskriftet rummer gang på gang.

Især formidling af forskning, formidling af metoder, kritiske betragtninger om veje og vildveje med coaching er hovedsagen for det danske peer reviewed bidrag til den voksende internationale litteratur og forskningsartikler indenfor feltet. Tidsskriftet, DTCP, Dansk Tidsskrift for Coaching Psykologi har som formål at præsentere den brede vifte med en kritisk tilgang. Den brede vifte er relativt let da coaching - som også Jens Boris Larsen skriver i "Formandens ord" - er vildtvoksende med grene og udvækster i alle retninger (Spaten, 2013). En mangfoldighed der skal være der, også fordi coachingpsykologi i dens første tiår langsomt men sikkert skal og er ved at finde sine ben.

At finde sit fodfæste, sin grund under fødderne og (be)grundelse kan blandt andet finde sted gennem sammenlignende analyser. Hvad er forskelle og ligheder mellem dette og hint. I artiklen "Hvad kan vi lære af ligheder og forskelle mellem coaching psykologi og sportpsykologi" peger Stephen Palmer og Alanna O'Broin på at medens der allerede har været offentliggjort flere analyser af forholdet mellem coaching og terapi er det samme ikke tilfældet når vi ser på forholdet mellem sportpsykologi og coaching psykologi!

Tidlig coachingpsykologisk forskning var sportspsykologi og dermed fælles rødder og fokus på performance og præstationer. Nyere sportpsykologi og en del coachingpsykologi er inspireret af positiv psykologi. Artiklen afdækker og diskuterer blandt

andet disse forhold samt en væesntligt diskussion omkring coach-coachee / coach-atlet relationen. Relationens betydning for vellykket og udbytterig coaching bliver behandlet fra flere vinkler og i dybden. Forskelle og muligheder for fremtidig forskning afrunder artiklen.

"Coaching er varm luft" er titlen på en artikel i essayistisk form der kredser omkring livet gennem samtale, livet gennem ord, ordets kraft, sproget der (med)skaber med henvisninger til Ludwig Wittgenstein. Asbjørn Molly påpeger hvordan vi gør noget med vores ord, sproget som handling og sprogspil. Varm betydningsfuld luft i et rum med en forskel der gør en forskel. Gamemastermodelen introduceres og med henvisning til systemisk teori, Karl Tomm og eksempler på coaching samtaler bindes sløjfer til modellen og sprogteorien. Afrunding med en vigtig, næsten Kierkegaardsk pointe om at hvis man skal flytte folk (sandheden i al hjælpekunst), skal man først læse dem og anerkende dem.

Coaching der anvender fysiske og visuelle materialer til at styrke coaching samtalen og gøre samtalerne konkrete og håndgribelige kaldes '3D coaching'. Metoden beskrives af Trine Paludan og Niels-Henrik Sørensen og artiklen hedder "Håndgribelige samtaler. Introduktion til et systemisk / narrativt coaching kit der antyder den metodiske vægt med en rigt illustreret fremstilling. Vi får en beskrivelse af metoden bag, en case til anskueliggørelse samt analyser af scenarier til en klar anskueliggørelse. Endvidere rummer artiklen en begrebsmæssig redefinering af "dobbelt-eksternalisering" oprindeligt anvendt af den australske systemiker Michael White.

Aalborg Universitet på psykologiuddannelsen er der tradition for at knytte studerende, nok især på kandidaten, tæt sammen med forskere, hvor de deltager i projekter og på forsknings-konferencer. Det var også tilfældet til den tredje Internationale coaching psykologi konference i Rom i 2013. Christina Sullivan og Mette Agerskov Petersen beskriver i en rapport fra konferencen om nogle af de mange highlights set fra studenterperspektivet. "Surfing the edge of chaos" var temaet for konferencen og kompleksiteten i organisatoriske og socioøkonomiske kontekster beskrives som omdrejningspunktet for flere dages oplæg af top-forskerne fra hele verden.

Mangfoldigheden i coaching får vi også et indtryk af når Philip Kjær anmelder Ulla Charlotte Becks bog om "Psykodynamisk Coaching".

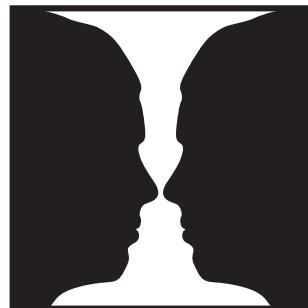
Tidsskriftets engelsksprogede sektion rummer denne gang to artikler. Den første er skrevet af Paul O Olson og illustrerer hvordan coaching og mentoring kan væves sammen og anvendes som sideløbende systemiske værktøjer i lederskabs udvikling. Paul skitserer flere domæner og artiklen hedder da også: "Seven domains for leadership mentoring and executive coaching. Der er tale om et reflekterende papir der rejser mange punkter til diskussion med henblik på argumentere for en integration af coaching og mentoring. Til formålet fremstilles vigtigheden af at inddrage indsiger fra refleksion og meta-læring i coaching forløbet. Paul påpeger at tilgangen tager udgangspunkt i det hele menneske, anvender dyb-aktiv-lytning, baserer sig på emotionel intelligens, kompetence modelering, team-udvikling, systemisk tænkning og at tilgangen er resultat orienteret. Kontekst forankret "practitioner research" efterlyses og fremlægger samtidig et blandt flere tilgange gennem artiklens vifte af syv domæner.

Hvordan skal vi coache individer der er perfektionistiske? Tidsskriftets anden engelsksprogede artikel er skrevet af Sarah Corrie og Stephen Palmer. "Coaching individuals with perfectionistic tendencies. When high standards help and hinder". Under titlen antyder præcis kompleksiteten i opgaven, som længe har været et fokus for klinisk arbejde, men i langt de fleste tilfælde kan være omdrejningspunktet for et godt og frugtbart coaching psykologisk forløb. De fleste beskrivelser findes fra terapeutisk arbejde og artiklen fremstiller nu nogle indsiger herfra og beskriver hvordan den coaching psykologiske praksis afviger herfra og kan udvikles. Forskningsartiklen udredrer litteraturen om perfektionisme, definerer, fordyber, nuancerer og forstår. Alt efter om perfektionisme er unrealistisk eller er en stræben efter excellence eller noget andet kræver det en forskellig coaching psykologisk tilgang. Artiklen fortsætter med i dybden at give konkrete eksempler på hvad den coaching psykologiske praksis vil indebære afhængig af viften af klientens differentierede typer af perfektionisme. Artiklen fremstiller også en model for hvordan der kan udforskes positiv og negativ perfektionisme hos en coachee, ligesom der afslutningsvist peges på fremtidig forskning. God læselyst i tidsskriftets mangfoldighed.

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## Hvad kan vi lære af ligheder og forskelle mellem coaching psykologi og sportspsykologi?

Af Alanna O'Broin & Stephen Palmer

### Abstract

En gennemgang af litteraturen inden for sportspsykologi blev gennemført ved hjælp af viden og forskning inden for dens beslægtede områder med det formål at foretage en sammenligning med coaching psykologi og fremhæve ligheder og forskelle, som potentiel kan være nyttige i den fortløbende diskussion, forskning og praksis, der er relevante for begge områders udbytte og effekt af coaching. Først og fremmest blev fælles fokusområder udforsket: f.eks. præstationspsykologi, positiv psykologi samt en række aspekter i forhold til relationer mellem områderne. Herefter blev vigtige forskelle og deres betydning undersøgt. Det foreslås at begge professioner potentiel kan drage fordel af løbende at gennemføre sådanne diskussioner og forskningsstrategier.

**Keywords:** coaching psykologi, sportspsykologi, litteratur gennemgang, positiv psykologi, præstationspsykologi, coach-atlet relation, coach-klient relation.

Muligvis ikke overraskende er der inden for coaching litteraturen foretaget flere sammenligninger mellem coaching og terapi (f.eks. Hart et al., 2001; Bluckert, 2005), og mere specifikt mellem coaching og den terapeutiske relation (Grant & Cavanagh, 2004; O'Broin & Palmer, 2006). Dette stemmer overens med tænkningen i de seneste evidensbaserede tilgange til teori og praksis inden for coaching psykologi (Cavanagh & Grant, 2006; Stober & Grant, 2006; Stober et al., 2006). Modelerne lægger vægt på en bred definition af kilder til viden og evidens, hvilket omfatter coachingspe-

cifik forskning, voksenlæring og kommunikation, coachens egen ekspertise, klientens præferencer og endelig viden fra beslægtede områder.

Denne artikel tager udgangspunkt i en evidensbaseret coaching psykologisk tilgang med henblik på at udforske viden fra en beslægtet profession – ved at gennemføre en sammenligning mellem sportspsykologi og coaching psykologi 1, hvilket resulterer i identifikation af tre potentielle frugtbare områder til yderligere undersøgelse, diskussion og mulig forskning med henblik på at bidrage med udvikling af coaching psykologiens teori og praksis.

## Sportspsykologi

Sports- og træningspsykologien (udtrykket sportspsykologi vil blive anvendt til at dække dette område af teori og praksis i resten af denne artikel (for nemheds skyld)) fremhæver undersøgelse og forståelse af mentale processer, adfærd og trivsel, hos personer der involveret i sport og træning 2, med fagfolk specialiseret enten inden for sport eller træning. En dybtgående gennemgang af sportspsykologien er uden for rammerne af dette papir, men for dem, der er interesseret i at læse videre, se Williams og Straub (1998) samt Morris og Summers (2004). Historisk set udspringer sportspsykologien af institutter for fysisk træning, hvor sportspsykologen ses som en lærer, der underviser i de mentale færdigheder (Anderson et al., 2001). Dog er der inden for den seneste tid begyndt at blive udviklet mere inkluderende og evidensbaserende tilgange til aspekter ved sportspsykologiens teori og praksis (Jowett & Cockerill, 2002; Jowett, 2006).

Det skal bemærkes, at den tidlige litteratur inden for coaching psykologi primært fokuserer på psykologi vedrørende sportscoaching (f.eks. Griffith, 1926; Lawther, 1951; Gaylord, 1967; Tutko & Richards, 1971; Wilt & Bosen, 1971; Llewellyn & Blücker, 1982). Kunder fra erhvervslivet identificerer sig ofte med sport og kan lide at betragte sig selv som store 'performere' (Gallwey, 2000; Brown, 2001). Holdsport på højeste niveau er blevet en følelses metafor og der kan trækkes forbindelser mellem sports og virksomheders domæner og kulturer (Jones, 2002). Faktisk er en række af Premier League fodboldklubber enten i øjeblikket, f.eks. Aston Villa, eller tidligere, f.eks. Manchester United, blevet opført på London Børsen.

En gennemgang af litteratur inden for sportspsykologi fremhæver tre områder med synergি, som fremtræder relevant for coaching psykologiens teori, forskning og praksis. Disse er:

- fælles domæner, f.eks. præstationspsykologi;
- indflydelsen fra positiv psykologi;
- coach-atlet samt coach-klient relationer.

## Præstations (performance) psykologi

Opnåelse af optimale resultater har en lang historik inden for sport (f.eks. Garfield & Bennett, 1984). Favnende (eller "skrævende over") både sportspsykologi, executive coaching og performance kunst

3 området vedrørende præstations (performance) psykologi, refererer til

*Fremragende præstation inden for et felt, hvor excellence tæller (Hays, 2006, p. 223).*

Områder vedrørende excellence har betydning for både sportspsykologi (olympisk og anden konkurrencesport på højt niveau) og coaching psykologi (præstations- og excellence coaching), selvom tidsrammer og kontekstuelle faktorer indlysende afviger fra hinanden indenfor de to anvendte områder.

## Positiv psykologi

I forbindelse med det tidligere nævnte tema om optimale resultater og oplevelser er positiv psykologi, (Seligman, 2002) begyndt at påvirke teori og praksis inden for både coaching psykologi (Linley & Harrington, 2005, 2006; Kauffman, 2006) og sportspsykologi (Harada, 2005; Fisher, 2004a, 2004b). Begge anvendte områder er – relativt set – i deres tidlige stadier, og det bliver interessant at se, hvordan anvendelsen af positiv psykologi udvikler sig, især inden for de områder, hvor der er tydelig synergі til både coaching psykologien og sportspsykologien, såsom motivation og målsætning, håb samt de respektive coach-klient og coach-atlet relationer. Et nyligt studie af Green et al. (2006) undersøger effekten af et 10-ugers kognitivt-adfærds og løsningsfokuseret livscoachinggruppe program. Studiet viser, at deltagelse i livscoachinggruppe programmet var forbundet med betydelig stigning i og forøgelse af deltagernes trivsel, håb og evne til at sætte mål.

## Coach-atlet relationen

Coach-klient relationen hævdtes at være et potentieligt vigtigt forandringsmiddel i coachingproces- sen, O'Briain og Palmer (in press), og er tildelt en fremtrædende position i en nylig Kontekstuel Meta-model over Coaching (Stober & Grant, 2006). Det foreslås, at en række aspekter ved teori og forskning om coach-atlet relationen er yderst relevante for diskussionen af coach-klient relationen og dens mulige indvirkning på udbyttet af coaching. Disse er:

- stigende anerkendelse af vigtigheden af coach-atlet relationen for atletens succes og udvikling;
- hvilken betydning coach-atlet relationens til-lægges;

- udforskningen af 'effektive' relationer;
- relationernes interpersonelle kontekst

## Den fundamentale betydning af coach-atlet relationen

Det første aspekt værd at bemærke er den stigende erkendelse i sportssykologi litteraturen af betydningen af coach-atlet relationen i coaching procesen. Officielle sportsorganisationer<sup>4</sup> har allerede anerkendt betydningen af coach-atlet relationen. For nylig har sportssykologiske kommentatorer ligeledes betonet vigtigheden af relationen (Lyle, 1999), og i nogle tilfælde den grundlæggende betydning af coach-atlet relationen for udbyttet og effekten af sportscoaching (Jowett, 2005). Ved at anlægge et socialt- og relationspsykologisk fundament (se Berscheid, 1999) ser sidstnævnte perspektiv på coach-atlet relationen ud over dens historiske fokus på styrkelse af sportsfolks fysiske, tekniske og strategiske færdigheder (Miller & Kerr, 2002) og inkluderer både fokus på fysiske og psyko-sociale færdigheder, der etableres inden for rammerne af et effektivt arbejdsfællesskab mellem coach og atlet.

Denne bredere og mere omfattende forståelse af coach-atlet relationen har bevæget sig ud over den traditionelle undersøgelse af interpersonelle coach-atlet dynamikker ud fra et ledelses perspektiv (Chelladurai, 1993; Smoll & Smith, 1989). I stedet har relations orienterede tilgange til coach-atlet forholdet (f.eks. Jowett & Cockerill, 2002; Mageau & Vallerand, 2003; Poczwardowski et al., 2002) i løbet af de sidste par år haft tendens til at udforske coach-atlet dynamikker mere fyldestgørende med nye modeller og undersøgelser, der begynder at rapportere om kognitive og affektive aspekter ved relationen (Jowett, 2006), såsom direkte og meta-perspektiver af coach-atlet relationens deltagere, der formentlig kan overføres til coach-klient konteksten.

## Intentionelle relationer

Som Jowett (2005) bemærker, udvikler både coach og atlet intentionelt en relation. Denne *intentionelle* proces vækker genlyd med et tema adresseret af O'Brian og Palmer (2006) i en diskussion af coach-klient relationen. Ved at arbejde trans-teoretisk (dvs. på et abstraktionsniveau under det overordnet begrebsmæssige plan, som coachen tager i brug), og ved at anvende basisprincipperne om forandring fra litteraturen om effekten af terapi (Castonguay & Beutler, 2006), kan coachen tage en intentionel po-

sition i coach-klient (eller atlet) relationen (Sullivan et al., 2005; Clarkson, 1994, 1995; Norcross, 1993). Coachen arbejder intentionelt på at skabe en relation – individuelt skræddersyet til klienten – med den hensigt at optimere den positive effekt af relationen og forbedre udbyttet af coachingen. Klienten spiller ligeledes en rolle i intentionelt at skabe en effektiv relation, især med hensyn til at fremme samarbejdende aspekter i coaching alliance.

## Effektive relationer

Principper fra forandringsstudier der udforsker effekten af terapi (f.eks. Castonguay & Beutler, 2006; Lambert & Byg, 2001) har konsekvent vist, at faktorer som at håndtere relationen på en empatisk måde, bestræbelse på at fremme en vis grad af samarbejde med klienter, omsorg, varme og accept fra terapeuten, kongruens eller autenticitet hos terapeuten, er bevisligt effektive i forhold til at fremme positive psykoterapiske resultater.

Ved undersøgelse af 'effektive' coach-atlet relationer er grundlæggende ingredienser i 'den hjælpende relation' følgende: empatisk forståelse, ærlighed, støtte, accept, samarbejde, omsorg, respekt og positiv anerkendelse (f.eks. Jowett & Cockerill, 2003) ligeledes foreslægt som at være effektive, i overensstemmelse med tilsvarende fund inden for terapeutisk effektforskning.

Tilsvarende med en vægt på betydningen af krydsbefrugtning mellem psykoterapi og andre områder (f.eks. Frank & Frank, 1991), har "Fællesfaktor forskning" (Lampropoulos, 2001) også hævet, at psykoterapiske forandringsprocesser kan forstås tydeligere ved at sammenligne dem med andre forandringsfremkaldende sociale relationer, såsom forældre relationer, uddannelsesrelationer, religiøse aktiviteter, mentorordninger, coaching af enhver art og medicinsk behandling blandt andet. Denne tilgang har to grundlæggende antagelser om fællestræk mellem sådanne forandringsfremkaldende relationer:

- de er pædagogiske, hjælpende og foranderer processer;
- der eksisterer et problem, et behov, en vanskelighed, efterspørgsel eller mangel på et produkt eller en tjenesteydelse.

Der argumenteres for, at en sammenligning af coach-klient og coach-atlet relationer falder naturligt inden for dette anvendelsesområde, med poten-

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tielt vigtige implikationer af specifikke fund vedrørende ligheder og forskelle for coachings processen og effekten af coaching i begge professioner.

### **Relationers interpersonelle kontekst**

Det voksende forskningsfelt vedrørende relationer (Kenny, 1995; Berscheid, 1999) stammer hovedsageligt fra socialpsykologien og er en tilgang, der influerer flere af de nyere sportsspsykologiske modeller vedrørende coach-atlet relationen. Af særlig interesse og relevans – potentelt for både coaching psykologi og sportsspsykologi – er to aspekter af denne forskning:

- den motivationelle betydning i social-kognitive sammenhænge (Forgas, 1994). Det drejer sig om antagelsen om at kognitiv forarbejdning i situationer med aktive relationer har tendens til at være forskellig fra situationer med passive relationer (som dem der ofte opleves i typiske forskningsparadigmer (Berscheid, 1999);
- relationernes omgivelser og kontekst (Berscheid & Lopes, 1997; Resi et al., 2000). Her antages bredt, at adfærd kan variere som funktion af den miljømæssige kontekst og fokusserer især på det interpersonelle aspekt. I dette tilfælde af faktorer, der er fremtrædende i relationen, såsom hvem der er den anden deltager, relationens historik, hvad vedkommende forsøger at opnå med den anden person er i sig selv potentielle årsagsfaktorer i relationen. Denne tilgang argumenterer for en udvidelse af det ideografiske perspektiv med henblik på at inddrage metoder til at finde forbindelser mellem individer og de andre deltagere i relationen, foruden forbindelserne mellem deres relation og det bredere system, inden for hvilket de er kontekstualiseret. Sidstnævnte perspektiv er i samklang med betonningen af kontekst i nyere evidensbaserede coaching psykologiske modeller (Stober & Grant, 2006).

Tilsammen argumenteres der for, at disse fire paralleller mellem coach-atlet og coach-klient relationen tilbyder en rig kilde af materiale til at skabe og anvende forskningsstrategier til at forstå de respektive relationer på et meningsfuldt abstraktionsniveau.

### **Anerkendelse af forskelle**

En række forskelle er imidlertid væsentlige for og fører til den tidlige diskussion af paralleller mel-

lem aspekter af coaching psykologisk og sportsspsykologisk teori, forskning og praksis. Disse er:

- Kontekstuelle forskelle. Som Brown (2001, p. 19) bemærker, er det konteksten ved sport og træning, der gør sportsspsykologi unik. Som følge af denne forskel følger forskellige betonninger, f.eks. fokus på motorisk læring og psyko-fysiologiske processer der skal maksimere træningstilstanden i sportsspsykologi, et fokus der er fraværende i coaching psykologi;
- Nuancerede forskelle i anvendelsen af velkendte modeller. Modeller, som er velkendte inden for coaching psykologi, såsom kognitiv adfærds-coaching (CBC), anvendes i sportsspsykologi til mental færdigheds træning (Greenleaf et al., 2001; Gould et al., 2002), dog i mange tilfælde med en anden betoning, såsom at opnå et følelsesæt af psykologiske færdigheder i forbindelse med ("peak performance") optimal ydelse (Kraene & Williams, 2006).
- Emotionel intensitet og lang varighed. Coach-atlet relationen foregår ofte i et meget presset miljø, den kan være meget intens og vil oftest indebære hyppigere kontakt over længere perioder. Ud over disse generelle faktorer, der potentielt kan påvirke coach-atlet relationen, kan samtlige specifikke faktorer relateret til køn, alder, kultur påvirke relationen positivt eller negativt, selvom dette ligeledes kan siges at kendte tegn coach-klient relationen.

### **Mulig fremtidig forskning**

Der argumenteres for at følgende tre områder, hvor der er synergি mellem sportsspsykologi og coaching psykologi – præstationspsykologi, positiv psykologi samt coach-atlet og coach-klient relationerne – tilbyder muligheder for interesserede og forskere at gå videre og fordybe sig i.

Betydningen af forskellene mellem de to professioner viser nødvendigheden af at tage fat på denne opgave på et noget mere omfattende niveau, end bare det at konstatere at der findes ligheder og forskelle. Vi kan ligeledes lære af de temmelig ufordøjede sammenligninger mellem coaching og terapi, især i de tidlige dage hvor coaching skulle afgrænses som selvstændig disciplin, hvor relativt dikotome kategoriseringer gjorde ganske lidt i forhold til at øge vores viden om og forståelse af coaching på en meningsfuld måde (se også Bluckert, 2005).

Mere specifikke forskningsstrategier inden for (performance-) præstationspsykologi kunne med fordel undersøge, hvorvidt sportsspsykologiske modeller om forberedelsen af ("peak-performance") maksimal ydelse (f.eks. Hardy et al., 1996), der anlægger en flerdimensional tilgang og inkorporerer miljømæssige påvirkninger, med fordel kan overføres til coaching psykologiens coaching excellence område. Områder inden for positiv psykologi, motivation, målsætning og håb, som er blevet identificeret tidligere, såvel som "Strengths-coaching" (Linley & Harrington, 2006), er sandsynligvis områder, der ville kunne indebærer frugtbar forskning på tværs af begge discipliner.

Endelig er der mangel på forskning og empiriske undersøgelser indenfor området vedrørende coach-klient relationen og dens potentielle bidrag til udbyttet af coaching. Af mulige forskningsundersøgelser, der følger af dette litteraturstudie, kan nævnes:

- Undersøgelse af om principperne for forandring – der bidrager til et positivt udbytte i terapi – kan overføres til coaching psykologi og sportsspsykologi, både inden for den 'hjælpende relations' kontekst og ud over den.
- Videre undersøgelser af det intentionelle aspekt i relationen, fra både coachens og klientens perspektiv. Undersøgelser der skal omfatte skabelsen af individuelt skræddersyede relationer til hver enkelt klient, samt hvordan relationen kan forandres i forløbet – styret af (eller i takt med) klientens behov.
- Gennemgang af den evidensbaserede relationsorienterede sportsspsykologiske forskning, især med hensyn til motivationelle perspektiver, relations-stil og interpersonelle opfattelser (f.eks. Jowett, 2006) og deres mulige anvendelighed i forhold til coaching psykologi.

## Konklusion

Som en del af en evidensbaseret coaching psykologisk tilgang indkredser denne litteraturgen-nemgang af sportsspsykologien tre brede parallelle i forhold til coaching psykologien, samt flere forskelle der tænkes frugtbart at indgå i yderligere diskussion og forskning, potentelt til gavn for begge specialområder. Undersøgelsen af disse ligheder og forskelle, både på brede som specifikke abstraktionsniveauer, tænkes at være nødvendige for at gennemføre forskning, der er i stand til at forklare

flerdimensionale faktorer i coaching processer og forhold der indvirker på effekten af coaching. Tak til redaktionen bag TCP, 7, 2 for tilladelsen til at bringe denne sprogligt bearbejdede version af ligheder og forskelle mellem coaching psykologi og sportsspsykologi.

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## Noter

1. Med afsæt i videnskabelige dokumenter fra den empiriske og adfærdsrelaterede videnskabelige litteratur, som er præsenteret i PsycINFO i september 2006, hvor litteratursøgning er udført ved brug af begreberne 'Sport Psychology og Coaching'.
2. Se BPS, APA og APSS hjemmesider for henholdsvis definitioner af sports- og performancepsykologi i Storbritannien, USA og Australien.
3. På trods af, som Winum (2003) bemærker, mange præstations 'konsulenter' ikke er psykologer.
4. Sports Coach UK (Tidligere the National Coaching Foundation); the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (A Sporting Future for All, 2000).



# Changing Lives, Changing Worlds - Inspiring Collaborations

4th International Congress of Coaching Psychology 2014  
Hosted by the BPS Special Group in Coaching Psychology

Thursday 11th & Friday 12th December 2014, Holiday Inn London Bloomsbury

## CALL FOR INTEREST

The Congress is the culmination of a series of events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the British Psychological Society's Special Group in Coaching Psychology. There will be two days of Impressive Speakers, exciting and new Topics and a broad range of Master classes, skills Workshops and Scientific Papers covering the following themes:

- Positive & coaching psychology: health, stress, wellbeing & performance
- Leadership, business and executive coaching psychology
- Personal coaching psychology practice
- Sports and coaching psychology
- Mental health and coaching psychology practice

This international event is an opportunity to celebrate what has been achieved, discover where we are headed and learn more about the difference that this exciting and innovative field can make to all areas of life and work.

The theme is Changing Lives, Changing Worlds - Inspiring collaborations. In choosing this as our theme, our mission is to inspire individuals, organisations and communities to engage and collaborate with the wider world of people, practice, learning and research. The event is a chance to share knowledge and expertise for a unique educational experience so that coaching psychology can fulfil its potential as a powerful method for changing lives and changing worlds.

We have an impressive line-up of speakers who are delivering new and exciting topics to share ideas for transforming lives and worlds in the broadest sense to include; Professor Sarah Corrie, Dr Siobhain O'Riordan and Professor Stephen Palmer and many more to come.

The Congress is an excellent opportunity for you to meet, connect, and collaborate with colleagues from around the world, including those at the forefront of developing coaching psychology. Our diversity and inclusivity is a hallmark of our identity and the Congress has been designed to be relevant not just to coaching psychologists but also to other groups who use coaching or who might be interested in becoming part of our growing community.

Whatever your contribution to changing lives and changing worlds, we hope that you will want to celebrate our 10th Anniversary with us. On behalf of the Special Group in Coaching Psychology, we welcome you to join us.

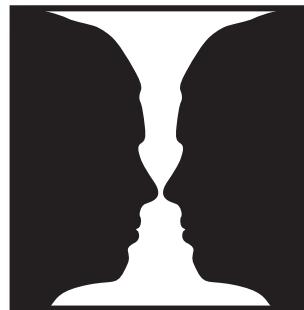
For further information on the Congress please visit

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[www.coachingpsykologi.org](http://www.coachingpsykologi.org)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5278/ojs.cp.v3i1.660>



## Coaching er varm luft!

Af Asbjørn Molly<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

*In this essay a new model is presented as an attempt to operationalize the otherwise slightly abstract concept of "suitable disturbances" (coined by Humberto Maturana), which is a central concept in systemic coaching. The argument stated is that the process of 'reading' and 'recognizing' a coachee's use of a word is a necessary skill for the coach to master, in order to introduce a language game in which it becomes possible to 'disturb' this use in a constructive manner. This argument is exemplified in a specific coaching conversation with a school leader, whose use of the word recognition is explored using questions based on keywords and the mirror technique, and thereby stimulating a change in the coachee's perception of the word, which gives rise to new possibilities of action.*

**Keywords:** coaching, language games, recognition, gamemastery, strategizing, mirroring, keywords

### Prolog

Coaching er varm luft. Det er det talte ord, der tilægges skabende kvaliteter. Skabende for, hvem vi opfatter os selv som værende, hvad der er for livsomstændigheder vi ser os selv som eksisterende i, samt hvilke handlemuligheder disse selvbilder og omstændighedsfortolkninger tilbyder os. Coaching lægger sig i forlængelse af den moderne hjælpesamtales fremmeste repræsentant, Sigmund Freuds, credo om, at ord er magiske – en indsigt også vores hjemlige digter Inger Christensen på forskellig vis formulerer i sit værk, bl.a. i det citat, der også indleder Systemisk coaching – en grund-

bog: "Sproget er vores stærkeste udfoldelsesmulighed, fordi vi kan bruge det til at forvandle os selv."

Coaching er varm luft. Det er en påmindelse om den livgivende ånde, der ifølge en lang række mytologier skal til for at blæse livet i de døde lerskulpturer. Og jeg tænker her ikke på coachen som guddommelig in-spirator ('ind-blæser') for en mere eller mindre livløs coachee! Jeg tænker på Walter Benjamins påmindelse om, at værket er konceptionens dødsmaske (Benjamin, 1993) – og at samtalemodeller på samme vis kan blive dødsmasker for samtaler, hvis ikke de holdes i live. Hvis vi som coaches forfalder til fristelsen af at 'køre samtale-

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modeller af' (se Moltke & Molly, 2009, s.24-25 for udfoldelse af denne pointe).

Samtidig minder coaching som varm luft os om noget meget væsentligt. Den varme, lidt kvalme luft, der hænger over det intimt fortætte rum, hvor man kan mærke den andens ånde. Denne varme luft markerer et krav om påpasselighed i forhold til det, kritikere af traditionel coaching overført til organisatoriske sammenhænge (fx Nils Åkerstrøm Andersen og Ole Fogh Kirkeby på CBS) med et begreb fra Foucault har kaldt intimteknologi; altså at coachingrummet bruges som anledning til, som Kirkeby med en skøn formulering beskriver det, *"at beføle den coachedes sjæl for at mærke, om der er commitment-sul nok på kroppen"* (Kirkeby, 2006, s.11). Her kan varm luft-begrebet minde os om som coaches at rykke lidt tilbage i stolen og give coachee plads. Og ikke lade os forføre af det besnærende og potentielt selvforelskede, der ligger mere eller mindre eksplisit i kim i ikke mindst den systemisk-anerkendende lingo.

## Feltet for undersøgelse

*"Når man læser de sokratiske dialoger, har man følelsen: hvilket frygteligt tidsspilde! Hvad skal alle disse argumenter, der ikke beviser noget og som ikke klargør noget, til for?"* (Wittgenstein, Kultur og værdi, s.27)

*"Men det er den vanskelighed, Sokrates vikler sig ind i, når han forsøger at give en definition på et begreb. Atter og atter fremdukker der en anvendelse af ordet, som ikke synes foreneligt med det begreb, andre anvendelser har ledt os til. Man siger: det er dog sådan! – men det er alligevel sådan! – og man kan ikke gøre andet end bestandigt at gentage disse modsætninger."* (Ibid. s.43)

Citatet fra Ludwig Wittgenstein indrammer det centrale tema for dette essay: hvordan man i en coachingsamtale må arbejde med eksplisit at definere anvendelsen af de ord og begreber, coachee forstår sig selv og sin situation igennem; samt at man er henvist til løbende at vende tilbage til disse begreber i samtalens for at indkredse de modsætninger, der måtte opstå i de anvendelser, coachee knytter an til begreberne.

I essayet vil jeg undersøge, hvordan man som coach kan 'lytte sig ind på' coachee's anvendelse af

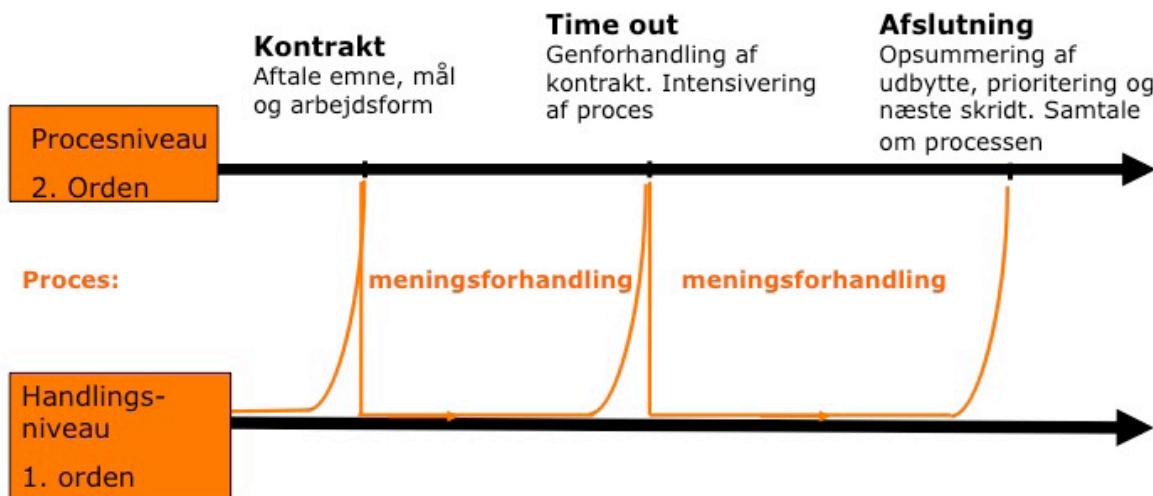
et begreb, samt hvordan denne lytten sig ind på har en indvirkende effekt på de anvendelser, coachee konnoterer til begrebet. Til sidst eksemplificeres med en konkret samtale. De teoretikere, der vil klinke med i baggrunden, er udover Wittgenstein Humberto Maturana, Karl Tomm og Barnett Pearce – samt mere indirekte Søren Willert.

## Når sprog skaber

Det indledende citat fra Wittgenstein fortæller også noget om den udvikling i hans sprogsfilosofi, der af mange anses blandt det 20. århundredes væsentligste filosofiske landvindinger. Og som også har sat sig afgørende spor i den systemiske coachingpraksis. Så her starter vi. Essensen af den sene Wittgensteins sprogsopfattelse er, at sproget ikke i sig selv opfattes som et meningsdannende system, der står i et repræsentativt forhold til den verden, det siger noget om. Denne opfattelse slog han ellers temmelig højlydt til lyds for i sit ungdomsskrift *Tractatus Logicus Philosophicus* (1918). Her opfattes sproget som repræsentativt i forhold til den verden, det udviser noget om; som et logisk opbygget system der har sine klare fordele, nemlig at det bygger på genkendelige regler som principielt alle kan lære, og at det henviser til en objektivt defineret virkelighed, som blot skal beskrives præcist nok for at kunne undgå misforståelser. Ikke dermed sagt at der for den tidlige Wittgenstein ikke eksisterede en verden uden for sproget; blot at denne ikke kan føres over i det objektive rige, som er videnskaben, men må henregnes under de mere anelsesfulde arvsfragmenter fra de romantiske tænkeres subjektive riger. Som han lakanisk afslutter skriften: *"Om det, hvorom man ikke kan tale, om det må man tie."*

Wittgenstein indtager senere i livet et radikalt anderledes standpunkt. I stedet for den ungdommelige skråsikkerhed på sprogets og den logiske tænknings vegne træder nu en mere pragmatisk tilgang. Nu henviser ordene ikke til noget bestemt længere, og slet ikke til en objektiv virkelighed; nu ligger deres betydning at finde i de måder, de bruges på. Vi siger ikke noget med vores ord, vi gør noget med dem. Og det er i denne gøren, at meningen med ordene titter frem. Skal vi forstå hinanden, må vi altså skabe billede hos hinanden af, hvilken gøren, hvilke handlinger, vi knytter an til de ord, vi bruger. Selve situationen, hvor to mennesker forsøger at forstå hinanden (fx en samtale), er imidlertid også en gøren. Denne gøren sammenligner Wittgenstein med et spil, der er styret efter

## Gamemastermodellen



**Gamemastering handler om at skabe meningsfulde og fremadrettede bevægelser mellem 1. og 2. orden**

1

nogle regler som deltagerne til en vis udstrækning kender og følger. Heraf begrebet om sprogsplil.

### At spille spillet

Det er via dette begreb, at der knyttes direkte forbindelse fra Wittgensteins udlægning af det performative sprog til den systemiske coachingsamtale. Forbindelsen knyttes via den amerikanske kommunikationsprofessor Barnett Pearce, der i en bitemærkning i *Interpersonal Communication. Making Social Worlds* (1994) kommenterer, at det kan være nyttigt at skelne imellem to forskellige mestringsniveauer i forhold til det, at spille kommunikationsspillet – et gamerplayer-niveau og et gamemaster-niveau (s. 84). Gameplayeren kan aflæse, hvilket spil der spilles og kender de regler, spillet er bygget op omkring; og kan på den måde indgå som en kompetent spiller. Det kan gamemasteren også, men i kraft af sin opmærksomhed på spillet som netop et spil har gamemasteren tillige et uerbødig forhold til, om det nu også er det mest hensigtsmæssige spil, der spilles. Og han/hun har de kommunikative kompetencer til at rammesætte et nyt spil. Pearces metaforer er omsat i gamemastermodellen (Moltke

& Molly, 2009), der på en og samme tid tænkes som grundstruktur for samtaler og grundtænkning om den professionelles måde at være i samtaler på.

Gamemastermodellen rummer, som alle modeller gør det, en implicit risiko. En risiko for at det forførende i den sikkerhed, der illusorisk tilbydes i modellen som struktur for samtalen, medfører en usund grad af ærbødighed fra coachens side i forhold til at være tro mod modellen. Dette kan medføre, at modellen bliver en opskrift der skal følges til mindste detalje, hvilket sandsynligvis vil have en strammende og fastholdende effekt på samtalen frem for en frigørende og genererende. Det, som i prologen blev betegnet som fristelsen til at 'køre samtalemodeller af'. Der er derfor behov for kontinuerligt at holde liv i modellerne, og her kan Karl Tomms begreb om *strategiseren* anvendes (Tomm, 1992). Strategiseren (fra engelsk *strategizing*) betegner den aktive proces i coachen "for at opretholde et netværk af overvejelser, som fører til et valg af handling" (Tomm s. 5). Altså den refleksive proces, der danner grundlag for de beslutninger, som løbende træffes i forhold til i hvilke retninger, man ønsker at bevæge samtalen. Som det formuleres i

Systemisk coaching – en grundbog er det en ”*dynamisk proces, hvor de svar, coachee giver på spørgsmålene, holdes op mod de hypoteser, coachen danner sig løbende ... [denne proces foregår]* i en vekselsvirkning mellem samtalens metaplan/procesplan og samtalens handlingsplan/indholdsplan.” (Moltke & Molly, s.134) Strategiseringen som mental proces fungerer altså som en slags emergererende og bevægelig retningslinje, som coachen lader sig guide af.

Opsummerende er scenen sat med en performativ sprogforståelse, båret af en spilmetafor, som er udmonet i en model over samtaler. Spørgsmålet er så, hvilke praksisimplikationer dette kan have for coaching?

## At LAF'e i samtaler

Som Wittgenstein-citatet i indledningen siger det, kan en mulig vej være at fokusere på de anvendelser, coachee knytter an til de ord og begreber, han/hun bruger. Allan Holmgren formulerer det på denne måde: ”*for at forstå sproget, de sagte sætninger, må vi se på den praksis, som sproget udspringer af, for sproget opstår ikke af følelser eller af tænkning, men af praksis, af andre handlinger.*” (Holmgren 2002, fra www, derfor ikke sidetal)

Som coach må man derfor lytte sig ind på de logikker, coachee's sprogspil er bygget op efter. Denne fordring antyder en udvidelse af gamemaster-modellen; en udvidelse jeg vil illustrere med det, jeg kalder LAF-modellen, inspireret af Søren Willerts tilgang til proceskonsultation (Willert, 2012). I denne sammenhæng vil LAF-modellen dække over denne bevægelse:

- 1 *Læse* coachee's anvendelse af et ord eller begreb
- 2 *Anerkende* denne anvendelse – for derved at give mulighed for at
- 3 *Flytte* anvendelsen over i andre, måske mere konstruktive retninger.

Jeg er klar over, at det i systemisk sammenhæng er lidt kontroversielt at tale om at ville flytte nogen eller noget. Måske ville en mere rendyrket systemisk udgave være at 'forstyrre' coachee's anvendelsesknotationer. Bevægelsen i LAF-modellen minder da også om en lidt udfoldet udgave af Maturanas begreb om den tilpassede forstyrrelse (at et system må koble sig strukturelt til et andet system, dvs. skabe et meningsfællesskab, for at kunne give rum for den gensidige påvirkning, der bevæger systemerne til at forandre sig selv). Fordelen, som

jeg tænker det, i LAF-modellen er, at den konkretiserer og operationaliserer en lidt abstrakt tanke om 'tilpas forstyrrelse'.

I coachingsamtalen kan LAF-modellen minde om, at man, som nævnt, må lytte sig ind på de logikker eller regler, coachee's måder at bruge sproget på er bygget op omkring (og altså læse coachee's sprogspil). Dernæst gå ind i de af coachee tilbudte sprogspil (anerkende sprogspillene), dels for at undersøge om læsningen er i overensstemmelse med coachee's opfattelse, dels for at skabe det særlige rum der opstår ved at coachee føler sig set og mødt som et menneske, og dels for at skabe fundamentet for at man sammen med coachee kan begynde at sætte rammen for nye anvendelsesmuligheder af begreberne (og altså flytte sprogspillene).

Denne bevægelse kan foretages ved hjælp af forskellige greb og teknikker, hvoraf nøgleord og spejling måske er de simpleste og mest effektive.

## En coachingsamtale

Et eksempel finder vi i følgende coachingsamtale. Coachee er en skoleleder, der står overfor en vanskelig samtale, i hvilken hun skal opsigte en medarbejder. Der er indgået en kontrakt for samtalen, der dels går på at få talt den forestående samtale igennem, og dels på at coachee gerne vil blive lidt klarere på, hvordan hun kan give udtryk for anerkendelse over for hendes medarbejdere. Denne dobbelte kontrakt bliver styrende for resten af samtalen. Her vil jeg foretage et par nedslag i samtalen med henblik på at vise, hvordan LAF-modellen kan bruges som struktur til at lytte sig ind på en coachee's brug af et begreb, og hvordan denne lytten sig ind på bliver en påvirkning der afstedkommer en forandring.

Fokuspersonen (fp) har talt på forskellige vis om sine udfordringer med at vise sin anerkendelse over for medarbejderne – en anerkendelse, hun ellers føler kommer naturligt til hende. Jeg har spurgt ind til, hvad hun forstår ved anerkendelse, og hvilke handlinger hun forbinder med at være anerkendende; og hun har svaret i generelle vendinger om at kunne rumme medarbejdernes forskellighed, få dem til at føle sig set og hørt mv. Samtidig er samtalen med jævn mellemrum vendt tilbage til den vanskelige samtale, hun står over for, da relationen til den medarbejder (ma), der skal opsiges, bærer på nogle af de anerkendelses-udfordringer, fp oplever. Som hun siger på et tidligt tidspunkt i sam-

talen, har hun arbejdet meget med ma det forløbne år, og hun har haft svært ved at vise anerkendelse over for hende da hun ikke synes, det har været i orden, det ma har gjort.

Ca. 10 minutter inde i samtalen spørger jeg hende første gang, hvad hun mere specifikt forbinder med det, at være anerkendende over for andre. Og hvilke konkrete handlinger, hun gør, når hun gerne vil agere anerkendende. Det fører til en mere udfoldet beskrivelse af fp's billede af hende og ma's relation. Ca. 14 minutter senere spørger jeg igen, hvad hun konkret gør i de situationer, hvor hun gerne vil vise anerkendelse over for ma. Og ca. 14 minutter senere én gang til. Denne venden tilbage til hendes brug af anerkendelsesbegrebet er motiveret af dels at jeg har en fornemmelse af, at der er en uklarhed eller en inkonsekvens i hendes egen forståelse af, hvad det vil sige at være anerkendende, som jeg gerne vil have klarere billede af – og dels er det et led i bevægelsen med at aflæse det sprogspil, hun benytter sig af i forbindelse med sin selvfordring om at være anerkendende over for sine medarbejdere.

Efter ca. 50 minutters samtale vender vi igen tilbage til anerkendelsen, denne gang på initiativ af fp. Jeg følger op: "Jeg har ikke helt fået fat i dit billede af, hvad det vil sige at være anerkendende..." Jeg vurderer at det kan være en fordel her at være transparent: "... jeg er meget optaget af... særligt når det drejer sig om ord som anerkendelse... at vi får det knyttet an til måder vi er på. Det er derfor jeg bliver ved med at spørge 'hvad gør du? Hvad siger du konkret? Og hvordan er du?' ... for ligesom at få tydeliggjort..." Fp griber bolden og fortæller i større detaljeringsgrad om situationer, hvor ma kommer ind på hendes kontor og kræver opmærksomhed, også i situationer hvor fp sidder i møde eller taler i telefon med andre. Hun fortæller om situationer, hvor hun har "samlet ma op" (en vending hun bruger flere gange), og at det i det hele taget er en dominerende bestræbelse for hende "at være der for" ma. Der dukker også en betegnelse om sig selv som "professionel mor" op.

Efter at have hørt fp tale så konkret om sine anvendelser af begrebet anerkendelse tænker jeg at have læst tilstrækkeligt af hendes sprogspil til at kunne anerkende det (med begreberne fra LAF-modellen). Det fører til denne dialog:

Fp: "... det kan jo godt være at hun mærker, at selv om jeg prøver, så er der nogle ting, jeg synes kunne være anderledes..."

Coach: "Og er det ikke anerkendende – at påpege at der er nogen ting, der kunne være anderledes?"

Fp: "Joh... måske er jeg i virkeligheden ikke kongruent nok i forhold til hende... jeg prøver måske for meget at være anerkendende"

Coach: "Hvad får dig til at sige det?"

Fp: "Jo ... igennem hele det sidste år har jeg været optaget af at hjælpe hende... og der skulle jeg måske nogen gange være tydeligere om de ting, hun ikke gør godt nok.... .... måske har jeg været for anerkendende...?"

Coach: "Måske har du været for anerkendende... (pause) ... Du sagde at du ikke har været kongruent nok...?"

Fp: "Ja, fordi jeg har været så optaget af, at det skulle lykkes det her projekt med hende... og der havde hun måske haft mere glæde af at jeg havde været tydelig om nogle ting i stedet... .... Jeg har været bange for at hun skulle føle jeg har været efter hende."

Coach: "Du har været bange for at hun skulle føle du var efter hende?"

Fp: "Ja (pause)..."

Coach: "... og jeg sidder og tænker på, hvad gør det hende til...? ... hvis jeg må være lidt fræk... at blive mødt af dig som en, man skal være bange for, at hun ikke kommer til at føle, at man er efter hende... kan du følge mig?"

Fp: "Ja – det er jo i hvert fald at vise, at hun ikke er særlig stærk... og at hun skal beskyttes..."

Når bortses fra den sidste kommentar fra coachen er det interessant i denne sekvens, at jeg stort set ikke bruger andre ord, end hendes egne – altså en spejling af nøgleord. Og at dette i sig selv genererer en bevægelse. Fp ender med at konkludere, at hun skal slippe sin selvfordring om at være anerkendende (i betydningen "professionel mor") og i stedet arbejde på ikke at pakke tingene over for sine medarbejdere. Og at der i dette også kan ligge anerkendelse.

Den *anerkendende* bevægelse i forhold til fp's sprogspil om anerkendelse dannede altså her grund for, at jeg kunne foretage en spejling (ganske vist en værdiladet én af slagsen), som flyttede sprogspillet, eller udvidede det til også at dække over andre områder for handling. Som fx ikke at pakke tingene ind.

## Afrunding

Jeg håber i dette essay at have sandsynliggjort, at coaching er varm luft. Dels i den mere overordnede betydning, at den varme udånding med lyd har skabende (eller med Freud: magisk) karakter, idet vi kan forvandle os selv og vores liv med sproget. Dels i den mere kritiske betydning, som en påmindelse om at rykke lidt tilbage i stolen og give plads, når luften lades af intim bekendelsestrang fra coachee; en påmindelse, der i denne tekst kun er antydet, men som er væsentlig med tanke på det forførende potentiale, der i coachingsamtaler kan føre til uoverlagte åbninger fra coachee, og som derfor bør forvaltes med behændig omtanke af coachen. Og dels i den mere handlingsorienterede betydning, at vi må puste liv i de modeller, vi bruger som inspiration og afsæt for samtalepraksis; ellers ender de som dødsmasker af samtaler. I forlængelse af den sidste betydning håber jeg også at have sandsynliggjort, at det i coachingsamtaler er en forudsætning at koble sig strukturelt til coachee's sprogspil, før man kan arbejde med at udvide de forståelser og logikker, sprogpillene er bygget op omkring. Og at LAF-modellen kan være en inspiration til dette i kraft af bevægelsens logik: at man ikke bare kan Flytte folk, men er nødt til at Læse og Anerkende dem først.

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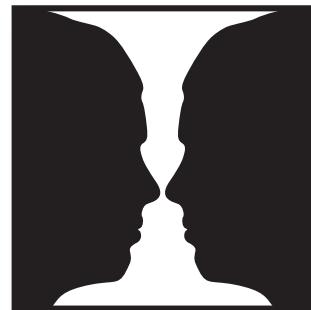
## Note

- 1 Dette essay er en videreførelse af en synopsis, jeg skrev i forbindelse med min EMCC-akkrediterede coach-certificeringeksamen hos Rambøll Management Attractor, hvor jeg på daværende tidspunkt var ansat. Elementer af det præsenterede tankegods er derfor inspireret af samtaler med kolleger derfra, ligesom den præsenterede gamemastermodel er udviklet i det regi, oprindeligt af Jacob Storch og Thorkil Molly-Søholm.

# Coaching psykologi

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## Håndgribelige Samtaler Introduktion til et systemisk/narrativt Coaching KIT

Af Trine Paludan & Niels-Henrik Sørensen

### Abstract

Artiklen introducerer læseren til '3D coaching', en metode inspireret fra designverdenen som anvender fysiske og visuelle materialer til at styrke coachingsamtaler ved at gøre dem konkrete og håndgribelige. Teoretisk introduceres begreberne dobbelt-eksternalisering og dobbelt-kontingens som er artiklens teoretiske bidrag indenfor særlig det narrative og systemiske teorifelt.

**Keywords:** 3D Coaching, design, narrativ og systemisk teori, eksternalisering.



Denne artikel introducerer et *Coaching KIT* til brug for systemiske og narrative coaching samtaler. Med *Coaching KIT*'et introduceres samtidig et fænomen, som vi kalder for 3D coaching, en coachingmetodik som henter sin inspiration fra designfeltet og co-design traditionen.

Artiklen har både et teoretisk og et praktisk sigte. Via en case fører vi læseren ind i vores erfaringer og refleksioner med, hvad 3D coaching og *Coaching KIT*'et kan tilbyde såvel fokuspersonen og dynamikken i coachingsamtaler. Vi præsenterer på baggrund heraf en ny forståelse af to begreber som er centrale for det systemiske og narrative teorifelt, nemlig begreberne 'dobbelt-eksternalisering' (Art Fischer, København 2007, Montreal 2010) og 'dobbelt kontingen' .

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Med dobbelt kontingens forstår vi en mange-dobbelthed af mulige modale indgange til læring og forandring, som fokuspersonen i 3D coachingens univers tilbydes i kraft af en samtidighed af tale- og tankemæssige, visuelle, kinæstetiske og rumlige koblingspunkter. Alle disse indgange udgør mulige ”baner” eller ”stier” for erkendelsens bevægelse, og er samtidig forskelligartede virkemidler som coachen med fordel kan bringe i spil med blik for fokuspersonens fortsatte bevægelse (Tomm 1992a og b).

## Coaching KIT og ideen bag

Vi kommer som forfattere til denne artikel fra forskellige faglige traditioner. Trine med erfaringer fra design-antropologi, organisationsudvikling og coaching. Niels-Henrik fra organisationspsykologien og narrativ terapi. Artiklen er opstået som et møde mellem Trines udvikling af og arbejde med Coaching KIT’et og Niels-Henriks teoretiske interesse og egne afprøvninger af KIT’et. Artiklen er resultatet af vores fælles refleksioner og nysgerrighed på at videreudvikle og udvide forståelsen af sammenhængene mellem praksis og teori og er et ønske om at dele vores erfaringer og tanker med andre praktikere og forskere i det danske coaching community.

Ideen til at skabe et Coaching KIT kommer fra designfeltet. Designerens virke med at skabe ting (møbler, kjoler, biler) er ligesom arkitektens virke med at skabe bygninger et virke som handler om at omsætte ideer og tankestof til fysiske virkeligheder i verden. Ideerne får fysisk form, tankestof udtrykkes materielt (Foverskov & Dam, 2010). Denne proces, som kan siges at være hjertet i design- og arkitektfagene omtales som *formgivningsprocessen* – at sætte former i verden. Arbejdet med at udvikle Coaching KIT’et begyndte med en undren og en nysgerrighed: tænk nu hvis coaches lod sig inspirere af designeres arbejdsmetoder? Kunne ikke også coachingsamtalen være en formgivningsproces, hvor tanker, følelser og mentale mønstre hos fokuspersonen fik fysiske og konkrete udtryk og blev gjort visuelle og taktile? Kunne vi så skabe stærkere og tydeligere coachingsamtaler?

## Fra CO-DESIGN til coaching

Coaching KIT’et henter endvidere inspiration fra CO-DESIGN traditionen. Her giver designeren slip på eneretten til formgivningsakten og lader de mennesker, som det nye design berører, blive med-skabere, med-designere (Halse (Eds.) 2010; Binder

(Eds.) 2008). Eksempelvis kan patienter, sygeplejersker og ambulanceførere indbydes til at designe deres bud på, hvordan en ny skadestue skal se ud. I disse såkaldte *explorative design processer udforsker man i fællesskab*, samtidig med at man designs, med simple materialer som pap og ler. Kunne ideen om *den fælles udforskning ved hjælp af fysiske materialer* overføres til coaching samtaler, hvor coachen og fokuspersonen sammen udforsker fokuspersonens verden, ved hjælp af simple materialer i et Coaching KIT?

Et ”KIT” kan her defineres, som ”any collection of items or components needed for a specific purpose, especially for use by a workman”<sup>1</sup>.

Ønsket var at Coaching KIT’et skulle være en slags ’coachens jordmodertaske’, altid pakket og parat til at forløse samtaler med forskellige mennesker og deres udfordringer.

Men hvis KIT’et eller jordmodertasken skulle kunne forløse netop systemiske og narrative coaching samtaler, hvad skulle den da rumme af værkøjser og materialer?

Ideen med Coaching KIT’et var bl.a. at coach og fokusperson sammen skulle kunne skabe *dynamiske landskaber af relationer og temaer* i form af *små scenarier*:

*’Blikket rettes mod hele systemet, mod den cirkulære måde, [individer], organisationer eller familier skaber og vedligeholder problemer på. Væk fra individet som ejer af problemer og hen imod relationer som opretholder af meningsfulde, men muligvis problemfyldte samspil. Væk fra menneskers indre liv til den adfærd, som finder sted imellem mennesker’* (Jacob Mosgaard s. 10 i ’Uærbødighed og Fordomme’, Ceechin, Lane og Ray, 2012).

KIT’et skulle også kunne indfri et af den narrative traditions kongegreb og grundholdninger, eksternaliseringen, helt konkret og fysisk<sup>2</sup>. For at indfri disse ambitioner er følgende enkle materialer blevet fremstillet til at indgå i det systemiske/narrative ’Coaching KIT’, som vi præsenterer i denne artikel:

Materialerne er valgt ud fra et princip om simpelhed. De er ikke prægnante af betydning i sig selv, men tjener til at kunne skabe et meningsfuldt landskab for fokuspersonen, levendegjort af fokuspersonens egne betydninger. Figurerne har for

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## Materialerne i Coaching KIT'et

- Trædukker i forskellige
- Farver (foto 1)
- 3 hvide skumplader<sup>3</sup>
- Tuscher i forskellige farver
- Post-it notes i forskellige farver og størrelser

eksempel ikke ansigter eller fortrykte identiteter (som 'gammel', 'ung', 'leder', 'ansat'). De skal være neutrale i deres udtryk og dermed i stand til at gribe og udtrykke netop dét som er på spil hos den enkelte fokusperson<sup>4</sup>.

Nu til det egentlige. Vi vil illustrere Coaching KIT'ets mulighedsrum og potentiale ved at gå i dybden med en case.

### Case Projektlederen i tvivl med sig selv

Simone<sup>5</sup> er midt i trediverne. Hun kommer til første samtale hos Trine (som er coachen i denne samtale og herefter refereres til som 'C') og går hurtigt i gang. Hun fortæller, at hun har siddet og tuget hos sin kæreste det meste af weekenden. Det er tale om en arbejdsmæssig konflikt, som er gået i hårdknude. Simone er ansat i en region som projektleder for et større udviklingsprojekt mellem regionen, en ekspertgruppe af forskellige specialister og eksperterne, samt en række virksomheder. Projektet nærmer sig sin afslutning, skal afrapporteres og derfor havde Simone i sidste uge et møde med ekspertgruppen.

*"– Og det gik helt galt. Jeg understregede, måske lidt for skarpt, at den måtte være borgervenlig i sin form, dvs. at man rent*

*faktisk kan forstå hvad der står i rapporten, og hvad projektet har bidraget med for de berørte borgere. Og at jeg gerne løbende ville se hvad, og særlig hvordan, de skrev. Jeg har jo læst andre af deres tekster, nogen af dem kan man simpelt hen ikke forstå.*

*Så blev de meget ophidsede og mente at jeg, og regionen, forsøgte at undertrykke deres ytringsfrihed, og gøre deres indsigter firkantede, at de hverken kunne eller ville formulere sig i sådan et sprog osv. Skulle det være på dén måde, ville de gå til regionens direktion, bede om dispensation, så kunne vi færdigformidle projektet, uden deres medvirken".*

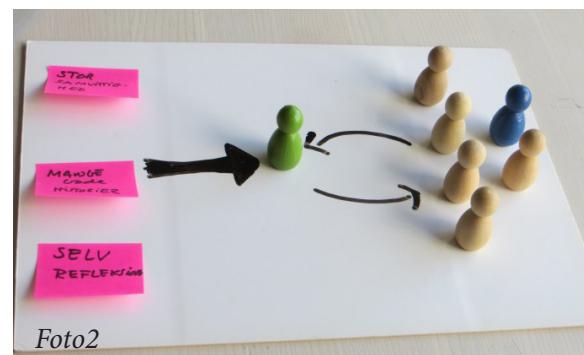
Simone er meget frustreret, og føler sig klemt fra alle sider. Hun skal promovere projektets resultater opad til regionens direktion og ud af til omverdenen. Samtidig er projektets omdømme tæt forbundet, synes hun, med hendes egen indsats som projektleder, hendes selvtillid og hendes arbejdsmuligheder efter projektet. Hun vil gerne have 'veje frem', ideer til hvordan hun går videre, både i forholdet til ekspertgruppen og i relation til hvordan hun skal gøre det an nu i forhold til regionens direktion.

Coachen spørger her om tilladelse til at inddrage Coaching KITet:

*– "Jeg tror det kunne være nyttigt at forsøge at illustrere situationen vha. de her små figurer (viser hende dem) har du lyst til at prøve det? (hun indvilliger) Hvilken farve skal være dig?"*

Sammen skabes nu, hvad vi her vil kalde 'scenarie 1'.

### Scenarie 1: Simone og ekspertgruppen



På en hvid skumplade stilles nu ”Simone”, som vælger at være en grøn figur, overfor en flok af eksperter, som hun vælger skal være ensfarvede træ-figurer. Med udgangspunkt i narrativ metodes grundantagelse af mennesket som et intentionelt og meningsskabende væsen (White 1989, 2008), samt betydningen af at få navngivet intentioner og værdier (Ibid.), navngiver vi hendes vigtigste intentioner og værdier og skriver dem på lyserøde post-its. Vi placerer dem bagved Simones figur med en tyk pil hen til hendes figur. På lapperne står ’stor samvittighed’, ’mange fine historier’ ’selvrefleksion’ – ord som Simone bragte frem under vores indledende samtale (se foto 2).

Coachen vælger nu at skabe en samtale-kontekst af refleksion over det opstillede scenarie.

C: - ”Tror du, at de andre kan se dine intentioner? Ved de, at de er der og hvordan de ser ud?”

Simone tænker lidt:

- ”Jeg har jo slet ikke rigtig fået kommunikeret til dem, hvor stolt jeg er over det her projekt, og hvor stærkt mit ønske er, om at bringe projektets historier ud til verden. Det er jo faktisk derfor jeg er så optaget af den formidling.

C: - ”Kan du kommunikere det til dem?”

Simone: - ”Det kan jeg!”

Hun får en række ideer, som bl.a. handler om at melde klart ud til eksperterne, hvad hendes gode intentioner er, hendes stolthed og glæde over de små successer og de berørte borgernes entusiasme. Vi skrive dem ned på store gule post-its og sætter dem i en række ovenover pladen, som en del af ’Simones landskab’, under overskriften ’Veje Frem’<sup>6</sup>.

C: - ”Hvis jeg var en flue som svævede her oppe (holder hånden ovenover pladen), hvad ville jeg så ikke kunne undgå at lægge mærke til fra Jeres sidste møde?”

Simone: - ”Ja, det er et godt spørgsmål!” (hun tænker længe), så ryster hun på hovedet og udbryder:

- ”Jeg står jo overfor en flok løver!”

Hun reflekterer fascineret over denne indsigt, og vender så tilbage til scenariet igen:

- ”Det går pludselig op for mig, at de har jo også tvivl og indbyrdes konkurrence!”

Nu begynder Simone selv at interagere med Coaching KIT’et. Hun tegner pile ind mellem eksperter-dukkerne for at tydeliggøre deres delvist uharmoneiske indbyrdes relationer, og hun sætter også en blå eksperter-duke ind for at illustrerer deres indbyrdes forskellighed. Noget går op for hende:

- ”Det er derfor de skal vise sig, når de er sammen!”

Hun udbryder lettet:

- ”Det her handler jo ikke kun om mig!”

Efter lidt refleksion over denne nye indsigt, spørger coachen om samtalen skal gå videre med flere ideer til ’veje frem’, eller om der er noget andet som er vigtigt for Simone at tale om først?

Så tager Simone den grønne Simone-duke, løfter den, bevæger den op og ned så den vakler usikert i luften.

- - ”Jeg vil gerne blive bedre til at stå fast i stormvejr, beholde benene på jorden, ikke være så vaklende ...”

Resten af tiden arbejdes der med det tema, ved hjælp af en ny hvid skumplade (se scenarie 2) som vi sætter op ved siden af den første.

## Analyse af scenarie 1 Hvad muliggør Coaching KIT’et i samtalen?

En samtidighed af ydre og indre relationer  
I scenarie 1, ”Simone og Eksperterne” arbejder vi, via coaching KIT’et både med Simones refleksioner over eksperternes indbyrdes relationer og med ’relationernes relation’; altså Simones relation til *dères* indbyrdes relationer. Samtidigt opstår et fokus på Simones indre relation til ”tvivlen”, som vi tager op i næste analyse (analyse af scenarie 2).

Samtidig med at hun fysisk/ visuelt kan se sine egne intentioner og værdier nedskrevet foran sig, kan hun høre sig selv sige højt og refleksivt erkende – at hun fysisk/visuelt kan se –, at ekspertergruppen ikke kan se dem. Samtidig med det talte ord, tilføjer materialet en synliggørelse af de ydre relationer og *dères* unikke udkigspost. Denne synliggørelse muliggør nye indsigt for Simone i forholdet mellem Simones egen adfærd (den lidt bestemte ’skarpe’ opræden overfor eksperterne), og hendes intention (at hun er ’stolt over projektet’ og ’vil alle det godt’). Coaching KIT’et hjælper her til – i fysisk og refleksiv form – at skabe læring ved at synliggøre diskrepansen mellem intention og adfærd. Yderligere virker materialet som et synligt tilstedeværen-

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de ”skelet” for at skabe cirkulære hypoteser og interventioner i klassisk systemisk forstand, hvor ’en cirkulær hypotese er ikke blot en beskrivelse af noget – en hændelse eller en adfærd – som sker på grund af en påvirkning. Men derimod en hypotese, som også indeholder en beskrivelse af, hvordan denne adfærd påvirker tilbage. Altså en beskrivelse af relationer mellem adfærd og ikke af adfærdens i sig selv’ (Jacob Mosgaard s. 10 i ’Uærbødighed og Fordomme’, Cechin, Lane & Ray, 2012).

Dette skaber en arbejds-kontekst,<sup>7</sup> hvor Simone konkret kan skabe nye blikke på situationen og udvikle nye ’veje frem’, i en form, som er indholdsmaessig alvorlig og samtidig formmæssig legende.

De ”nye veje” opstår af sig selv, idet vi arbejder videre med Simones ønske om ”ikke at være så vaklende”. Det udvikler sig via Coaching KIT’et som en eksternaliserende (White & Epston 1989, White 2000) samtale om Simones indre kampe med ”tvivlen” og ”selvtilliden” – samt hvilken relation hun vil have til disse.

## Scenarie 2. Simone og ’Tvviven’

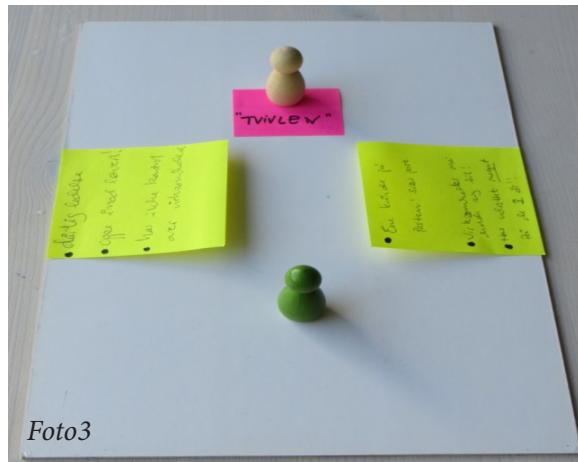


Foto3

C: - Hvad er det, som gør dig vaklende?

Simone svarer med tårer i øjnene:

- ”Jeg er jo i tvivl om, at det jeg gør, er godt nok.”

C: - ”Og hvis vi nu, på denne her nye plade, skulle tage en figur som er den stemme som siger, at du ikke gør det godt nok, hvad skulle den så hedde?”

C: (tænker) - Jamen den skulle simpelthen hedde ’Tvviven’.

Simone vælger en lys dukke-figur som vi på den nye plade sætter en lille post-it på med navnet

’Tvviven’ (Se foto 3). Efter at tvivlen er navngivet på baggrund af dens effekter (vaklen) på Simone, går vi i gang med at udforske undtagelser (White og Epston 1989, White 2000).

C: - ”Er der nogen gange hvor du føler, at du ikke har vaklet? Hvor du føler at du har stået solidt, f.eks. overfor ekspertergruppen?”

Simone: - ”Ja, når jeg har dem på to-mands hånd, så er de meget rare og menneskelige. Det er bare sådan at de ophidser hinanden, når de er i flok. De er værst, når de står sammen!”

Hun tænker lidt, får en ide:

- ”Jeg vil simpelthen sige til dem, at de er meget hårde når de optræder i flok. Det kan jeg godt fortælle dem”.

Coachen skriver ideen ned og samtalen vender tilbage til ’Tvviven’. Vi vælger en grøn figur som er Simones jordbundne og fornuftige jeg.

C: - ”Og når tvivlen nu kommer og siger til dig, at du ikke har gjort det godt nok. Hvad kan du så sige til den?”

Simone lister en længere mængde omstændigheder op som opsummerer mange af de indsiger, hun har gjort sig under samtalen. Hun nævner disse tre som de vigtigste:

- ”Jeg kan sige til Tvviven, at jeg er oppe i mod en flok løver! En kvinde!

Jeg kan sige til den, at jeg har haft meget dårlig ledelse<sup>8</sup> og jeg kan sige til den, at det IKKE er mit ansvar alene, at nogle virksomheder ikke har fået noget ud af projektet. Jeg har ikke kontrol over alt, og de har ikke holdt sig til i starten.”

Efter lidt tid, runder vi af med spørgsmålet:

- ”Hvad er det vigtigste du tager med mig dig herfra?”

Simone: - ”Det er rigtig vigtigt med min egen dialog med tvivlen! Det er også meget vigtigt jeg får tydeliggjort min intention overfor eksperterne. Det har været godt for mig at se, at min intention faktisk er ’den store samvittighed’, og endelig er det virkelig godt for mig at blive klar over, hvor meget jeg faktisk har lært af det her projekt, og hvor meget jeg egentlig kan. Faktisk GLÆDER jeg mig (!) til at komme i gang med noget nyt nu, og med at skulle netværke.”

Hun er tydeligt lettet, og forlader samtalen opløftet og med fornyet gå-på-mod.

## Analyse af scenarie 2 Hvad muliggør Coaching KIT'et i samtalen? Samtidighed af ydre og indre relationer fortsat



I scenarie 2: "Simone og Tivulen", forstærkes muligheden for at arbejde med en *samtidighed af indre og ydre relationer*. Her synes materialerne at være særligt hjælpsomme til at indbyde til eksternalisrende samtaler. Simone tager fat i den grønne dukke, som er 'hende selv' og løfter den vaklende op i luften, imens hun udtrykker sit ønske om ikke at vakle og at stå stærkt. I det videre arbejde i Scenarie 2, er dette 'selv' sprogliggjort og bragt i relation til det, som Simone nu kalder sit 'jordbundne fornuftige jeg', sin 'tvivl' og hende "selv". Det 'jeg' der i samtalen er bragt i relation til de nu eksternaliserede "jeger", er i gang med at forholde sig til og positionere sig i forhold til de andre eksternaliserede "jeg'er". Ved at have både scenarie 1 og 2 synlige på bordet samtidig, bliver det muligt, med en særlig lethed at forholde os til både den ydre og den indre situation, både Simones dialog med eksperterne og hendes indre dialog med 'Tivulen' (se foto 4).

Samtidigheden synes at fostre et kreativt potentiale på ide-fronten: når Simone arbejder med 'hvad hun indad til kan sige til tivulen', får hun ideer til hvad hun, ud ad til, kan sige til eksperterne. Det er nemlig i visse tilfælde det samme. Dialogen får karakter af dobbeltdialog, hvor dialogen med problematiske sproglige positioneringer af hende selv (Tivulen) fører konstruktivt ind i dialogen med 'problematiske' mennesker i hendes omgivelser. En vigtig konklusion i forhold til Coaching

KIT'et synes altså at være, at materialerne, med deres fysiske placering på bordet foran og under fokuspersonens blik, tilbyder fokuspersonen en samtidighed af fysiske (auditivt, visuelt), legemliggjorte (kinæstetisk, håndgræbelige) og refleksive læringsmuligheder. I Simones tilfælde opstår dette i en samtidighed af den indre og den ydre situation. Og i tilfældet Simone, synes vi at kunne konkludere, at metoden bidrager til at løsne de problematiske sproglige positioneringer, og derigennem repositionere Simone, som en person der er i stand til selv at finde løsninger på problemerne. Altså en position præget af "agency" (White 2006, 2008).

Endvidere bliver det tydeligt, hvordan designmaterialer kan flyttes, røres ved, om-arrangeres, kikkes på og tænkes over i højere grad end tegninger og forskellige former for visuelle stilladser kan<sup>9</sup>. På måder, som spiller godt sammen med samtaler af høj kompleksitet, som søger kreative løsninger på fastlåste problemer.

**3D coaching og Dobbelt kontingens**  
Mange problemstillinger som behandles i coaching samtaler, indebærer en samtidighed af ydre og indre omstændigheder. De systemiske og narrative tilgange lægger på forskellig vis op til at udvide konteksten for forståelsen af problemer, ved at interesser sig for sociale mønstre og kulturelle tilstande, såvel som for menneskers indre "landska-

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ber” i form af narrative formationer, meningsdannelser, intentioner, håb og værdier – og sammenspillet imellem dem (White & Epston 1989, White 2000). På det meta-teoretiske niveau kan det systemiske projekt endvidere forstås som erkendelsesfilosofisk nedbrydning af vores normale skelnen mellem ’det indre og det ydre’. Der findes ikke en egentlig uafhængigt eksisterende ydre verden, som vi opfatter og begår os i (Maturana/Valera 1987, Bateson 1972). I socialpsykologiske termer finder der derimod en bestandig ’verdens-skabelse’ sted imellem os (Gergen 1985, 1991). Det er denne bestandige ’verdens-skabelse’ og dens samtidige produktion af ’noget indre’ og ’noget ydre’ – som på en og samme tid er begrænsende og mulighedsskabende (Stacey 2001) - som Coaching KIT’et synes at kunne medvirke til at gøre synligt, håndgribeligt og handlingsorienteret, ved at iscenesætte mødet mellem det indre, refleksive, sproglige, ”luftige” og det ydre, legemligjorte, fysisk/visuelle, rør- og flytbare. Vi har valgt at kalde denne særlige kontekst for coaching samtalens for **3D coaching** (i modsætning til 2D coaching) og er kommet til at forstå Coaching KIT’ets læringsbefordrende potentiale med begrebet **dobbelt kontingens**<sup>10</sup>.

Med dobbelt kontingens forstår vi den mange-dobbelthed af mulige modale indgange til læring og forandring, som fokuspersonen tilbydes i kraft af samtidigheden af tale- og tankemæssige, visuelle, auditive, kinæstetiske, rumlige og refleksive koblingspunkter. Disse tilbydes som mulige ”baner” eller ”stier” for erkendelsens bevægelse, som fokuspersonen kan gribe til, alt efter hvilken retning, tempo og stemning der opstår. Ligeledes kan coachen løbende gøre sig strategiske overvejelser over, hvad coachen med fordel kan bringe i spil med blik for fokuspersonens fortsatte bevægelse (Tomm 1992a og b).

## Dobbelt-eksternalisering en begrebsmæssig redefinering

Anvendelsen af Coaching KIT’et i narrative samtaler har bidraget til en udvidelse af begrebet ’dobbelt-eksternalisering’. I den oprindelige narrative litteratur (White 1989, 2008) forstås dobbelt-eksternalisering som den eksternaliserende om flere temaer, som f. eks. ”tvivlen” og ”det jordbundne jeg”. Altså en eksternalisering af flere samtidige temaer, som fokuspersonen udforsker og positionerer sig i forhold til. Gennem arbejdet med Coaching KIT’et forstår vi nu denne ovenfor beskrevne samtaleform,

mere som multiple eksternaliseringer, end egentlige dobbelt-eksternaliseringer. Dette skyldes, at den oprindelige dobbelt-eksternaliserende samtale har netop *samtalen*, og den deri givne *refleksive* distance til de eksternaliserede temaer, som den centrale læringsmodus.

Den canadiske terapeut, Art Fischer, forstår på sine workshops (København 2007; Montreal 2010) dobbelt-eksternalisering som brug af delvis dokumenterende og delvis faciliterende visuelle stillasser. Art Fischer gør i sit arbejde eksternaliseringerne en tand mere ”håndgribelige”, idet han tegner en samtaleskabelon. Denne tegnes som et kvadrat inddelt i fire felter, som i grove træk følger trinene i Positions-kortet<sup>11</sup>:

1. Navngivning af problemet,
2. Udforskning af problemets effekter,
3. Evaluering af problemets effekter og
4. Begrundelse af evaluering af problemet effekter.<sup>12</sup>

I kvadraten – som delvis guider samtalens struktur – skriver Art Fischer klientens egne ord ned, hvorved den eksternaliserende samtale om f.eks. ”volden” og dens effekter eksternaliseres yderligere i og med den modale multiplicering der indtraeder i transformationen fra mundtlighed til skriftlighed. Klienten kan således se sine egne ord skrevet ned, hvorved der opstår en dobbelt-eksternalisering i to modi; sproglig (auditiv og syntaktisk) og skriftlig (visuel). En praksis som også anvendes med stor effekt af mange både narrative såvel som ikke narrative coaches og terapeuter i Danmark.

Vi foreslår, at reservere begrebet ’dobbelt-eksternalisering’ til denne, og i særlig grad den praksis som Coaching KIT’et indstifter, idet de eksternaliserede temaer (som vi begrebsligger som ’multiple eksternaliseringer’) både navngives sprogligt (syntaktisk), og skriftligt (på post it) og yderligere ved at få sin egen flytbare ”krop” (håndgribelig) og fysiske plads i rummet (rumligt). Denne manifesterede adskillelse af person og problem bidrager til at gøre samtalens om problemer til et frugtbart – og skyldsfrit – udgangspunkt for udvikling og læring, i en samtidig anerkendelse af at problemer spiller en rolle i menneskers liv. I samtidigheden af disse forskellige modi, opstår den dobbelt kontingens – overskuddet af mulige indgange til problemløsningen, som i Simones tilfælde synes at bidrage til øget erkendelse af situationen. Hvor sproget er lineært organiseret (man kan kun sige én ting af gangen), forholder det

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sig oplevelsesmæssigt anderledes med både syn og følesans – man kan sagtens både *se og føle* flere ting samtidig – samtidig med at man taler sine tanker og refleksioner i retning af nye erkendelser af selv og andre.

**Materialerne synes, som sproget, at have performativ kraft.** Ligesom sproget ikke kun er et instrument som udtrykker eller repræsenterer virkeligheden, men også er noget som aktivt medskaber denne

(Wittgenstein, 1991), således er også disse simple materialer et sprog. Med figurerne, de enkle tegninger, post-it lapperne i deres forskellige farvekoder er materialerne med til – ikke at 'opføre' en bagvedliggende virkelighed – men også at skabe en virkelighed. Materialerne *gør* noget, sammen med sproget. De har performativ kraft, som i Simones tilfælde bidrog til at bryde en fastlåst virkelighed med tilhørende positioneringer, samtidig med at scenarierne, vinklerne, perspektiverne, farverne, ordene, tegninger og stregerne bidrog til at Simone med krop og stemme kunne give virkeligheden et alternativt udtryk.

## En legende tilgang til alvorlige problemer

Coaching KIT'et fremhæver det improviserende, legende og skabende hos den systemisk/narrative coach (Epston et al. 1997; White 2006). I tråd hermed synes Coaching KIT'et at kunne tilbyde elementer i viften af forhåndenværende tankeværktøjer og byggematerialer, som med fordel kan bringes i spil i den kreative, samskabende og improviserende coachingsamtale.

Det fordrer en konstant opmærksomhed og fornyet aktualitet af det systemiske princip om uærbødiged. Analogt til den systemiske coach's uærbødiged overfor egne hypoteser, tjener uærbødiged overfor selvfremstillede coaching materialer til den kontinuerlige refleksion over, hvordan coachen kan bruge materialerne i den tilpassede forstyrrelses tjeneste. Tilsvarende bliver det i narrativ terminologi vigtigt at fastholde blikket for, hvad der centreres ved at bringe materialerne i spil. Altså hvornår og hvordan kan materialerne bidrage til at centrere fokuspersonens narrativer og finde vej i disse, ud fra hvad der er mest brugbart for fokuspersonen i samtalen, forankret i dennes narrativ, og med fokuspersonen som primær ekspert her på. Både hypoteser og materialer kan, hvis de anvendes ureflekteret, vise sig uegnede for skabelsen af bevægel-

se og brugbar meningsdannelse for fokuspersonen (Tomm, 1992).

Vi vil afslutte artiklen med at citere en anden fokusperson som blev coachet med Coaching KITet. Hun sagde efterfølgende om materialerne:

*"Det hjælper mig med at tænke, med at skille tingenen ad, med at konkretisere det..."*

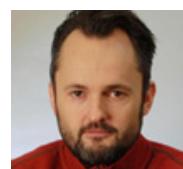
*"Dukke-figurerne bliver en slags teltplokker, fikspunkter ... dukkerne fikserer dét der elastiske spind som ens tanker nogen gange kan være ... det gør altting mere overskueligt".*

Med denne fokuspersons ord, vil vi invitere andre til at lege med. Til selv at eksperimentere med 3D coaching teknikker og skabe *håndgribelige samtalér*, eller til at dele erfaringer og refleksioner man allerede måtte have indenfor dette, i vores øjne, mulighedsfulde og frugtbare felt.

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## Noter

- 1 Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kit>, 23 marts 2014
- 2 Michael White arbejder selv i den retning, idet han beder en dreng diagnosticeret med ADHD om at tegne sin ADHD, altså en visuel eksternalisering af 'problemet' foretaget af drengen selv (White 2007, kap. 1).
- 3 Skumplader bruges ofte i co-design processer, bl.a. fordi man kan tegne med tuscher på deres overflader og nemt tørre dem helt rene igen.
- 4 For en grundig indføring i forskningen omkring materialers betydning i co-design processer, se Mette Agger Eriksens ph.d. afhandling 'Material matters in co-design' 2012.
- 5 Navnet er opdigtet af hensyn til fokuspersonens anonymitet.
- 6 Generelt generer Simone løbende indsigt og nye ideer under hele coaching samtalen, som løbende samles op på post-it notes og organiserer omkring scenarierne med dukkerne.
- 7 Vi vælger bevidst ordet "arbejds-kontekst" frem for "samttale-kontekst" her, da vi netop ikke kun taler, men samtidig arbejder visuelt og taktilt med tanke-stoffet "tvivlen" via Coaching Kit'et.
- 8 Vi har også været omkring hendes egen leder i regionen, som igen og igen har 'fodret Tiviven' ved at 'over-rule' Simones beslutninger, og behandle hende ydmygende overfor ekspertgruppen, som én der ikke helt var opgaven voksen.
- 9 'Visuelle stilladser' er et fælles udtryk anvendt indenfor coachingfeltet for tegninger og fortrykte formater (som fx skemaer, forandringshul, diverse modeller som fx 5F-modellen) som kan anvendes i coachingsamtaler.
- 10 Vi er her løst inspireret af Thomas Ziehes italesættelse af dobbelt kontingen. Ziehe analyserer sig frem til, at det moderne samfunds individ er mere refleksivt end i tidligere historiske epoker, fordi der har åbnet sig flere muligheder, som individet må forstå, tyde, adskille og realisere eller lade ligge. Dette rummer ifølge Ziehe store og positive muligheder, hvis vi blot lærer at udnytte vores viden refleksivt til reduktion af omverdenens kompleksitet. Et tilbageværende spørgsmål er, tænker vi, om det moderne individets opgave er at reducere kompleksiteten, eller at lære at være i, udholde og udnytte mulighederne i at være i kompleksiteten,

som en del af det at træde i karakter som menneske (Ziehe 2004).

11 Art Fischer betoner tilføjelsen af personens responser til trin 2 (effekter) i samtalen ud fra positionskort 1, for at undgå at klienten gøres til offer for effekter, men derimod får øje på den vigtige narrative pointe,

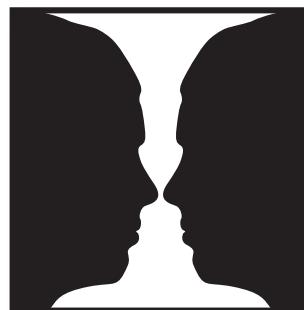
at der altid er ufortalte responser på problemer, som kan danne grundlag for nye forståelser af problemer, selv og relationer.

12 For en uddybelse af Positions-kort 1 og eksternalisende samtalers bidrag til coaching generelt, se Niels-Henrik Sørensen ”Narrativ Coaching” (Prehn, 2008).

# Coaching psykologi

[www.coachingpsykologi.org](http://www.coachingpsykologi.org)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5278/ojs.cp.v3i1.662>



## Coaching psykologi – praksis modellen

Af Ole Michael Spaten, Anna Imer & Stephen Palmer

### Abstract

*Praksis-modellen er inspireret og udviklet på baggrund af den engelsksprogede Practice model. Modellen anvendes især som et centralt redskab i løsningsfokuseret coaching og terapi. Men praksis modellen kan anvendes bredere og som redskab til at hjælpe coaché mod at opnå mål i coaching sessioner, der har et problemløsningsorienteret fokus.*

**Keywords:** Praksis-modellen, problemløsning, løsningsfokuseret coaching

### Indledning

De fleste der arbejder med coaching vil indimellem have god nytte af at læne sig op af en model og især modeller som er teoretisk fundet har indenfor de seneste ti til femten vundet indpas. Samtidig er den coaching psykologiske forskning vokset støt i Europa, i særlig grad i England og i Danmark. Først og fremmest på baggrund af etableringen af de coachingpsykologiske forskningsenheder i London og tilsvarende forskningsenheder på Aalborg Universitet og Københavns Universitet. I begyndelsen initieret gennem de psykologfaglige foreninger og herhjemme af Dansk Psykologforenings Selskab for EvidensBaseret Coaching (SEBC) og nu senest et dansk tidsskrift for coaching psykologi, der fungerer coaching i en solid hundredårig videnskabelig psykologisk tradition.

Praksisforskning og store empiriske studier, der undersøger hvad og hvordan coaching virker gennemføres og efterspørges i højere grad (Grant, 2011; Spaten, 2010, 2011; Stelter, 2010, 2011) og vil være vejen frem for coaching psykologiens udbredelse og udvikling. I Danmark vinder coaching psykologi fodfæste, f.eks. indenfor medarbejder og executive coaching (Spaten, 2011; Kjerulf, 2011; Dam Hede 2010), men også igennem anvendelsen af den konsultative tilgang i PPR i de danske kommuner, hvor psykologen i høj grad kan anvende coaching redskaber i det psykologiske arbejde med samarbejdspartnere tilknyttet PPR (Tanggaard & Elmholz, 2006).

Dansk coaching psykologi er med i front og henter bl.a. inspiration fra læreproces- og klinisk-psykologisk forskning inden- og udenlands. Men

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nødvendigheden af at få tilpasset de ofte engelsksprogede modeller og metoder til danske forhold er tydelig. Adaptationen vil bidrage til at modeller og metoder bliver mere brugbare og lettere tilgængelige for coach og coaché. Andre – ikke engelsksprogede lande – har tidligere med succes adapteret modeller og metoder til egen kultur og anvendelse, senest f.eks. til brasilianske forhold (Dias, Gandom, Nardi & Palmer, 2011).

I denne artikel diskuteres nogle af de mange forskellige modeller der findes indenfor coaching, de fleste forkortet med et nemt huskeord, et såkaldt akronym. Endvidere fremlægges adaptationen af PRACTICE modellen til det danske sprog. PRACTICE er en anerkendt 7-trins model, udviklet af Palmer (2007, 2008, 2011a), og anvendt igennem en længere årrække i terapi, rådgivning, stresshåndtering og coaching, med det sigte at vejlede coaché til at angribe et problem og implementere løsningsfokuserede strategier. I næste afsnit vil der således kort blive beskrevet en række coaching modeller, hvorefter artiklen fortsætter med at illustrere, hvordan den dansk adapterede model PRAKSIS kan være frugtbar for coaching, måske især coaching psykologi med et anvendelsesorienteret fokus.

## Coaching psykologisk praksis – på basis af modeller

Coaching har fundet sted som praksis siden de gamle grækere og i alt den tid lang har der eksisteret en række forskellige modeller og metoder i coaching. En af de mest velkendte modeller er givetvis GROW modellen, hvor GROW er en forkortelse for (et akronym) for Goal, Reality, Options og Will (eller Wrap-up). GROW blev udviklet af Graham Alexandre og fremstillet af John Whitmore i England i firserne og halvfemserne (se f.eks. Whitmore, 1996, 2004). Modellen er ligeså enkel som den er brugbar: Når coaché søger en coach for hjælp i en given problemsituation spørger coach først hvad coaché vil opnå eller hvad er dit mål (goal). Herefter undersøges spørgende hvordan virkeligheden (reality) ser ud nu og hvor langt coaché er fra at nå det mål. At arbejde med modellen må forstås som en refleksiv proces, hvorigennem coaché dernæst udforsker hvilke forhindringer og muligheder (options) der eksisterer i forhold til at nå målet. Slutelig arbejdes der med at præcisere de konkrete trin på vejen mod målet, hvilken energi og vilje (will) findes og hvad skal der til.

På mange måder kan man se at GROW rummer de helt grundlæggende trin der skal i spil, hvis der skal gennemføres en frugtbar, løsningsorienteret proces i coaching. Mange modeller vil derfor også være variationer over disse momenter og nogle af dem vil kort blive nævnt i det følgende.

OSKAR er et akronym for Outcome, Scaling, Know-how and resources, Affirm and action og til sidst Review (Jackson & McKergow, 2007). Ligesom ved GROW modellen starter processen med at skitsere outcome (målet) som coaché ser frem imod; Hvordan vil din perfekte fremtid se ud med dette mål for øje? Herefter måles eller skaleres der hvor coaché er i dag i forhold til det skitserede mål. Dette gøres ved en skala fra 0-10 på hvor langt (fra målet) coaché er i dag, i forhold til den ønskede fremtid. Dernæst skal de eksisterende ressourcer og viden klarlægges – igen i forhold til at kunne nå målet. Hvilken know-how og ressourcer har coaché i dag? Skalering anvendes og kan bidrage til at klarlægge dette moment, hvis der f.eks. er målt 0-3 på skalaen, er der tale om få ressourcer. Affirm and action handler om at konstatere hvad der allerede gøres godt, hvad der skal forandres og gøres mere af og få det konkret planlagt med henblik på at kunne nå målet. Afslutningsvist lægger Review op til at undersøge hvilke elementer der var virksomme samt evaluere indsatsen og forløbet.

En tredje hyppigt anvendt model er ACHIEVE: Assess current situation; Creative brainstorming of alternative to current situation; Hone goals; Initiate options; Evaluative options; Valid action programme design; Encourage momentum. ACHIEVE er udviklet af Dembkowski & Elridge, (2003). Coaching psykologien er også blevet inspireret af kognitiv adfærdsterapi, f.eks. den meget velkendte ABCDE model som oprindeligt er udviklet indenfor rational emotiv terapi og coaching (se f.eks. Ellis et al., 1997; Palmer, 2002). Akronymet ABCDE dækker over: Activating event eller situation, Beliefs, Consequences, Disputation of the beliefs, Effective and new approach to dealing with the issue or problem. Slutelig udviklede Edgerton den såkaldte SPACE model (Edgerton & Palmer, 2005), her dækker forkortelsen Social context, Physical, Action, Cognitions and Emotions. Endvidere anvendes en række metoder som f.eks. visualiseret mestring (Palmer, 2011b) og sokratisk udspørgen (Spaten, 2011). Medens de to sidstnævnte meto-

der begge har været genstand for detaljerede beskrivelser i et tidligere nummer af dette tidsskrift vil de ovenstående kort omtalte modeller senere blive grundigt diskuteret og fremstillet. Vi vil dels uddybe de ovenfor beskrevne modeller som f.eks. SPACE (på dansk SKAFT) modellen og supplere med andre. Nedenfor en gennemført fremstilling af coaching psykologiens PRAKSIS, som er adaptet til dansk fra den britiske PRACTICE model.

## Centrale modeller

I 2007 introduceredes den løsningsfokuserede PRACTICE model, som initialt er en videreudvikling af en syv trins model beskrevet af Wasik (1984) (se også Neenan & Palmer, 2001). Den oprindelige model er opbygget gennem følgende trin: 1. Problem identification, 2. Goal selection, 3. Generation of alternatives, 4. Consideration of consequences, 5. Decision making, 6. Implementation og 7. Evaluation. Videreudviklingen består dels i at Palmer introducerer det engelske akronym PRACTICE, hvilket gør det nemmere at huske de forskellige trin, men den væsentligste udvikling er coaching modellens fokus på en løsningsorienteret tilgang og arbejdet med implementering af konkrete løsninger (O'Connel & Palmer, 2007; Jackson & McKergow, 2007) blandt andet via skalering og en præcis beskrivelse af praksis. Coaching modellen har herefter været bredt anvendt indenfor rådgiving, psykoterapi, virksomhedsledelse, coaching og træning. Tabel 1 giver en oversigt over de enkelte trin i PRACTICE modellen.

Tabel 1: PRACTICE

<b>Problem identification</b>
<b>Realistic, relevant goals developed</b>
<b>Alternative solutions generated</b>
<b>Consideration of consequences</b>
<b>Target most feasible solution(s)</b>
<b>Implementation of</b>
<b>Chosen solution(s)</b>
<b>Evaluation</b>

Forbogstaverne på de syv punkter danner ordet practice og formålet med akronymet er at fungere som et "Aide mémoire" (på dansk: huskeregel). Edgerton og Palmer (2005) understreger at et akro-

nym er afgørende, når det forventes af coachéen skal kunne huske og aktivt anvende modeller der består af flere end 4-5 punkter. Den danske adaptation følger samme princip med et akronym som huskeord, dvs. PRAKSIS, således at det originale budskab med PRACTICE modellen fastholdes. Tabel 2 (næste side) illustrerer hvorledes PRAKSIS modellen er blevet udviklet og kan anvendes konkret i en dansk coachingpsykologisk praksis med de dertil hørende udforskende spørgsmål. Overførslen af de sokratiske spørgsmål (Spaten, 2011), som ledsager elementerne i akronymet, spiller en afgørende rolle, således at coachen har en rettesnor til at formulere de mest enkle og klare sætninger; både til egen hjælp, men i høj grad også for coachéen.

## Konklusion

Artiklen har forsøgt at tegne nogle omrids af hvorledes Coaching modellen med det danske akronym PRAKSIS kan anvendes i coaching sessioner. I bilag 1 findes et ark til fri kopiering, hvormed den enkelte coach helt konkret kan nedskrive kommentarer vedrørende de enkelte trin i praksis modellen, fra P til S. For en mere vidtgående forståelse af modellen, anvendelsen heraf og tilpasningen til forskellige sammenhænge, se endvidere Palmer, (2007, 2008, 2011a), Palmer og Szysmanska (2007), Williams & Palmer (2009), Williams, Edgerton og Palmer, (2010), Williams, Palmer & Wallace (2011), and O'Connell, Palmer & Williams (2012).

Artiklen har dels fremstillet, hvordan vi på den ene side udvikler coaching psykologiske modeller i dialog med forskersamfundets originale udformning i sin historiske sammenhæng. På den anden side understreges at coaching må udvikles forankret i en samtidig respekt for lokal kultur og traditioner. Artiklen kan således ses som del af et større projekt, hvor coaching psykologiske modeller og metoder adapteres enkelte landes sproglige og kontekstuelle referencerammer. Eksempelvis kan anføres en brasiliansk version, som blev overført med følgende akronymer: POSTURA og POSITIVO (se også Dias et al., 2011). Initiativer som disse kan inspirere udbredelsen af coaching psykologien med referencerammer til andre sprog. Således vil flere forskningsmiljøer og praksisfællesskaber verden over kunne få gavn af den hastige udvikling indenfor det coachingpsykologiske felt.

**Tabel 2: PRAKSIS**

<b>Problemet identificeres</b>	Hvilken problemstilling vil du tale om i dag? (Anvend med fordel SKAFT, til at afdække situationen fyldesgørende) Hvad kunne du tænke dig at ændre? / Er der nogen undtagelser i den sammenhæng?/ Hvordan kan vi vide om situationen har forbedret sig?/ Kan du anskue problemstillingen fra en anden synsvinkel?
<b>Realistiske og relevante mål opstilles</b>	Hvad vil du gerne opnå? Er det relevant? Er det realistisk?
<b>Alternative løsninger fremstilles</b>	Hvad er dine muligheder? – Lad os notere dem og skabe et overblik. Hvilke andre alternative løsninger findes?
<b>Konsekvenser overvejes</b>	Hvad kan ske? – Hvor brugbar anser du de forskellige scenarier, løsninger som vi har opstillet? – Anvend rating skala 1-10 ved løsningsmodellerne.
<b>Se de bedste beslutninger klart</b>	Hvilken beslutning er mest gennemførlig? Hvilken beslutning er den bedste? Hvorfor?
<b>Implementering af den valgte løsning</b>	Hvordan skal løsningen implementeres? Hvordan, helt konkret kan du ”gå ud og gøre det”? (Her kan der med fordel udarbejdes meget præcise og konkrete trin i processen med at gennemføre løsningen; herved kan coaché anse implementeringen og hele forløbet som mere overskueligt). Bliv parat til implementeringen.
<b>Slutevaluering</b>	Hvor sikker er du på at opnå succes med den valgte løsning? Anvend rating skala 1-10. Hvad vil du gøre andetledes næste gang du kommer i en lignende problematisk situation? Hvis løsningen er afprøvet, spørg da: Hvor succesfuldt var det? Hvad har du lært af det?  Til sidst debriefing: Er der noget du gerne vil sige, inden vi afslutter coaching sessionen?

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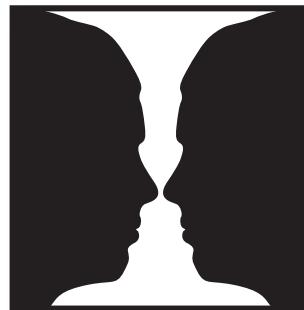
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# Coaching psykologi

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## Studerendes tanker om den tredje Internationale Psykologi Konference i Rom

Af Christina Sullivan & Mette Agerskov Petersen

Det var med stor nysgerrighed, at vi, fem psykologistuderende på professionsprogrammet KAiO (Konsultativt Arbejde i Organisationer), forlod Aalborg og vendte snuden mod Rom. Her skulle den tredje Internationale Coaching Psykologi Konference afholdes d. 16. og 17. maj, 2013. Værtskabet stod SCP Italy (Society for Coaching Psychology Italy) for, og begivenheden blev organiseret af og afholdt for professionelle coaching psykologer og andre interesserede inden for feltet af coaching. Konferencen havde tre hovedtemaer med "Surfing the Edge of Chaos", som omhandlede kompleksiteten i organisatoriske og socioøkonomiske kontekster, "Third Generation Coaching", med fokus på personlig og kollektiv meningsskabelse, og slutteligt et gennemgående tema med en "Evidence-Based Approach".

Endelig skulle vi ikke kun sætte ansigt på de navne, vi har læst artikler af, men også benytte de læringsmuligheder der ville være ved at overvære oplæg fra nogle af de helt store navne inden for psykologisk coaching. Overraskende nok viste konferencen sig som et fælles læringsrum. Her lyttede vi ikke blot kun til foredragsholderne, men fik også hilst på dem, stillet spørgsmål, delt vores erfaringer og diskuteret synet på psykologisk coaching. I forlængelse heraf vil vi rette en stor tak til Ole Michael Spaten, studieleder for Psykologi på Aalborg Uni-

versitet, som glædeligt introducerede os for blandt andre David Lane, Richard Stelter og Stephen Palmer. Og når vi først er inde på dette spor, bør Aalborg Universitet, og særskilt KAiO, også få rettelig anerkendelse for de workshops, der har dannet grundlaget for vores læring, da to af de tre nævnte har ledet to af vores workshops i foråret. Stephen Palmer gæster AAU igen til efteråret, og vi ser frem til hvad vi ved, bliver nogle spændende og lærerige workshops, og glæder os ligeledes til at mødes med ham endnu engang.

### En evidensbaseret disciplin i et komplekst felt

På første dagen af konferencen begyndte keynote talerne Prof. Stephen Palmer og Prof. Sarah Corrie konferencen med at præsentere et alternativt perspektiv på udviklingen af coaching psykologi professionen som en evidensbaseret disciplin. Her lagde de vægt på den internationale udvikling af henholdsvis profession, disciplin og samfund. Særligt pointerede de, og havde håb om, en yderligere vægtning af evidens inden for feltet af psykologisk coaching, der så hurtigt udvikler sig. Hvor Palmer og Corrie overordnet var positive over udviklingen af psykologisk coaching som disciplin, kan det hævdes, at David Lane ser det mod-

sat. I sit oplæg lagde han vægt på den kompleksitet vi som coaches skal tage højde for i mødet med en organisatorisk verden, hvor morgendagen er usikker, og som gør at ledere endvidere må navigere i et mere uvist og stressende landskab. Dette er komplettest og en udfordring vi skal være opmærksomme på når vi indtræder heri, men Lane understregede også den positive effekt, som træning og coaching kan have på at skabe grobund og støtte i dette møde.

### 3. Generations Coaching

På anden dagen af konferencen holdte keynote taleren Reinhard Stelter oplæg om sit begreb 3. generations coaching på baggrund af problematikker omkring det at skulle identificere, hvor coaching feltet befinder sig her og nu. Ud fra dette blev 1. generationscoaching beskrevet som havende et problem- og målfokus med eks. GROW-modellen, sportspsykologi og mentaltræning. 2. generations coaching kan siges at have et mere løsnings- og fremtidsorienteret fokus med mere systemiske og konstruktionistiske perspektiver. 3. generations coaching beskriver coaching feltet hvor det befinder sig her og nu. Stelter udtrykte forhåbninger om, at feltet ville blive i dette tredje perspektiv med dets fokus på *refleksivitet* og *samskabende processer*.

Stelter beskriver 3. generations coaching som det samskabende forhold der er mellem coach og coachee, hvor de to bliver dialogpartnere, der søger mod en symmetrisk relation. Coaching kan hermed ses som et refleksivt domæne, der bringer ens opmærksomhed mod multivers og fler-stemmighed.

Stelter fortalte videre om værdier som en central del af 3. generations coaching. Værdier skal i denne sammenhæng ses som en essentiel del af vores identitet, hvor det at sætte fokus på kerneværdier i refleksioner lige netop griber fat i det mest centrale både for en coachee, men også coach i fornævnte samskabende proces.

Fra vores perspektiv var der en forholdsvis stor del af det Stelter holdt oplæg om, som gav lidt sig selv! Lige indtil vi begyndte at tænke over, at vi jo lige netop er 'vokset op' med en uddannelse som tager højde for aspekterne inden for 3. generations coaching. Men dette er Stelter, og hans generation inden for coaching feltet, ikke. De har lige netop levet alle tre generationer, og set den rivende udvikling som coaching har gennemgået i dens ellers forholdsvis korte levetid som videnskab. Det

er lige netop forskere og praktikere som ham, 3. generations coaches som os selv kan takke for, at vi nu kan sidde og nikke genkendende til refleksive og samskabende processer. Det er en mere eller mindre naturlig del af vores eget perspektiv på coaching. Som unge studerende, med masser af frisk teori i bagagen, men knap så meget praksis erfaring, er det vigtigt også at huske på den historiske udvikling, som danner baggrunden for hvor feltet er i dag, men også hvor og hvad feltet potentielt kan bevæge sig imod i fremtiden.

### Supervision

Et andet interessant oplæg fra en af keynote talerne kom fra Dr. Tatiana Bachkirova (UK), som satte fokus på udviklingen af coachingevner gennem supervision. En af hovedpointerne fra hendes oplæg var, at coaching er en forretning, hvor andres evner udvikles, så gennem supervision er det nødvendigt også selv at udvikle egne evner som coach. Her understregede hun to dimensioner af udviklingen af coachingevner nemlig kompetenceudvikling; herunder viden, evner inden for metoder og teknikker og etik, og personlig udvikling; hvor coaches selv skal ses som det primære instrument inden for coaching. Her kom Tatiana med en vigtig pointe: "Når vi udvikler os, udvikler vores coaching sig også". Tatiana sluttede af med at pointere, at supervision selvfølgelig ikke er et krav, men noget alle coaches med en professionel samvittighed bør have!

Dette oplæg var for os studerende med til at pointere hvor præstige vi er med vores uddannelse inden for coaching og praksis i vores Center for Coaching under Aalborg Universitet. I vores endnu korte karriere som coaches er supervision et gennemgående og vigtigt element, ikke kun i kvalitetsmæssig professionsfaglig forstand, men også på et personligt plan. Supervisionen er med til at udvikle og forbedre os rent fagligt, samtidig med at vi udvikler os personligt. Denne skoling vil være med til, at vi ønsker at fastholde denne praksis vores karriere igennem for at have det etiske aspekt for øje.

### Afsluttende refleksioner

Det eneste man umiddelbart kan sige kritisk om konferencen var, at de fleste oplæg var på italiensk, og ofte med tilhørende italienske slides, noget som til trods for mundtlig engelsk oversættelse i høretelefoner, gjorde det meget vanskeligt at forstå selv hovedtrækkende i hvad der garanteret ellers var spændende oplæg. Fremadrettet håber

vi, at der lægges større vægt på 'international' til kommende konferencer, så alle har en chance for at følge med.

Det er med stor glæde, at den næste konference afholdes i Edinburgh i december 2013, hvor Stephen Palmer slog et slag for det britiske med til-lægsord som 'stimulerende' og 'udviklende'. Temaet i Edinburgh bliver 'Kompleksitet', og der vil blive rigeligt med muligheder for at netværke!



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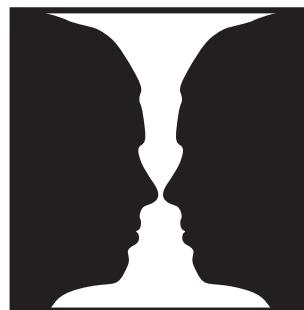
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## Anmeldelse: Ulla Charlotte Becks "Psykodynamisk coaching"

Af Philip Kjær

Bogen illustrerer hvordan psykodynamisk inspireret coaching kan praktiseres. Bogen rejser meget hurtigt et implicit spørgsmål om hvem der meningsfuldt kan / bør udføre denne form for coaching, og hvilke krav der meningsfuldt kan stilles til udøveren af psykodynamisk coaching, hvilket berøres kort i løbet af bogens kapitler.

Coaching har gennem de sidste 10 år været et voksende felt og kan anholdes for manglende teori- og empirisk forankring, hvormed det tager sig ud som akademisk bastard som bl.a. syntes at blive op>taget ukritisk i psykologiens væsen. Ulla Charlotte indleder sin bog med at beskrive den som et vovestykke, og udtrykker et håb om at skabe et seriøst formuleret alternativt til den teori og empirifattige coachinglitteratur ved at kombinere coaching med psykodynamisk teori og kalde det psykodynamisk coaching.

Bogen er struktureret i syv kapitler; "Psykodynamik og coaching – hvorfor?"; "Psykodynamisk coaching"; "Individuel psykodynamisk coaching"; "Psykodynamisk coaching af par – mødets psykologi"; "Psykodynamisk coaching af grupper"; "Psykodynamisk coaching i organisationer"; "Psykodynamisk praksis". Strukturen illustrerer bogens praksisfokus og bestræbelsen på at vise psykodynamisk coa-

ching som en proces, hvor der skabes forbindelse mellem klientens fortid og nutid som baggrund for at skabe en ønskværdig og realistisk fremtid.

Bogens kapitler gennemgår specifikke coaching-forløb med fyldige eksemplariske case uddrag, og forfatteren delagtiggør læseren i egne refleksioner, der fremhæver teoriens meningsbærende anvendelse på casen. Bogen illustrerer coaching med individet; kærligheds-/arbejdsparret og grupper.

Gennem hele bogen bygges caseeksemplerne op over casemetodens fire grundlæggende trin som introduceres i kapitel to. Trinene er: klientens henvendelse; første coaching session: mål og rammer; coachingforløbet og afslutning: evaluering og afsked. Læser får et varieret indblik i, hvordan der arbejes med de fire trin både individuelt og i grupper gennem caseeksemplerne.

Beck fremhæver et fokus på 'den implicitte kontekst' i coaching. Dermed introduceres en mulighed for at overskride individet som nexus for problemforståelse og lægger op til bredere forståelses- og forklaringsrammer men det forfølges ikke. 'Den implicitte kontekst' introducerer også transferproblematikken altså et fokus på hvordan erkendelse i coaching overføres og aktualiseres i andre fælleskaber uden at problematikken behandles eksplicit.

## Bogens struktur

Bogen kan opdeles i fire blokke med hver sit anliggende:

Første blok, kap 1 og 2, er en generel introduktion til psykodynamisk coaching; dets formål og relevans samt en præcision af strukturen i en coaching session. Anden blok, kap. 3, er en selektiv og fokuseret teoriredoegørelse, der tilbyder læser en grundlæggende forståelse for centrale psykologiske begreber i forskellige individorienterede psykodynamiske rammeværk. Teorierne eksemplificeres hver for sig i en kort case. Tredje blok, kap4-6, har fokus på kærlighedspar og arbejdspar i coaching (kap. 4); kap 5. byder på gruppeteori og introducerer et sæt af begrebsrammer til brug for analyse af gruppedynamikker; kap. 6 introducerer psykodynamisk systemteori, og der reflekteres over hvornår og hvordan coaching på et psykodynamisk grundlag kan være relevant i organisationer og kommer kort omkring etiske problemstillinger. Blok fire, kap 7, opholder sig ved en sondring mellem psykodynamisk coaching og beslægtede terapiformer ligesom psykodynamisk coaching differentieres fra supervision ved at beskriver strukturelle forskelligheder.

Som Ulla Charlotte Beck skriver, er bogen et vovestykke, ikke mindst fordi Ulla Beck balancerer på en knivsæg mellem terapi og coaching. Det rejser i sig selv mange spørgsmål som fortjener behandling, og som måske tages under behandling i en kommende ny udgave. Den nye såvel som den undrende læser, kan med fordel læse bogen som inspiration videre dialog og som grundlag for at forstå coaching i praksis.

Ulla Charlotte Beck  
Psykodynamisk coaching  
Fokus og dybde  
Hans Reitzels Forlag



# Seven domains for leadership mentoring and executive coaching

## A reflective paper

Af Paul O. Olson

### Abstract

*This article discusses how coaching and mentoring can be integrated and work together as systematic tools for leadership development. The author draws on psychotherapy as a parallel for practitioner research and posits five validation hypotheses for coaching and mentoring. Arguably coaching is not sufficient to develop leaders, but a useful toolbox within mentoring. Internal mentors in particular have cultural and industry knowledge of direct relevance to the adept.*

*Seven domains are identified for an integrated framework: Insight from reflection and meta-learning; Working with the whole person; Competence modelling; Deep listening, beyond words; Emotional intelligence; Coaching for results; and Systemic thinking and team development.*

**Keywords:** leadership, coaching, mentoring, internal mentors, executive coaching, practice theory.

### Introduction

With increasing global challenges and leadership shortage we need to find ways to develop better leaders faster than by traditional methods. Coaching and mentoring are two such accelerators and an opportunity for many of us. The European Mentoring & Coaching Council (EMCC) recently started a project to spread evidence based methods to practitioners; as well as generate research from actual practice (practice theory). There are gaps in both directions.

First, I take it for granted that coaches understand the importance of informed consent. But coaches and mentors are not always qualified and the Coaching @ Work Poor Practices Survey in 2010 documented questionable practices. In a world of marketing and social media, customers don't necessarily know what they are buying. Recommendations may be more proof of likeability than of valid practice theory. Second, skills such as good listening, co-creation and goal setting are present far outside coaching and mentoring; and they do not

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differentiate professionals from amateurs. Third, we see a need for systematic and critical reviews as practitioners don't have time to read basic research that is often fragmented and partial. We can then define prototypical problems within practice areas such as performance, leadership or life coaching.

Fourth, power asymmetry can be a substantial factor and in some cultures it will dominate the relationship. A manager cannot in fact ethically send a person to coaching in any country: a large Danish company was successfully litigated against because they sent managers to group coaching where the choice was felt like participating or losing your job. The four complainants had long term damage that needed psychotherapy; several such cases invalidate the claim that coaches are on the safe side of mental health: Some coaches are obviously out of depth without knowing it or simply ignoring the red flags for whichever reason.

Fifth, as supervisors we know that practitioners use the same words for very different behaviours and concepts; sessions should not be taped for privacy reasons so we need to understand our supervisees through their own words. Hermeneutic phenomenology is a useful framework to deal with multiple meanings, identified by Ricoeur (1983) as *polysemy*.

Sixth, we need to know if experienced practitioners actually do what they teach. It is certainly not a lame duck as in the young days of artificial intelligence (AI) medical doctors were asked to describe how they arrived at diagnoses. The resulting programs failed totally until researchers realised that expert diagnoses were based upon pattern recognition, while novices simply cannot (Medin & Ross, 1990). Yet both groups would explain what they did in terms of a logical approach! Since then Problem Based Learning has been used extensively in medical training to increase pattern recognition – not so in coaching.

Seventh, we struggle with neuroscience as we do not yet have a solid enough model of *consciousness*; conceptually Kahneman's (2012) metaphor of System 1 (patterns, associations, emotions) and System 2 (awareness, focus, thinking) probably comes close.

These and other gaps made EMCC create "Bridging the Research Gap" workgroups in the Spring of 2013 and I shall refer to the group that I lead as EMCC X as there is also a Group Y. The groups are transparent to each other but follow different

paths. This paper should however not be taken to reflect the views of EMCC or EMCC X.

## Using assumptions from psychotherapy

Are defence mechanisms, projections and parallel processes useful for coaching? With mentally healthy people phenomena such as transference, counter-transference and affect avoidance exist, but are they useful in understanding leadership? How can you remain authentic while trying to model somebody else? A good deal can be taken from both psychotherapy and pedagogy, but every method has hidden assumptions. Another example, Gestalt is somewhat constrained by being problem oriented (foreground, background, impasse, unconscious processes, introjection) but can be more easily modified for coaching. We can work in a dyad *within* the group, while after closure other members are invited to comment on how *they* were affected by what took place. We can add highly useful techniques such as bodywork, relaxation, mindfulness or taking sides; others should be avoided for coaching.

For team coaching the Bion/Tavistock tradition is still popular in some executive MBA's. Groups are thought to act like a super-organism in the same way as individuals, yet the apparent convergence of behaviours are perhaps more easily explained in social psychology as identity, us/them and majority/minority. At a deeper level preferences and values are social cognitive meanings; forming webs such as pointed out in the fifties already by Foulkes and Lewin. It is an area undergoing total revision in modern psychology.

NLP should be mentioned as it is widely popular and marketed as a general solution for just about anything. In one recent book called *The Ultimate Introduction to NLP: How to build a successful life* Bandler et al. (2013) argue that even schizophrenia is just a personal map that can be changed because NLP is *more powerful than psychotherapy*. Allegedly Virginia Satir and Milton Erickson were able to cure schizophrenia. Probably these were cases of delusional thinking or personality disorders rather than schizophrenia. Schizophrenia was heavily over-diagnosed in the US at the time. Recently I learnt about a coach (not a qualified psychologist) who apparently tried NLP with such a coachee – the first six months went fine, for what followed the coachee was too fragile and ended in an acute

locked ward. The coachee has an excellent case for compensation and not only money back.

On the other hand, the difference from psychotherapy may be artificial once we loosen some of the assumptions. CBT style coaching (CBC) is particularly promising as an evidence-based approach. It is not restricted conceptually to mental illness or difficulties such as stage fright, perfectionism or barriers to change, but can be used to develop positive beliefs, motivation and personal growth. Fredrickson's (2009) positive psychology could integrate elegantly with CBC. I would also include Applied Behavioural Analysis, which has progressed to almost perfection since Skinner in the 1950ies.

An integrated theory must triangulate not only with neuroscience but with neuropsychology and phenomenology. One of my favourite areas is the study of *consciousness* states such as sleep, psychosis, mania and habit formation. The objects of thinking could not exist without *primacy of perception* (Merleau-Ponty, 1963) as our world is first created through our senses and connected with emotions. Known as *primacy of language*, we also cannot make sense of the world without naming, categorisation, metaphors and common abstract concepts; and we will have little to communicate.

## We need practice theory

Most coaching ideas can be conceptualised as practice theories and are often easy to decipher as *Zeitgeist* and/or family tree. Until the fifties psychodynamic theories had little competition and we have accepted the *unconscious* as valid theory because it seems to make sense (yet it is a kind of black box and therefore a very weak theory). Coach trainings use the Johari window in this way and all variants of psychoanalysis (classical, Kleinian or object relations), Jungian analysis (incl. shadows in MBTI) and even Gestalt included the idea of the unconscious and defence mechanisms. In contrast, Ellis and Beck built upon initial cognitive psychology while self-actualisation dominated Human Potential Movement. Now neuroscience is *en vogue*, like in the sixties coaches and trainers can again promise the world. If you believe enough, the reward system will thrive on dopamine and not know the difference between real and imagined.

Just act as if you were a millionaire and you will become one. If you're not successful, you didn't try hard enough. This focus is culturally biased towards individualism, as is the assumption that we

will converge in a global (of course Western type!) culture. Ethnocentrism means that important cultural and existential concepts like collectivism, religion, fatalism, embeddedness and harmony are commonly neglected in coaching, as are indigenous concepts. What works in France *could* work in the UK, we just never tried it. Culture is simply what has worked for us in the past – a kind of local common sense at that.

Practice theory is a movement from recognising what goes on to experimenting and deciding what works and why. Coaching and mentoring are similar to leadership. Frederick Herzberg, a well-known guru, has opined that leadership is more art than science and giant thinkers such as Peter Drucker did not present scientific evidence behind every word about leadership. We should all be reflective thinkers who try to understand praxis, paradigms and practice theories. For EMCC X the gap between research and practice is not explained by saying that practitioners are not interested in science. We are. But.

## Practitioner research

Since the 1950ies we have enjoyed several generations of psychotherapies and psychotherapy research and we should want to avoid a similar situation to the 400+ historical variants of psychotherapy and counselling (Corsini & Wedding, 2010). There is much to learn from it. In 1952 Eysenck asked if psychotherapy works and in 1967 Gordon Paul reviewed the state of psychotherapy research and posted a new challenge in the Journal of Consulting Psychology:

“What treatment by whom is most effective for this individual with this specific problem, and under which set of circumstances” (Paul, 1967: 111 in Woolfe, Dryden & Strawbridge, 2003)

Following this challenge it has been long established that psychotherapies do work, some better than others, and we know a good deal about why (e.g. Barkham, 2002; Roth & Fonagy, 1996; Smith, Glass & Miller, 1980). The case for specific therapies has been generally accepted; as has the realisation of factors such as placebo (expectation) and general factors such as respect, interest and exploration. Whether we call it stretch, cognitive dissonance, reinforcement, feed-forward – these are

names for similar phenomena. Sometimes we work at an individual level, or we must include organisations, teams, teaching or family systems. As new behaviours settle via consistent situational leadership, new meaning is constructed and generalised.

Such research is problematic in many ways. My own null hypothesis for coaching would be: "*The impact my mother would have in the same situations that we are coaching and mentoring for, as she has no knowledge of coaching technique.*" The following could be a minimal quality assurance:

- The null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) must be a value "p" much higher than zero such as to compensate for spontaneous recovery and placebo outcomes.
- $H_1$  that we probably do not know what coaches and mentors actually do and why. Which methods do they use for which impact? What works for whom and how do they know beforehand? What is their threshold intensity for a tool or technique to be effective?
- $H_2$  that people name themselves as something that they might not actually be and thus those who volunteer for research might not be a valid, purposive sample.
- $H_3$  that the protocols may not match reality but practitioners tweak the actual sessions instead of letting the protocol collapse; and
- $H_4$  that results may be the effects of person-situation interaction and not caused by coaching or mentoring.

If any of these hypotheses are correct, the research could be invalid. Of the range of approaches listed in Hesse-Biber & Leavy (2008) *Handbook of Emergent Methods*, action research and social constructionist grounded theory (Charmaz, 2006, 2008) is perhaps the most promising avenue to construct practice theory from practitioner research.

## The issue of definitions

Research must either be based upon definitions or create definitions; yet definitions may not resolve *polysemy*, Ricoeur's (1981) notion that abstract ideas and metaphors have multiple meanings. Anthropologist Clifford Geertz was early to conclude that to describe culture you need thick descriptions – in business and politics 'evidence' is often constructed for the sake of marketing. In political discourse definitions are often stolen or taken over by other parties when they carry positive meaning

for constituents or negative meaning for others, depending on our purpose.

Do definitions actually define practice? For coaching psychology (Palmer & Whybrow, 2008) one definition is:

Coaching psychology is for enhancing *well-being and performance* [my italics] in personal life and work domains underpinned by models of coaching grounded in established adult and children learning and psychological approaches. (p. 3)

Models in this picture would include motivational theory, behavioural approaches and positive psychology. The intersubjective nature of well-being and existence should be made explicit: taking into account that most coaching and mentoring praxis is culturally biased towards Western self-efficacy and ignore such values as embeddeness, harmony and religion. EMCC (2013) define both coaching and mentoring as developmental:

Coaching and mentoring are [i.e. both] developmental activities within relationships based on trust and established through conversations. These activities aim to develop the personal or professional competencies of the client. The focus is on the individual or the team and the resources and solutions they generate for their specific personal or professional context.

The purpose of mentoring is clearly personal growth and learning. Do definitions lead to different practice models? Do we care? Arguably, coaching brings support rather than content; consulting brings content rather than support; and mentoring provides both. While definitions should guide praxis, do they also reflect what we *want* to do? If not, we simply won't walk the talk.

## Seven possible domains for leadership mentoring

I contend that mentoring and coaching overlap in practice – and I guess most of us don't see it as a problem. In the following I shall therefore present seven domains as a practice theory for integrating leadership mentoring and executive coaching.

It has an implicit hierarchy of learning consistent with cultural psychology (roles, expectations, artefacts and context). I regard goal setting, reflection and deep listening as foundational skills; while team competencies and systemic thinking become increasingly important from middle-management. Fortunately, boards of directors and management teams often have gaps in this area. We have work to do.

There are more than fifty leadership theories to sympathise with, yet a mentor/coach cannot choose freely. Organisations should pay not for a particular leadership style, but a coherent model appropriate to context and culture – at least this was what we did in General Electric with great success. Crucially, after the financial crisis business schools such as Harvard have concluded that there was no best leadership tradition and Americans should also look to Europe (read: Germany, Scandinavia, UK) or India.

The 7D is an overall structure for combining executive coaching and mentoring at a practical level together with cultural psychology and systemic thinking. Mentoring should include many of the same skills as coaching e.g. listening, exploring, challenging and other key skills, but we also want to transmit cultural values and wisdom. A qualified executive coach with a psychology background should be particularly useful as a companion to internal mentors and a safeguard in case of problems. In the US mentoring means opening doors and helping to build a career, while in Europe mentoring is perhaps more about sharing wisdom and facilitating professional growth.

Representing an important group of stakeholders, Institute of Directors (UK), an organisation with 60,000+ members say:

Coaching is taken for granted in the world of sport where individuals and teams have a coach to provide motivation, enhance skills and refine performance. Ultimately coaching aims to bring out the best in an individual to enable the team to work better as a whole. The same can be said of business and its leaders. [...] IoD executive coaches have a broad spread of experience and skills. [...] Mentoring implies a longer, less formal and structured relationship." (IoD, 2013)

They make no strict divide between coaching and mentoring for directors and senior managers, a view also shared by Olson (2008) and Passmore (2010). Passmore sees the major contributions of leadership coaching as (1) transferring learning, (2) enhancing skills, (3) greater self-awareness, (4) enhancing motivation, (5) developing stronger personal confidence, and (6) catering for well-being.

The following will be further detailed in my forthcoming book *Great Mentors, Great Future: Seven domains for leadership development in individuals and groups*:

**Insight from reflection and meta-learning (1).** Both coaching and mentoring will here include learning from experiences and reflecting on learning (meta-learning). Some coaches insist that coaching is about crystallising what the coachee already knows, while mentors transmit wisdom or seniority. From blogs it seems that most executive coaches position themselves in the middle, being mindful rather than dogmatic about what the coachee needs to progress.

Handbooks in fact differ in how they see this learning process. Hawkins & Smith (2013) have a comprehensive view of coaching, mentoring and organisational consultancy from a supervision and development point of view. They include authorities such as Revans (action learning), Kolb (learning styles/personality), Argyris (double-loop), Schein (clinical consultancy) and others, while these are not recognised in e.g. the contributions in Passmore (2010), an otherwise useful handbook. I also find Vygotsky's analysis of play as a rehearsal of scripts and his concept of 'zone of proximal development' a useful guidance for planning personal or professional growth, whether a toddler in need of scaffolding, encouraging, trust, and a safe fallback. A good mentor provides such challenge, but not so far as to destroy mastery. No two persons are alike.

**Working with the whole person (2).** In an EMCC X thematic analysis of the EMCC Research conferences (2011-2013) and the BPS sponsored coaching psychology conferences (2007-2012) we found several main themes: self-care, awareness, hope, self, self-acceptance, attachment, motivation, confidence, stress, well-being, emotions, relationships *et cetera*. Interestingly there were six discernible practice or interest areas: Performance and goals

coaching; Developmental; Health/resilience; Career transition/navigation; Executive and leadership; and Systemic (teams and organisations). Three of the areas are more personal (a potential contracting issue).

Perhaps the easiest to reconcile with coaching, but in the future we must expect that there will be demands for better work/life balance. Money has diminishing returns above comfort and safety (e.g. Diener & Suh, 2003). Judging from the financial industry before and after the crisis, Maslow has not been right to assume that we become more altruistic as we climb the ladder towards self-actualisation. Some do, some certainly don't and we have not been able to control it. Society now needs leaders who build a sustainable world – money should follow better values and executive coaches must expect that the dilemma between values and results will be part of coaching sessions more frequently in the years to come.

**Competence modelling (3).** Competence inventories should build culture but cannot if they are just long lists of should-have – sometimes overwhelming and often unrealistic. Leadership is a matter of reacting to situations but also planning for the right situations to happen. Talent management is increasingly important and the higher in the hierarchy, cultural psychology will become more important for organisational changes than formal competence modelling.

This area is targeted at building necessary skills alongside carefully selected challenges to match precisely with each person's individual career plan. The legacy model that had all education ahead of your career is now insufficient, which means that more emphasis must be put on continuous learning going from specific, contextual and limited in the beginning of your career to more systemic and strategic when those skills become required and you have mastered the lower level of individual contributions and informal leadership. Coaching is more efficient when combined with mentoring.

**Deep listening, beyond words (4).** A skill that is different from emotional intelligence as it entails an open presence and attention to what is going on. It has nothing to do with influence and everything to do with understanding: Dialogue and co-operation is only possible if we understand each

other. Both what we are saying and why we are saying it matters.

The lack of this skill is one obvious reason why conflicts become entrenched and why the transition from organisational silos to matrix management almost always requires more patience than shareholders and directors expect. With managers who are interested to listen, not just create maps and strategies, the probability of success increases dramatically. In particular, you need deep listening in such change projects such as LEAN management, mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and supply chain management.

**Emotional intelligence (5).** This well-established concept parallels 'theory of mind', which builds on Vygotsky's and Luria's ideas already. Emotional intelligence is generally thought of as influencing and does not require deep listening; therefore the two are kept separate in this model. Both are based upon empathy but are experience based and become mixed with personality factors – we form personal theories about interpersonal relations such that we can predict and handle various situations.

Its true value for leadership may not be in influencing here-and-now, but knowing what to expect and prepare for the right things to happen. Emotional intelligence guides us in both individual and group situations, beyond empathy in the moment. For leaders this domain must be mastered as a core skill, but requires development when the context changes and you start to lead more people than you can handle one-on-one. From working with hundreds of senior managers my rule of thumb is 30-40, less if geographically dispersed. If you cannot handle this transition, you will probably fail in senior management.

**Coaching for results (6).** For individual goal setting and motivation we have mature techniques. This is the area targeted by performance coaching in particular, whether based on existing goals or the result of exploration, insight, problem solving and goal setting. It is less easy for individuals who are in changing or flexible teams and organisations simply because goals are subject to social dynamics, resources, constraints and a host of external factors beyond your control.

So if everybody is setting their own goals, the result can only be that more and more people will be

running faster and faster in different directions. The fewer the goals and the more similar, the better; in fact there is some interesting research against personal SMART goals and balanced scorecards. The problem is that alternatives such as LEAN, Theory of Constraints or matrix resources all require an acceptance that systemic thinking will generate goals and principles that are often counter-intuitive at least on local levels. Most companies sub-optimise and performance coaches are often contributing to a local success that hurts overall performance of the system.

**Systemic thinking and team development (7).** Your degrees of freedom actually decrease when systems grow and get more complex – one of the reasons why mega-mergers are usually disappointments. For the same reason, bigger seldom becomes better. Increasing sales in a system that cannot handle it (e.g. production, funding, logistics or skills) is a sure path to bankruptcy. Coaching programs are clearly a risk for setting conflicting goals and thus destroy value rather than facilitating it (Olson, 2008).

Yet this is less ominous than it may sound – in many cases it is just a matter of seeing things from a systems perspective (i.e. domain 1). Some companies use Ravens' matrices to measure the 'g' factor i.e. managers' ability to deal with abstract thinking, yet for most purposes we can say that this domain is built through the quality of the career path. The higher up in an organisation, the more important it is to understand how people and parts work as a whole dynamic system, what strategies to employ, how people in the top team influence each other and how you can modify or create parts that support the whole.

## Concluding remarks

Success in one environment cannot guarantee success in another. Leadership development following a model such as the seven domains will mean talented leaders can climb much faster, maybe five years from middle management to senior management. With 70-80% of mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and organisational redesign still failing to deliver on goals, better and more leaders would be very helpful. In the above I have argued that there are overlaps between mentoring and coaching with internal mentors as valuable agents for the organisation's culture.

The Seven Domains is just one possible framework for a practice theory. A practice theory can lead us to a different *modus operandi* where we work in teams rather than alone. For EMCC X this is part of what practice theory is: a necessary element for joining forces in the field. The better the quality of service and the evidence behind our methods, the better we stand.

## Contact



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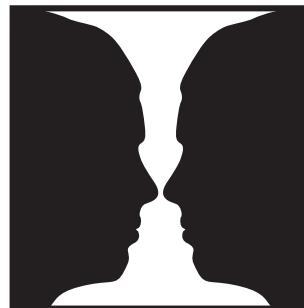
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## Coaching individuals with perfectionistic tendencies When high standards help and hinder

Af Sarah Corrie & Stephen Palmer

### Abstract

*Perfectionism has been widely recognised in the clinical field but has received less attention in the coaching psychology literature. Referring to overly high and unforgiving personal standards of performance that are accompanied by harsh self-evaluation when self-imposed standards are not met, perfectionism has the potential to undermine the coachee's ability to achieve their goals as well as the coaching process itself. In consequence, it is important for practitioners to be able to identify and work effectively with those coachees whose perfectionistic tendencies represent an obstacle to progress. This paper discusses the current literature on perfectionism and provides recommendations on how to work effectively with coachees for whom unremittingly high personal standards are an impediment to personal growth and development.*

**Keywords:** Perfectionism; perfectionistic tendencies; self-evaluation; high personal standards; self-acceptance; context.

The construct of perfectionism has long been recognised in the clinical literature and in personality theory. In recent years both the theories about, and research on, perfectionism have grown considerably (Sumi & Kanda, 2002) with an emerging literature examining the implications of perfectionism for well-being and functioning in both clinical (see Shafran & Mansell, 2001) and non-clinical populations (Beheshtifar, Mazrae-Sefidi & Nekole-Moghadam, 2011; Kearns, Forbes & Gardiner, 2007; Nekole-Moghadam, Beheshtifar & Mazrae-Sefidi, 2012). As there is growing recognition of the ways in which perfectionistic tendencies may impact on

an individual's performance, so perfectionism has started to become a focus of the coaching psychology research and literature (see, for example, Ellam-Dyson & Palmer, 2010).

Perfectionism has been defined as the desire to achieve unremittingly high standards of performance in combination with excessively critical self-evaluations (Frost et al., 1990). Individuals who aim for perfection often define self-worth largely in terms of accomplishment, evaluating experiences according to often rigid and overly demanding performance criteria, productivity or success. For these individuals, any aspect of personal performance

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which is judged as falling short of these standards maybe evaluated as a failure (Pacht, 1984). Perhaps for these reasons the self-development author Anne Wilson Shaef (2013) has described perfectionism as, '...self-abuse of the highest order'.

As the evidence accumulates to suggest that this is a widely occurring phenomenon, it is reasonable to assume that perfectionism is likely to feature in the work with many coachees and may, in certain circumstances, warrant intervention in its own right. As such, those who deliver coaching interventions need to be well-equipped to identify variants of perfectionism that are likely to interfere with either coachees' ability to achieve desired outcomes, or with their ability to use coaching effectively as a vehicle for change and growth.

In this paper the case is made that coaching psychologists need to be aware of, and able to identify, manifestations of perfectionism that have the potential to hinder coachee goal-achievement, wellbeing and development. The literature on perfectionism and its relationship to wellbeing and functioning is reviewed. The difference between unrelenting standards that are likely to be detrimental to the individual, and the healthy pursuit of excellence, is considered. Guidance is offered on how to identify 'warning signs' of negative perfectionism in coachees. The paper concludes with some recommendations on appropriate interventions that can be usefully employed when it becomes evident that a coachee's level of perfectionism requires intervention in its own right.

## Towards an understanding of perfectionism

### Findings from the literature

Kearns, Forbes and Gardiner (2007) noted that one of the principle challenges of working with the construct of perfectionism is the lack of any universally agreed definition. In its broadest sense, perfectionism refers to excessively high personal standards of performance that are accompanied by critical self-evaluation when self-imposed standards are not achieved. However, beyond this broad conceptualisation, different authors have emphasised different aspects of what is perhaps best understood as a multifaceted construct. For example, perfectionism has been conceptualised as a personality trait (Besharat et al., 2010), and as a pattern of thinking and behaviour that is consistent over time (Anshel et al., 2009). Drawing on information-processing theory,

Corrie (2004) proposed that with the tendency to fuse self-worth with achievement, the phenomenon can be usefully understood as a particular cognitive stance towards the self and one's experience. Burns (1983) has also construed perfectionism in cognitive terms, describing it as a network of cognitions that comprises expectations and evaluations of self, others and events which are characterised by a rigid adherence to overly demanding standards and the tendency to view performance as the key-criteria for self-worth. More recently, Egan, Wade and Shafran (2010) have proposed that perfectionism can be understood as a transdiagnostic process that is implicated in the aetiology and maintenance of a broad range of psychopathologies.

Whilst these authors have tended to emphasise the unidimensional, self-oriented aspects of perfectionism, others have argued for a broader, multidimensional conceptualisation. Frost and associates (1990), for example, developed a multidimensional self-report perfectionism scale (the FMps) which draws upon a combination of theoretical constructs and self-report measures (see Egan, Wade & Shafran, 2010, for a review). Frost and associates (1990) proposed that the excessively high standards demonstrated by those with perfectionistic tendencies are typically accompanied by doubting one's actions and being unduly preoccupied with making mistakes. Additionally, they emphasise that these individuals are overly sensitive to parental expectations and criticism and tend to overvalue order and organisation. More specifically, the FMps is organised around the following dimensions:

- Concern over mistakes (comprising items such as, 'if I fail at work/school, I am a failure as a person');
- Doubts about actions (identified through statements such as, 'it takes me a long time to do something "right"');
- personal standards (e.g. 'I set higher goals than most people');
- parental expectations (e.g. 'My parents wanted me to be the best at everything');
- parental criticism ('as a child, I was punished for doing things less than perfectly');
- organisation ('organisation is very important to me').

Hewitt and Flett (1991a) have also developed an elaborated conceptualisation of perfectionism,

arguing that in order to fully understand this construct, it must be conceptualised within the context in which it is expressed. Their Multidimensional Perfectionism Scale (HMPS) comprises three dimensions which emphasise the interpersonal situations in which perfectionistic standards are activated or enacted. The dimensions of their self-report inventory are:

- 1 self-oriented perfectionism: that is, the setting of unrealistic, exacting personal standards coupled with stringent self-evaluation of performance (for example, as expressed in the statement, 'I strive to be the best at everything I do');
- 2 other-oriented perfectionism: that is, setting unrealistic, exacting standards for others and evaluating them critically when they fail to achieve this (for example, 'if I ask someone to do something, I expect it to be done flawlessly');
- 3 socially-prescribed perfectionism: the perception that the individual is subject to the unrelenting standards of others (as expressed in statements such as, 'people expect nothing less than perfection from me').

As Egan et al. (2010) observe, the HMPS and the FMPS are the two principal measures of perfectionism that have been used to investigate perfectionism, at least in clinical populations, and although a review of the statistical properties of the measures is beyond the scope of this paper (see Flett et al., 1991, and Frost et al., 1993, respectively), there appears to be strong evidence for reliability as well as discriminant validity (see Enns & Cox, 2002). Whilst there is a degree of overlap between the measures, with socially prescribed perfectionism on the HMPS correlating with the parental criticism and parental expectations subscales of the FMPS (Frost et al., 1993), the dimensions do not overlap fully, suggesting that perfectionism encompasses more elements than either measure alone fully accounts for. These findings would appear to support the view that perfectionism is a multifaceted, complex construct.

Although there are differences in how perfectionism is understood, a number of common features can be identified that pave the way for thinking about how – and when – to address perfectionism in coaching. These would appear to include: (1) the over-evaluation of achievement and striving; (2) setting excessively high standards of performance and then rigidly adhering to these; (3) overly harsh

evaluations of one's own performance (including difficulties tolerating setback or failure) and (4) negative consequences for self and/or others when perfectionistic tendencies are manifest.

Taken as a whole, much of the literature would appear to point to perfectionism as exerting a negative influence on well-being, functioning and productivity, with a marked bias in the literature towards identifying its problematic nature. This is perhaps unsurprising given the research findings which highlight the negative consequences for perfectionistic individuals and those around them. Perfectionism has been shown to reduce personal productivity and life satisfaction, and to impair quality of interpersonal relationships (Burns, 1980; Hill, Zrull & Turlington, 1997). In the workplace, individuals with strong perfectionistic tendencies can prove difficult to line manage, challenging for colleagues to work with, and problematic for subordinates to work for (McMahon & Rosen, 2008).

Perfectionism has been implicated in elevated stress levels, impaired decisionmaking, inflexibility, reduced interpersonal sensitivity, procrastination and avoidance (see Beheshtifar, Mazraei-Sefidi & Nekole-Moghadam, 2011). As at least some of the characteristics (such as poor decisionmaking, limited interpersonal skills and resistance to change) have been consistently implicated in leadership derailment, it has been noted that perfectionism may contribute directly to maladaptive leadership behaviour (Ellam-Dyson & Palmer, 2010). For example, drawing on Hurley and Ryman (2003), Beheshtifar, Mazraei-Sefidi and Nekole-Moghadam (2011) observe that the manager with perfectionistic traits may be unaware of problematic behaviours and lack the self-awareness and interpersonal sensitivity to appreciate that their attempts to be empowering can be experienced by others as over-controlling. Indeed, there is some evidence that managers who demonstrate high levels of perfectionism do not make good leaders (McMahon & Rosen, 2008).

In the clinical arena, perfectionism has been associated with numerous domains of emotional distress and difficulty including anxiety disorders (e.g. Frost & DiBartolo, 2002), trait anxiety (Juster et al., 1996), depression (Hewitt & Flett, 1991b; Kawamura et al., 2001), eating disorders (Moor et al., 2004); suicidality (Chang, 1998) and borderline personality disorder (Layden, Newman & Morse, 1993). The various 'domains' of perfectionism have also been

differentially implicated. For example, self-oriented and socially prescribed perfectionism appear to feature particularly strongly in depression and suicidality (Hewitt & Flett, 1991b; Ranieri et al., 1987).

In view of the apparently highly negative and potentially far-reaching consequences of perfectionism it is not surprising that perfectionism has become an increasing focus and target of intervention in personal development (Antony & Swinson, 1998; Egan, Wade & Shafran, 2010) and coaching (Ellam-Dyson & Palmer, 2010). Some have even concluded that any striving for perfection is by definition evidence of psychological difficulty (Blatt, 1995; Pacht, 1984). However, is this truly the case, and is it accurate to state that the legacy of perfectionism is inevitably one of distress or impaired functioning?

## **Unrelenting standards or striving for excellence**

### **Differentiating helpful and unhelpful perfectionism**

As noted by Antony and Swinson (1998), amongst others (Ellam-Dyson & Palmer, 2010), perfectionism is not intrinsically detrimental. Indeed, as Ferguson and Rodway (1994) point out, many people adopt a perfectionistic approach in specific areas of their lives without ever developing impaired functioning or emotional distress. Corrie (2002) has also suggested that perfectionism may be a normative human experience rather than a limitation which must be overcome. This would appear to be supported by an emerging literature which highlights the potentially positive consequences of perfectionism. For example, Nekole-Moghadam, Beheshtifar and Mazraeesfidi (2012) found a positive correlation between perfectionism and creativity. Other studies have found perfectionism to be associated with higher academic achievement, higher levels of motivation to achieve, and use of adaptive coping strategies (Ram, 2005). Additionally, higher scores on the dimensions of personal standards and organisation on the FMPs have also been associated with an increased sense of personal efficacy and high self-esteem (Frost et al., 1993; Minarek & Ahrens, 1996).

Taken as a whole it would, therefore, appear that whilst perfectionism may indeed be associated with problems in the workplace, self-handicapping behaviours and negative effects on well-being it can, in other circumstances, benefit the individual. Attempting to understand how perfectionism can, in

certain circumstances, contribute to positive outcomes has led researchers to attempt to differentiate positive and negative sub-types.

Burns (1980) has proposed that in order to understand the effects of perfectionism on well-being and performance, it is necessary to differentiate adaptive and maladaptive subtypes. This echoes the previous work of Hamachek (1978) who distinguished helpful and unhelpful variations of perfectionism according to the degree of flexibility with which personal standards are established. For Hamachek, when striving for excellence is accompanied by sufficient flexibility to allow for human frailties and personal limitation, perfectionism can be adaptive. This 'normal' or healthy version of perfectionism is characteristic of those who:

'...derive a very real sense of pleasure from the labours of a painstaking effort and who feel free to be less precise as the situation permits' (Hamachek, 1978, p.27).

In contrast, unhelpful or negative perfectionism is characterised by the rigid, unrelenting application of excessively high standards in which minor 'infringements' or flaws in performance cannot be tolerated:

'Here we have the sort of people whose efforts... even their best ones... never seem quite good enough, at least in their own eyes. It always seems to these persons that they could... and should... do better... they are unable to feel satisfaction because in their own eyes, they never seem to do things good enough to warrant that feeling' (1978, p.27).

This early attempt to differentiate adaptive and maladaptive subtypes goes some way to helping coaching psychologists better understand when and why perfectionism becomes problematic. As Adkins and Parker (1996) suggest, adaptive perfectionism can be seen as an active approach to the world. The desire for success reflects an assumption that high standards are achievable due to underlying beliefs about the self as capable and worthy. In contrast, maladaptive perfectionism (what Beheshtifar, Mazraee-Sefidi & Nekole-Moghadam (2011) refer to as 'the dark side' of perfectionism) reflects a passive

approach in which the need for success reflects a preoccupation with avoiding failure due to beliefs about the self as inadequate and unworthy.

In behavioural terms, the difference between positive and negative variations of perfectionism can be understood in light of patterns of positive and negative reinforcement. Positive perfectionism is constructed as the harnessing of one's resources to achieve a goal that results in a favourable outcome. the behaviour is associated with specific emotions as a function of positive reinforcement. In contrast, pursuit of the same goals in order to avoid perceived negative consequences would be associated with emotional responses as a function of negative reinforcement. Interpreted in this light, striving for excellence is only likely to become an obstacle to goal attainment and emotional well-being when expectations of the self are inflexible and based on a sense of personal inadequacy. A similar position is adopted by Hewitt and Flett (1993) who, drawing on their multidimensional conceptualisation of perfectionism, propose that situational stressors are likely to trigger difficulties for perfectionistic individuals only if they pose a threat to some core aspect of the self. As self-oriented perfectionism prioritises the attainment of personal standards, any stressor which disrupts the achievement of those standards is likely to pose a threat to the central aspect of the self, thus representing a vulnerability factor. Thus, self-oriented perfectionism may only become problematic when associated with situational triggers or interpersonal contexts that undermine sense of personal identity, efficacy or self-esteem. In contrast, healthy perfectionism is evident in those who work conscientiously towards a desired result but who are able to tolerate setbacks and failures when they occur. this so-called 'positive perfectionism' has been associated with higher levels of advancement, self-esteem and self-actualisation whilst negative perfectionism has been associated with low self-esteem, depression and irrational beliefs (Niknam, Hosseini & Yazdi, 2010).

In summary, as observed by Silverman (1999), perfectionism has potentially positive and negative consequences depending on how it is channelled. Where it represents the harnessing of focus, motivation and effort in order to pursue a goal that enables the pursuit of a positive outcome, perfectionism represents the healthy pursuit of excellence that enables individuals to achieve. In the context of coaching, this form of perfectionism could be

seen as a valuable resource at the client's disposal for pursuing meaningful goals. However, where excessively high standards are pursued in an attempt to avoid negative consequences perfectionism tends to be negative in orientation and may require further exploration to understand its potential problematic implications for the client, their goals, and the coaching contract. as a potential obstacle to the effective delivery of coaching, it is intervening in this latter form of perfectionism to which we now turn our attention.

## **Working with perfectionism in coaching psychology practice Tailoring interventions to specific presentations**

When working with a coachee who displays signs of perfectionism, a central task is one of helping coachees understand the difference between positive and negative manifestations, as a precursor to modifying unhelpful aspects, whilst at the same time developing new standards and behavioural repertoires that support the healthy pursuit of excellence. How might coaches and coaching psychologists best approach this task?

Based on a review of the literature, there are four specific ways in which perfectionism might present itself in coaching, each of which is likely to require a different response. These are:

- 1 the coachee's perfectionism is a problem in its own right and, therefore, modification of perfectionistic standards needs to be an explicit focus of the coaching contract.
- 2 the coachee's perfectionism is implicated in other areas for which the client is seeking coaching;
- 3 the perfectionism represents a vulnerability factor that could undermine future development, representing a psychological 'achilles heel' for the coachee;
- 4 the coachee's perfectionism is impacting, or has the potential to impact on, the coaching itself.

These will now be briefly considered.

- 1 *The coachee's perfectionism is a problem in its own right and, therefore, modification of perfectionistic standards needs to be an explicit focus of the coaching contract*

Although the coachee may not have sought, or been referred for, coaching due to identification of perfectionism, it becomes clear that the client has

excessively high and rigid personal standards, coupled with a tendency towards harsh self-evaluation, particularly in the face of setback or failure. These factors, in the coaching psychologist's opinion, are directly undermining the coachee's ability to achieve agreed goals. Other manifestations of this might include the coachee's obvious avoidance of new challenges for fear of making mistakes or a rigid perspective on criteria for success that prevents flexibility and innovation. in coaching terms. This could be considered a 'BiG' (Behaviour incompatible with Goals) problem (see Dunkley & Palmer, 2011) and the approach to the intervention here is likely to draw heavily on modifying unhelpful networks of cognitions (including enduring cognitions such as underlying assumptions and beliefs) as well as encouraging experimenting with new behavioural repertoires to observe outcomes relative to desired goals.

*2 The coachee's perfectionism is implicated in other areas for which the coachee is seeking coaching*

Although the coachee may not have sought, or been referred for, coaching due to the identification of perfectionistic tendencies (by self or others), it becomes apparent following assessment that perfectionism has a role to play in preventing lack of success in defined areas. For example, consistent failure to deliver results through others as a function of interpersonal difficulties with subordinates might reflect the influence of other-oriented perfectionism that is impeding the effective management of others. This might necessitate the use of interventions that focus on enhancing selfawareness, gaining information on the coachee's external image and possibly social skills training to enhance effective communication skills.

*3 The perfectionism represents a vulnerability factor that could undermine future development, representing a psychological 'Achilles heel' for the coachee*

Here, the coachee's perfectionism represents a risk factor for reduced well-being and performance in work or in life and may even render the individual vulnerable to psychopathology when particular levels and types of challenge are encountered (such as when a situational stressor disrupts the achievement of the personal standard thus representing a threat to some central aspect of the self). This may require more in-depth work on enhancing

self-esteem, decoupling self-worth and achievement, and helping the coachee recognise this as an area of vulnerability to which they might always need to remain alert, especially during times of increased personal or professional strain. When working with this category of perfectionism, the coach or coaching psychologist may also need to hold in mind the interface between coaching and psychotherapy and consider a referral to a therapist should the coachee's level of need transcend the terms of the coaching contract.

*4 The coachee's perfectionism is impacting, or has the potential to impact, on the coaching intervention itself*

In practice, the modification of perfectionistic mindsets and behaviours is not always easy to achieve. As Nekole-Moghadam, Beheshtifar and Mazrae-sefidi (2012) observe in the context of perfectionism at work:

'the paradox that perfectionism helps performance in some ways and hurts performance in other often makes it difficult for the perfectionist to change.... Because some aspects of perfectionism help the executive perform, there is often a feeling that any change will lead to less success.' (p.4661)

Examples of this behavioural expression of perfectionism might include a coachee's reluctance to experiment with more flexible standards whilst recognising that, at some level, their perfectionism is self-handicapping. Coaches may also experience frustration at their coachees' apparent resistance to change, creating the potential for ruptures in the coaching relationship. Equally, ruptures in the coaching alliance due to excessively high expectations of the coach (as in other-oriented perfectionism), inability to follow through on coaching assignments due to a fear of making mistakes or a rigid attachment to existing behavioural routines that prevent a willingness to experiment with alternative behaviours in the service of the goals specified in the coaching contract need to be monitored. Close monitoring of the coaching process for early signs of tension in the working relationship is therefore indicated, with particular attention to interpersonal processes that appear to parallel areas of development for which coaching has been

sought. Thus, motivational issues are likely to feature in working with perfectionism, with ambivalence about the potential consequences of change (Egan, et al., 2013). In consequence, identifying and working effectively with this manifestation may require of the coach a particularly well-honed ability for empathy and tact, as well as a genuinely curious approach to helping the coachee assess the parameters and implications of retaining negative perfectionism in both the short and longer-term.

## Working with perfectionism in coaching

### Identifying specific cognitive profiles

Holding in mind the four potential manifestations of perfectionism outlined above can assist both coach and coachee in deciding the extent to which perfectionism may need to be a focus of the coaching contract, and prompt a more focused search for relevant examples of positive and negative perfectionism manifesting in the coachee's life. However, a second framework that can inform coaching and coaching psychology practice is information-processing theory and in particular, cognitive behavioural models of coaching (see Williams, Edgerton & Palmer, 2010).

A number of cognitive biases have been identified in perfectionism. In his early work, for example, Ellis (1962) identified perfectionism as reflecting the belief that there is a correct response to every situation and that it is awful if this solution is not found. The influence of this type of dichotomous (or 'all-or-nothing') thinking was also identified by Beck (1976) who, in his early work in the clinical arena, emphasised the tendency of depressed people to judge outcomes as either perfect or catastrophic. Burns (1980) similarly proposed that perfectionism reflects a distinct form of dichotomous thinking, whereby performance and self-worth are judged solely in terms of perfection or worthlessness.

Since then, theorists have identified as inherent to a perfectionistic cognitive style a wide range of perceptual and interpretive biases. These include the tendency to overgeneralise perceived performance failures (Hewitt & Flett, 1993) magnify negative aspects of performance, selectively attend to perceived personal flaws and discount positive information (Ferguson & Rodway, 1994), as well as engage in rumination over mistakes and per-

sonal limitations (Frost et al., 1997; Guidano & Liotti, 1983). These types of information-processing are often either readily identifiable or implicit in the person's self-told story, providing numerous opportunities for exploring further the network of expectations and evaluations through which perfectionism may be expressed. Historical and current examples of standard setting, criteria for success and failure, responses to errors (by self and others) as well as responses to success (minimised or over-inflated) are all fruitful avenues of enquiry to help establish whether negative perfectionism is a significant feature of the client's needs. Use of decision-making and problem-solving tools such as a cost-benefit analysis of personal standards can also help coachees review candidly what has been gained and lost by excessively high standards and elicit or 'flush out' unarticulated beliefs about the benefits of unhelpful levels of perfectionism. equally, broadening the coachee's scope for self-evaluation so that the self and standards for success can be seen with a broader, more nuanced life plan is also helpful.

Beheshtifar, Mazraei-Sefidi and Nekole-Moghadam (2011) have proposed 10 action steps which they suggest can be used to modify the negative aspects of perfectionism and lead to enhanced productivity. These range from increasing insight, to setting SMART goals, experimenting with standards of success and confronting the fear of failure whilst at the same time celebrating successes and being willing to learn from mistakes. As Beheshtifar, Mazraei-Sefidi and Nekole-Moghadam (2011) also observe, 'one of the hidden hazards of perfectionism is the tucking away of and attempts to avoid many things that make individuals feel less than perfect' (p.171). In the spirit of addressing this 'hazard', it is important to consider ways in which the individual might, in selected areas, aim for a 'good enough' outcome and evaluate the implications of so doing (see Burns, 1980, for an accessible approach to considering the potential benefits of lowering personal standards).

A further area of intervention that is likely to be of particular benefit in working with coachees who are perfectionistic is self-acceptance. Palmer and Cooper (2013) provide examples of self-acceptance beliefs, 'I'm OK, just because I exist' and 'I can accept myself, warts and all, with a strong preference to improve myself, even though realistically I don't have to' (p.85). A fuller review of the literature

on self-acceptance is beyond the scope of this paper. However, for further information see Palmer (1997), Wilding & Palmer (2010), and Palmer & Williams (2012) elevating work on self-acceptance to the core of the coaching contract – particularly with coachees who experience high levels of self-oriented and socially prescribed perfectionism as it may offer some important benefits. For example, self-acceptance helps coachees modify the tendency to evaluate themselves in global terms (successful, failure, strong, weak, etc.) and support the development of a more realistic and adaptive self-appraisal.

Working on self-acceptance also supports the coachee in decoupling sense of self and value as a human being from achievement or productivity; the notion that they may be inherently valuable for being human (with all the challenges, limitations and frailties that come from being human) may be a challenging concept for such coachees to accept. There may also be useful avenues to explore combining this work on self-acceptance with the emerging literature on self-compassion and its role in promoting well-being and personal effectiveness (see Gilbert, 2005, for a useful review of this literature and Neff, 2011, for an accessible resource for coaches and their coachees). Compassion focused coaching does focus on issues relating to self-esteem and self-acceptance (Palmer, 2009).

One final point recommendation is to be wary of viewing perfectionism itself in ‘all-or-nothing’ terms, as either healthy or unhealthy. This is likely to prove overly simplistic when perfectionism is viewed through a more multidimensional ‘lens’ and the many contexts in which high standards of performance are actually expected are considered. It may be the case that a behavioural expression of perfectionism can be judged as positive or negative solely as a function of its context. For example, if working in an organisation that is perfectionistic in its expectations or organisational culture and where attention to detail is critical, the capacity to retain strict and exceptionally high standards may be highly beneficial. However, in an organisation where team functioning is highly valued, a newly-appointed executive with the same capacity for attention to detail whilst operating according to stringent criteria for success may lack interpersonal sensitivity and awareness, proving detrimental to the individual and the productivity of the team.

Any intervention for perfectionism should, then, be grounded within a thorough formulation (Corrie & Lane, 2010) of the areas or dimensions of perfectionism that need to be addressed. In addition, it should also take account of those aspects of a coachee’s perfectionism that contribute to enhanced performance, an understanding of the point at which the striving for excellence becomes detrimental to the client or others, and environmental contingencies that help promote the emergence in an individual of one form of perfectionism over another at a specific point in time.

In light of these factors, and in the current absence of models that have been developed specifically for the coaching context, we would encourage readers to consider how it is possible to integrate current research findings on perfectionism with specific models of coaching that can be tailored to individual contexts. To facilitate effective coaching psychology practice with perfectionism, table 1 (overleaf) can be used as a heuristic framework for guiding decision-making with coachees about their strengths and needs:

## Conclusion

This paper has attempted to highlight the current thinking about the construct of perfectionism, offered a broad framework for helping coaching psychologists differentiate negative manifestations from the healthy pursuit of excellence, and provided some guidelines on how to help coachees modify unrelenting high standards. In reviewing the existing literature, it is clear that perfectionism is not inevitably an obstacle to achievement and well-being. Nonetheless, where it is present, coaches and coaching psychologists need to be equipped to assess the parameters and manifestations of the coachee’s personal standards and, where necessary, to be able to devise specific interventions to address this.

Perfectionism is best understood as a complex, multifaceted construct. It takes time to determine whether, where and how perfectionism is a destructive force in a coachee’s life and for this reason we would encourage a multi-modal approach to assessment, as well as a creative approach to designing interventions that are likely to enhance collaboration in an area of change that the coachee may not find appealing or easy to address.

**Table 1: Framework for exploring positive and negative perfectionism with coachees.****1 Current manifestations of perfectionism****1a. Personal standards**

- What are the coachee's personal criteria for success and failure?
- What beliefs does the coachee have about how success is achieved?
- To what extent are the coachee's sense of self-worth and self-esteem dependent upon success, productivity or accomplishment?
- To what factors does the coachee tend to attribute failures?
- How does the coachee respond to challenges, setbacks or perceived 'failures'? To what extent can these be embraced as opportunities to learn? To what extent does the coachee respond with feelings of shame?
- Is the coachee able to relax personal standards and take a more flexible approach, when to do so would result in a better outcome?
- What standards does the coachee expect of others?
- What standards does the coachee believe that others hold for them? To what extent do they regard themselves as equipped to meet these standards?
- Based on how the coachee narrates their circumstances, needs and goals, is there evidence of a rigidity of thinking style that might imply dichotomous ('all-or-nothing') thinking or other cognitive biases in the coachee's perception or interpretation of events?
- Is there evidence of the coachee being able to change perspective when it is advantageous, or evidence implies the need, to do so? Or is there evidence of the coachee adhering to a perspective that is counter-productive to the coachee's individual needs and goals, or the needs or goals of their organisation?

**1b. Behavioural repertoires**

- To what extent does the coachee have well-elaborated problem-solving and decision-making skills? Is there evidence of the coachee being able to apply these to everyday challenges in life and at work?
- Does the coachee have effective coping and self-soothing skills for managing the personal impact of challenges, frustrations and disappointments?
- What self-handicapping behaviours does the coachee engage in? Is there evidence of procrastination or avoidance?
- What forms of avoidance might the coachee tend to use (including quite subtle forms that are worth probing carefully for)? When and why are these used?
- More specifically in relation to the needs of the coachee and the aims of coaching, is there evidence that the coachee's performance does not match the client's potential (i.e. they are underperforming)?
- To what extent is the client able to be creative, innovative and engage in appropriate spontaneity – in life and at work?

**2 Situational factors**

- What situational factors or events tend to precipitate the coachee's self-handicapping behaviours?
- What is the culture of the organisation in which the coachee works, and the culture of any other systems in which the coachee lives and works? To what extent are these systems 'perfectionistic'?
- How does the coachee's organisation and people of relevance to the coachee (for example, line manager, directors, etc.) respond to errors?
- To what extent does the coachee's organisation encourage creativity and 'taking the initiative' amongst its employees? To what extent is taking the initiative punished?

- To what extent are the coachee's own perfectionistic tendencies (both positive and negative) impacted by the culture of the organisation in which they work? (Areas to explore here might usefully include a consideration of what is reinforced and punished in this setting and how the coachee's behaviour is shaped accordingly.)

### **3 Factors from the coachee's history that may be relevant to explore further**

- How were standards set within the coachee's family of origin?
- How did the coachee react to early disappointments, frustrations or setbacks?
- How did the coachee's care-givers respond to early successes and failures?
- What values were imparted to the coachee, during their formative years, concerning success, accomplishment, productivity and failure?
- What values were imparted to the coachee, during their formative years that might have shaped criteria for self-worth?
- What were the coachee's childhood and adolescent attitudes to academic studies and scholastic achievements?
- What expectations did the coachee have of relationships with parents, teachers, siblings and peers? How might these expectations relate to other-oriented and socially prescribed perfectionism?

### **4 Implications for coaching contract**

- What are the coachee's personal goals for coaching? For their career? For their life? To what extent are these realistic?
- What would the coachee see as a 'good enough' outcome for coaching?
- How might specific perfectionistic themes manifest in the coaching, either in relation to specific coaching assignments, or the coachee's ability to engage in the process?
- What implications might the different dimensions of perfectionism have for the coaching process (for example, a desire to please their coach; hyper-sensitivity to perceived disapproval of their coach; self-handicapping behaviours such as concealing information)?

That perfectionism can be positive or negative in its consequences we would see as a helpful starting point for exploration. However, this is a perspective that raises further questions. For example, to what extent can positive and negative forms of perfectionism be understood in isolation from the context in which they are expressed? Might it be the case that a particular mind set or behavioural repertoire that is wholly unhelpful in one context might be highly adaptive in another? If this is the case, working effectively with coachees may entail helping them establish context-dependent criteria for determining when excessively high standards are performance enhancing and when they are not.

A second area for both research and practice to investigate more systematically are those variables and experiences that foster the development of positive rather than negative perfectionism. Is this, for example, best understood as a personality trait that is present early in life or one that emerges as a function of life experiences and patterns of rein-

forcement and punishment? Additionally, are positive and negative perfectionism best understood as qualitatively distinct or merely different points along the same continuum? Is it possible for an individual to have the personality trait of positive perfectionism but for life experiences to transform this into negative perfectionism (and vice versa)? If so, what are some of the critical factors that mediate this process? Equally, is negative perfectionism best understood as a pattern of thinking and behaviour that can ultimately be eradicated? Or is it best understood as a stable trait that, through a variety of coaching interventions, can be modified but which represents a psychological 'achilles heel' that will need on-going monitoring?

These are questions for the future and to which we hope the discipline of coaching psychology will respond. However, in reflecting on our own experience of working with coachees for whom perfectionism is an issue, it would certainly seem that the pursuit of positive change is best approached

through avoiding any tendency to see perfectionism in dichotomous terms. Positive and negative manifestations do not come neatly packaged. Rather they need to be uncovered, often through a process of sifting through multiple examples of personal standard setting, and the setting of standards for others, and through adopting a multimodal approach to assessment that can help the coachee consider what a more adaptive approach might look like in different domains. For many coachées, it is only by taking the time to articulate and evaluate the feared consequences of experimenting with new ways of thinking and acting that a journey of change can begin. Thanks to International Coaching Psychology Review, 9, 1 the editorial team for permission to the DJCP to bring this article in our journal.

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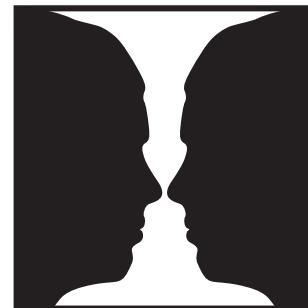
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## Bidragydere



### Sarah Corrie

Professor Sarah Corrie is Chair of the Special Group in Coaching Psychology, of the British Psychological Society. She is a Chartered Psychologist specialising in coaching psychology, and is also a Consultant Clinical Psychologist. She has extensive experience in both public and private sector services and runs her own coaching practice as well as working as a freelance supervisor and trainer.

Sarah is a faculty member of the Professional Development Foundation and an Academic Advisor for Middlesex University (Doctorate in Professional Studies). Her other posts include being Director of the Postgraduate Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapy offered by Royal Holloway University of London and Central and North West London Foundation Trust.

She is the author of numerous articles and four books including, *The Modern Scientist-Practitioner* (Routledge) and *The Art of Inspired Living: Coach Yourself with Positive Psychology* (Karnac). She is also a member of the International Editorial Board for the International Coaching Psychology Review.



### Asbjørn Molly

Asbjørn Molly, studieadjunkt/ph.d.-stipendiat ved Institut for Læring og Filosofi og fagkoordinator på Master i Organisatorisk Coaching og Læring, AAU. Asbjørn er både akademiker og praktiker med 9 års erfaring med ledelses- og organisationskonsultation samt coaching. Fast samarbejdspartner i LEAD – enter next level. Medforfatter til en lang række bøger og artikler, herunder Ledelsesbaseret coaching, Systemisk coaching; en grundbog, Lederen som teamcoach og Teambaserede organisationer i praksis. Asbjørn er bestyrelsesmedlem af European Mentoring and Coaching Council (EMCC) i Danmark.

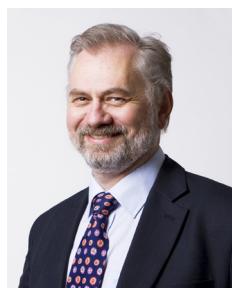


## Dr. Alanna O'Broin

Dr Alanna O'Broin PhD is a Chartered Psychologist and holds a PhD from City University London, UK. She is also an accredited member of the International Society for Coaching Psychology.

Previously an investment analyst and Fund Manager for Investment capital group 3i, Alanna is a practicing coaching psychologist, working in private practice primarily with executives in achieving their developmental and performance goals. She also runs a small therapy practice.

Her doctoral research was on the coaching relationship, and she has authored and co-authored a number of book chapters and peer-reviewed articles on the coaching relationship and related topics, including parallels between sport psychology and coaching psychology. Alanna is Co-Editor of *Coaching: An International Journal of Theory, Research and Practice*, a Consulting Editor of *The Coaching Psychologist* and a member of the Editorial Board of the *Annual Review of High Performance Coaching and Consulting*.



## Paul O. Olson

Paul O Olson, MBA, MSc (org psychology), DCPsych (stud). Paul has worked in international positions since he joined GE Information Services in 1984. For eleven years he held European leadership and management roles, including regional management for seven countries and then Principal Consultant for Europe. General Electric has been consistently ranked as one of the three most admired companies for leadership practices.

After working in Stockholm, London and Cologne he became a founding member, Nordic partner and Global Practice Leader in IESF (International Executive Search Federation). With experience from international management, business development and coaching since 1984 plus now clinical psychology (his doctorate); he is currently working as management consultant, executive coach and psychologist. A regular speaker at international conferences he was recently elected President of the newly founded European Mentoring and Coaching Council (EMCC) in Norway. In EMCC he has been leading a European research team and championed the supervision stream at their 2014 e-Mentoring conference.

Paul now works with Professor Alex Roberts on a global leadership program. He certified at Institute of Directors in London 2003, is associate partner of the Norwegian Board Academy (Styrelederskolen) and the the Swedish OIL Group, and an active member of the German-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce. His book *Great Mentors Great Futures* is due to appear in November 2014.



## Professor Stephen Palmer PhD

Stephen Palmer PhD is Director of the Centre for Coaching, and the International Academy for Professional Development, London, UK.

He is Director of the Coaching Psychology Unit at City University London, a Visiting Professor of Work Based Learning and Stress Management at the Institute for Work Based Learning, Middlesex University, and a Director of adSapiens, Gothenburg. He is also Honorary Consultant Director of the Coaching Psychology Unit at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is an APECS Accredited Executive Coach and Supervisor, and also an International Society for Coaching Psychology (ISCP) Accredited Coaching Psychologist and Supervisor. He is President of the ISCP and former President of the Association for Coaching.

He has written/edited more than 40 books including *The Coaching Relationship: Putting People First* (with McDowall) and the *Handbook of Coaching Psychology* (with Whybrow). He is Executive Editor of *Coaching: An International Journal of Theory, Research and Practice* and UK Coordinating Editor of *International Coaching Psychology Review*.

In 2008 he received from the British Psychological Society, Special Group in Coaching Psychology a 'Lifetime Achievement Award in Recognition of Distinguished contribution to coaching psychology'. His pastimes include jazz, astronomy, travel, coastal walking, writing and art.



## Trine Paludan

Trine Paludan er antropolog, EMCC certificeret systemisk coach og ph.d. indenfor organisation og ledelse (CBS). Hun har arbejdet med innovation og co-design processer som konsulent og ekstern lektor på Institut for Antropologi, Danmarks Design Skole samt i en lang række projekter i private og offentlige virksomheder. Indehaver af [www.3dcoaching.dk](http://www.3dcoaching.dk).

Hun er fagligt optaget af at koble designverdenes metoder og materialer ind i organisatoriske og psykologiske praksisfelter, med henblik på at menneskelige udfordringer, såvel de organisatoriske som de intra-psykologiske gøres visuelle og taktile, og eksentraliseres på måder som åbner for udforskning, dialog, og nye løsninger.

Har udgivet bogen *Folket der hørte gud le* (Tiderne Skifter, 2003) (en etnografisk roman), samt artikler om innovation og coaching.



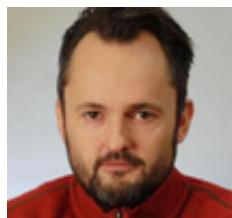
## Dr. Ole Michael Spaten, Lic.Psychol., MA., PhD

Ole is a chartered psychologist with a particular area of expertise in coaching psychology and team-building. Ole is both an Academic and Practitioner with 20 years of experience as an organizational consultant and as a teacher and researcher attached to the universities in Roskilde, Copenhagen and Aalborg in Denmark.

At Aalborg University, Dept. of Communication and Psychology, he founded in 2007 the first Danish coaching psychology education and is Director of the Coaching Psychology research Unit. At psychology Ole leads the coaching psychology graduate program for master psychology students, supervises and teaches clinical skills. At the psychology Department he is Head of Studies and is the founding editor-in-chief of the Danish Journal of Coaching Psychology.

His research interests are related to self and identity, social learning and experience based processes in coaching psychology. In 2010 he conducted the first Randomized Control Trial in Scandinavia evaluating the effectiveness of a brief cognitive behavioural coaching applied to first year university psychology students.

Ole is accredited member and Honorary Vice President of the International Society of Coaching Psychology.



## Niels-Henrik Sørensen

Niels-Henrik Sørensen; Cand. Psych. Aut., Int. Cert. ICC Coach, Certificeret Systemisk Coach, Post Grad International Narrative Therapy and Community Work, og multiteoretisk kompleksitetsfunderet organisationspsykolog (KOK4).

Niels-Henrik har været chefkonsulent hos Attractor, Rambøll Management fra 2009-2014 og er i dag selvstændig psykolog, coach, organisations- og ledelseskonsulent med praksis i København K, samt ekstern lektor på CBS i forandrings-ledelses (Cand Merc. Psyk.).