

SELF IN CONTEXT: I AM **NOT** AN ISLAND



Think about it.



- You have not only learned from yourself, but from people and things outside and around you.
 - Your family, friends, schools, work, faith, clubs, relationships, town, politics, nation, world.
- You act, very often, depending on how you view yourself through others' eyes.
- You make decisions and take actions based upon multiple, sometimes conflicting, outside influences.
- You may not even be aware of some outside influences.
- You act and make decisions based upon the impact of those decisions on others.
- **Are you an island?**

The many layers of “self in context”

- The idea of “self in context” relates to the idea that it is difficult to discuss the concept of identity apart from its social, cultural or situational contexts.
- In other words, when you identify yourself, what do you say about yourself? (Beyond describing your personal qualities, such as friendly, loyal, hardworking, fun loving?)
- Do you say you are a member of a family, a religious order, a community, a certain company, a team, an ethnic group, a particular culture?
- You tend to identify yourself within a context of relations with others.

Literature focus on your *connections*

1. Sullivan and Rosin's Parts II and III of IV: **Community** — **"Participation with others populates the imagination with models of what it means to engage the natural, social, and contextual contexts of action."** **Responsibility**—**"the person lives up to her responsibility for others and the values of the community... Only by keeping faith with the trust of others does the professional achieve legitimacy and meaning."** (Sullivan & Rosin, 2008, p. 94) *In WK 2 material.*
2. Korthagen and Vasalos Phase Model of Core Reflection 3 and 4, **Awareness of core qualities needed, plan for Actualization of Core Qualities (KV, 540) – corresponds to KV Onion Model questions What can you do, What do you do, What is it you have to cope with (KV, 535) In Week 5 material.**
3. Fiddler and Marienau 2008, **description of the "role of others' ideas" in one's interpretation of situations, connections to others, forming interpretive insights into experiences and observations (FM, 83). In Week 2 material.**
4. Kolb 1984, **heightening complexity of interactions to show influences that the individual may be unaware of** (from diagram in figure 6.3, Self as content – study the self as it interacts with the world; Specialization). *In Week 3 material.*
5. Kegan and Lahey 2010, **the self-authoring mind, agenda driven leader** (435). *In Week 4 material.*

During the course, we'll ask and answer

- How do community, responsibility and trust relate to each other?
- What qualities do I have or need in order to interact effectively with others?
- How does the perspective of others affect my actions?
- Am I always aware of how social interactions influence my actions?
- How do I relate to others in a team setting?
- What impact do my interactions with others have on my leadership abilities?