



What is a system?

Elements: are the individual parts that make up a system

Interconnections: are the relationship between the elements.

Function or purpose: is what the system achieves & is determined by the system's behaviour.











"Stitch by stitch,

Circle by Circle,

Weaving is like the Creation of Life,

All things are connected."

Auntie Ellen Trevorrow, 2003



The Land & water is a living body. We the Ngarrindjeri people are part of its existence. The land and waters must be healthy for the Ngarrindjeri people to be healthy.

"

Uncle Tom Trevorrow, Ngarrindjeri Elder, Camp Coorong, 2002



A First Nations view

"If we value the relationships between things, then everything is vital to everything else, with no human, animal, plant or object being more important than another...When these beliefs are applied to a way of life, we see a culture of 'treading lightly', of cohesive communities and sustainable practices based on a web of intimate, relational knowledge."

-Noon & De Napoli, Sky Country





Systems, complexity and knowing

"One cannot step twice into the same river, nor can one grasp any mortal substance in a stable condition, but it scatters and again gathers; it forms and dissolves, and approaches and departs."

- Heraclitus of Ephesus



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Operating in complexity

"Riding, surfing, dancing hiking systems change."





We can't control systems or figure them out. But we can dance with them!

I already knew that, in a way before I began to study systems. I had learned about dancing with great powers from whitewater kayaking, from gardening, from playing music, from skiing. All those endeavours require one to stay wide-awake, pay close attention, participate flat out, and respond to feedback. It had never occurred to me that those same requirements might apply to intellectual work, to management, to aovernment, to getting along with people."

-Donella Meadows, Dancing with Systems

"Strong back & soft front"

Roshi Joan Halifax



Four courageous heart and head practices

Goodwill





Compassion

Empathetic joy





Equanimity



Four courageous heart and head practices

	Goodwill	Compassion	Empathetic joy	Equanimity
As individuals	Unconditional friendliness	Meeting hurt with goodwill	Meeting happiness with goodwill	Staying balanced with whatever comes
In system & service contexts	Systems that create environments & interactions that are welcoming, respond, are honest & kind.	Systems that create responses that minimise the telling of stories for something & instead invite the telling of stories in a way a person wants to tell it.	Systems that create spaces to enjoy every win however small for all involved, where this is seen as real, authentic.	Systems that are aware. That know themselves. And know when they are wavering from the goals they intended.

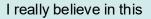
Meeting people where they are at & bringing people along: Belief/Experience Matrix

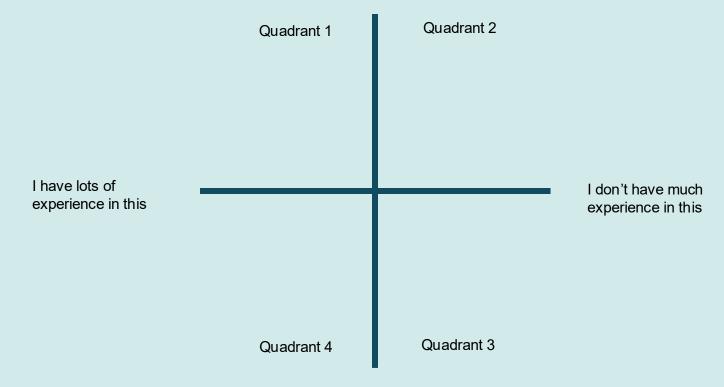


Overview: Belief/Experience Matrix

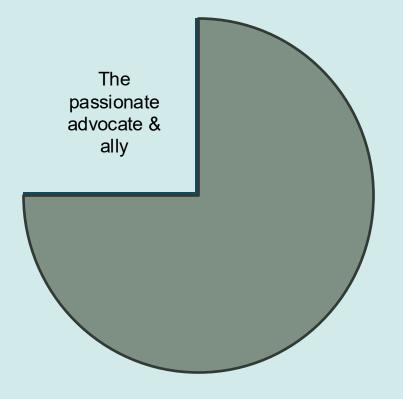
- Developed as a means of exploring & understanding why people make the decisions, they do about various issues & topics.
- It's trying to remove myself from being judgmental about people but instead comes from wanting to listen & learn & bringing people along- kindness, compassion.
- This is only a model, like all models it is simplistic compared to the real world.











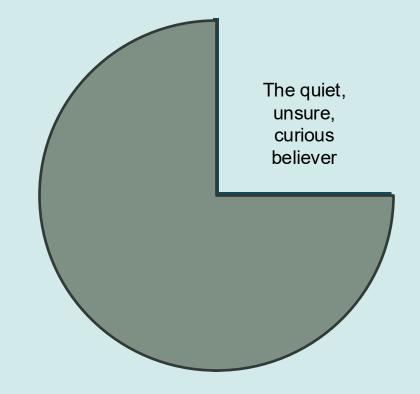
I don't have much experience in this



this

I have lots of experience in

I really don't believe in this



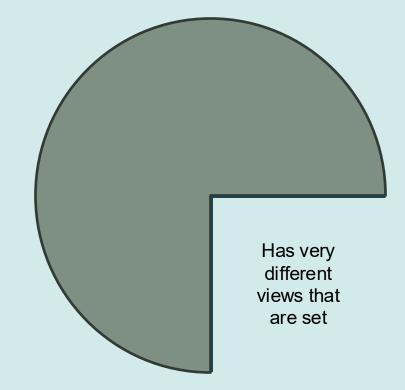
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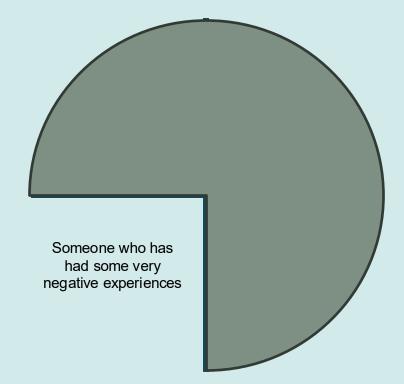


I don't have much experience in this



this

I have lots of experience in



I don't have much experience in this



this

I have lots of experience in

Quadrant 2 Quadrant 1 The The quiet, passionate unsure, advocate & curious ally believer I have lots of I don't have much experience in this experience in this Someone who has Has very had some very different views negative experiences that are set Quadrant 3 Quadrant 4



