



My personal notes re: each theoriest (Hawkins 708 Overview, November 30, 2007)

Knowles	Mezirow	Houston
<p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Adults learn when motivated, have a need ▶ Teaching thru facilitation, mutual inquiry (both student and teacher learn), modeling ▶ Offers descriptive process for the design and facilitation of adult learning (which is still used today) ▶ Learning contracts ▶ Creation of safe environment ▶ Andragogical <p>Favorite quotes “None but the humble become good teachers of adults” (Knowles, 1978)(p. 30)</p> <p>Lots of descriptive lists and how to’s, very didactic/prescriptive. Fascinating to see that organizations still struggle with many of the concepts today (self-directed learning, personal learning contracts, importance of manager/supervisor support)</p> <p>Although it was great to read this seminal theorist (his work has always been quoted and cited to me, but I’ve never read it), it was boring, prescriptive, formal</p>	<p>Key messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Unlocking of power and privilege via rational dialogue ▶ Emancipatory education, critical reflection to uncover distortions in beliefs and/or errors in probl solving ▶ Learning is validated via consensual agreement ▶ Communicative competence as the ability to participate in rational arguments/assessments ▶ Reflection can free one from the prejudgmental power of the lifeworld ▶ Point of view as a habit of mind ▶ Learning as development of autonomous thinking <p>Favorite quotes:</p> <p>--“The more intense the emotional context of learning and the more it is reinforced, the more deeply embedded and intractable to change are the habits of expectations that constitute our meaning perspectives" (J. A. a. A. Mezirow, 1990) (pp. 3-4).</p> <p>--“We are caught in our own histories" (J. A. Mezirow, 1991) (p. 1)</p> <p>--“In order to be free we must be able to ‘name’ our reality” (J. A. Mezirow, 1991), p. 3)</p> <p>Great read on the social power of communicative discourse, meaning making and emancipatory understanding and action.</p>	<p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Herstory ▶ Networked world ▶ Need to awaken: Four levels of journey (sensory/physical, psychological, mythic/symbolic, great mystery). ▶ Power of consciousness – history of consciousness, our gift of consciousness, we hold power once ascribed only to the gods <p>Favorite quotes:</p> <p>--"Most of us will log five to fifty times the experience of our ancestors of two hundred years ago. Many of them received at birth the pattern for their lives" (Houston, 1997) (p. 3)</p> <p>--"We are the people of the parenthesis, at the end of one era and note quite at the beginning of the new one” (Houston, 1997), p. 4)</p> <p>--"We are all immigrants, strangers perpetually settling strange lands, and we carry the collective memory of experiences that make us wise beyond our local knowings, deeper than our life histories warrant" (Houston, 1996) (p. 16).</p> <p>--"We exist on a flimsy spur of local consciousness overlooking the great expanse of being. Whenever we get shaken up or shaken loose, whether it be by going mildly mad or exploding with paroxysms of God-awesome knowing, the surface crust of consciousness breaks like cracking ice and we fall into the depths from which we came” (Houston, 1996), p. 71).</p> <p>Inspiring reading, matches my belief system. Bought Mythic Life for two of my consultants!</p>

- Houston, J. (1996). *A mythic life: Learning to live our greater story*. New York: HarperCollins.
- Houston, J. (1997). *A passion for the possible: A guide to realizing your true potential*. New York: HarpersCollins.
- Knowles, M. S. (1978). *The adult learner: A neglected species* (2nd ed.). Houston: Gulf Publishing Co.
- Mezirow, J. A. (1991). *Transformative dimensions of adult learning*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Mezirow, J. A. a. A. (1990). *Fostering critical reflection in adulthood: A guide to transformative and emancipatory learning*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.