



cultivatingwisdom:work

series 2021-22



Why focus on cultivating wisdom and work?

- The quest for wisdom is timeless. Explicit attention to wisdom may have faded in modernity but interest is re-igniting across disciplines, heightened by global crises.
- Work is key to our collective challenges and our individual lives.
- This series brings a 21st century wisdom lens to work, with hope in the possibility to shape work more wisely if we choose it.



Who will be interested?

- The series is offered those with an interest in the potential of work to be a solution to rather than a cause of our individual and collective challenges. It will be particularly relevant for those involved in leadership and development at work.



What will the series cover?

- It will explore the purpose of work, our human experience as workers and the place of work in the wider ecosystem.
- Drawing on different contributions and a breadth of ideas, research and experience there will be lots of opportunity for dialogue around how wisdom shapes what we see and do.



So what will be the impact?

- The aim is to generate ideas, insight and practical advice for anyone interested and curious about cultivating wisdom at work.

“We have come as far as we have because we are the cleverest creatures to have ever lived on Earth. But if we are to continue to exist, we will require more than intelligence. We will require wisdom.”

A Life On Our Planet,
David Attenborough
(2020)



About the series

The series involves four half-day online sessions, supported by podcasts and writing.

A number of questions will be explored using a process of consideration, conversation and commitment.

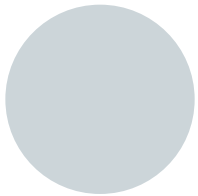
(all sessions run from 0930 to 1300)



SESSION 1 Friday 7 May 2021 | introduction – work, worker, work-place

This session sets the foundations for the series by looking across the work landscape through a wisdom lens.

- o What do we mean by wisdom?
- o How does a wisdom lens help us see work in the 21st century and how we go forward?
- o How can it build our awareness of the interconnectedness of work for individuals, groups, organisations and the wider ecosystem?
- o How will we explore this together wisely now?



SESSION 2 on Friday 10 September 2021 | work

This session focuses attention on the purpose and nature of work. What difference does a wisdom perspective make to...

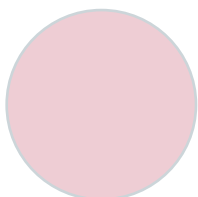
- o Knowing the work we need to do for individual, collective and environmental health?
- o Shaping organisations to do this work well?
- o Judging performance?
- o 21st century leadership?



SESSION 3 on 14 January 2022 | work-place

This session focuses attention on the place of work in the wider ecosystem. What difference does a wisdom perspective make to...

- o Reimagining economic models which offer a sustainable future?
- o Using space, resources and technology well in our work?
- o Consuming and producing responsibly as individuals and organisations?
- o Moving forward with courage now?



SESSION 4 on 6 May 2022 | worker

This session focuses on hopes for workers in the 21st century. What difference does a wisdom perspective make to...

- o Improving dialogue, mutual understanding and facing our blind spots?
- o Achieving equality and inclusion?
- o Fostering care and compassion?
- o Increasing collaboration?



Contributors

Through the series different contributors will share perspectives on wisdom and work to stimulate inquiry and exploration. Together they will look across the wider system as well as the more personal experience of work.

The series is being organised by a group who have connected around cultivating wisdom. They bring experience from leadership, academic research, organisational development, coaching and psychotherapy.

Claire Sherwood is HR Director, Corporate Functions and Science and Technology EMEA at global company PPG. Based in Switzerland she is part of a major project on the future of work and ways of working focused on sustainability across a diverse and dispersed workforce. Earlier in her career Claire was a lawyer and company secretary. She is interested in equity and meaning at work against the backdrop of rapid change and complexity.

Jane Gaukroger coordinates the Cultivating Wisdom community. She is a leadership developer, coach and researcher. She has spent her whole career in the field of people and organisations and holds a doctorate on organisational wisdom and how leaders and developers contribute to it.

Julian Powe is a leadership developer and coach, a suicide counsellor and leader of community organisations. He seeks to live his purpose of 'bringing people and ideas together with edge and empathy'. He is keen to lead the last part of his life usefully, enjoyably and healthily.

Ned Hoste has been a professional designer since 1976, founder and director of the award-winning branding, publishing and communications agency thebigideascollective.com. He is also a Fellow of The Royal Society of the Arts, a director of the CIC LoveTopsham and Trustee of the Daisi Arts Charity promoting accessibility to the Arts across Devon.

Nic Frank is a behavioural and culture change consultant, facilitator, problem solver, coach and strategist working in service of others to make the work experience more meaningful and purposeful. His work is informed by psychology, neuroscience and evolutionary theory with a deep interest in systems thinking and wisdom from tribes, religion and philosophical traditions. He is focussed on learning from collective biological and cultural pasts in order to make better choices and decisions about our collective future

Richard Beardsworth is Professor of International Relations and Head of the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds (UoL). For him, universities are important social actors in research, education, and impact. He is specifically interested in aligning international and national interests (including the dignity of work) in a period of national and world disorder. He co-chairs the UoL Task Force on COP26 and has advised government on climate leadership

Sam Crossley is a Senior Lecturer at Leeds Business School and leadership researcher with a focus on using dialogue as the foundation transformational change. Her main research interests are in the areas of leadership, ethics, and philosophical anthropology. Her research is interdisciplinary in its approach, drawing on ideas and methods from philosophy, the creative arts and social science to address contemporary leadership challenges in complex systems

Stuart Nevill is a Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, Coach and Trainer. He is a former Buddhist Monk and charity Chief Executive, with 20 years' experience working in homelessness and mental health charities, and a further decade practicing mindfulness and meditation. Stuart has a Masters Degree in Voluntary Sector Management from CASS Business School and 10 years' experience in school governance.

Vanessa King is an organisational consultant, author and speaker. She is a leading expert in the practical application of positive psychology and the science of wellbeing and resilience, working nationally and internationally. She is Head of Psychology and Workplaces for social movement, Action for Happiness. Vanessa is author of two evidence-based books and most recently co-author of *Creating the World We Want to Live In – How Positive Psychology Can Help Create a Brighter Future* (Routledge).



cultivatingwisdom:work

series 2021-22



SESSION 1
Friday 7 May 2021
INTRODUCTION
WORK | WORKER
WORK-PLACE



SESSION 2
Friday 10 September 2021
WORK



cultivatingwisdom:work
series 2021-22



SESSION 3
Friday 14 January 2022
WORK-PLACE



SESSION 4
Friday 6 May 2022
WORKER



I can't imagine I'm alone in
longing for us to embrace
a better story, one that
has the power to change
our hearts and minds and
enliven our imaginations



Richard Rohr, Centre for
Action and Contemplation
10 January 2021

Booking

All sessions are free of charge.

[To book please register here](#)