

Assignment 5

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Topic

Synchronicity (i.e. meaningful coincidences) in adult transformational learning.

Research Problem

There is a lack of knowledge regarding how the phenomenon of synchronicity influences decision making and transformational learning in adults in traditional and non-traditional educational settings. Meaningful coincidences continue to be a fascination: a cross-cultural phenomenon, whether perceived in the moment or retrospectively, synchronicity has awe-inducing, personally validating and transformative potential, but is often dismissed as pseudo-science in academia. Despite growing prevalence in other sectors, synchronicity has not yet been a key focus of curriculum research. Considering attention given to related topics in aesthetics, arts education, embodied learning, and happiness, this is a surprising gap.

Purpose

The purpose of this qualitative study is to explore how synchronicity is experienced by adult learners from various traditional (i.e., college and university) and non-traditional settings such as community gardens, Buddhist meditation centres, arts retreat centres, athletic training clubs and pilgrimage sites.

Research Questions

The central research question of this study is: How is the phenomenon of synchronicity experienced by adult learners from traditional and non-traditional learning environments?

The sub questions in this research study are:

1. In what contexts have adult learners experienced synchronicity?
2. How has the phenomenon of synchronicity lead to transformation, i.e., impacted

personal meaning making and/or the life choices of adult learners?