

Learning and Unconscious Space

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In this presentation I want to think about the unconscious within learning spaces. Despite all our accomplishments in understanding organisations, it seems inevitable that there is much about organization that will remain beyond our grasp. Psychoanalytic theory provides us with the idea of the ‘unthought known’, of unconscious processes and dynamics that will unknowingly influence behaviour within and outside of organizations. An interest in the unconscious can help us to mobilise associations and interpretations of emotions, politics and power relations in organizations with a view to generating collective insight. In this presentation therefore, I will be talking about the notion of ‘unconscious space’ and linking it to the idea of a ‘social unconscious’. My examples will come from the field of group relations, which offers a method for examining unconscious processes at work within organizations and groups.