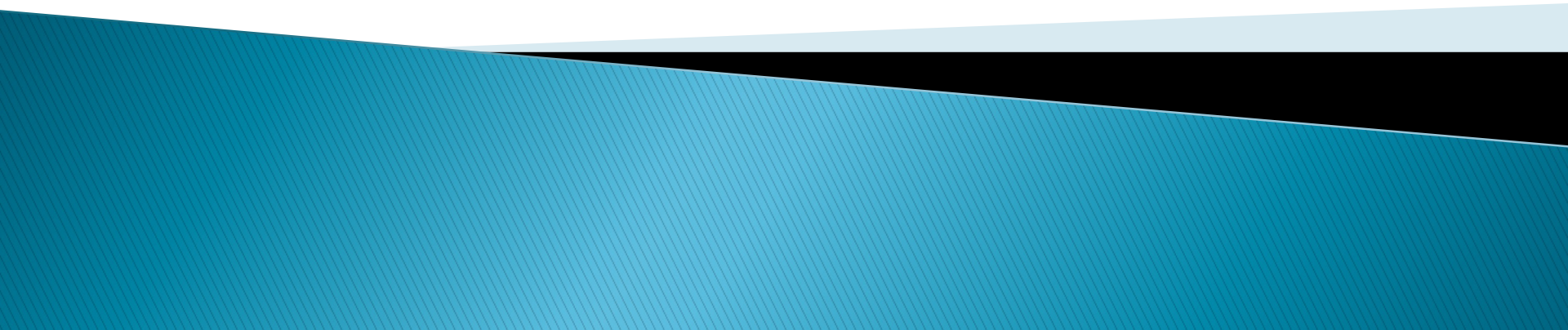


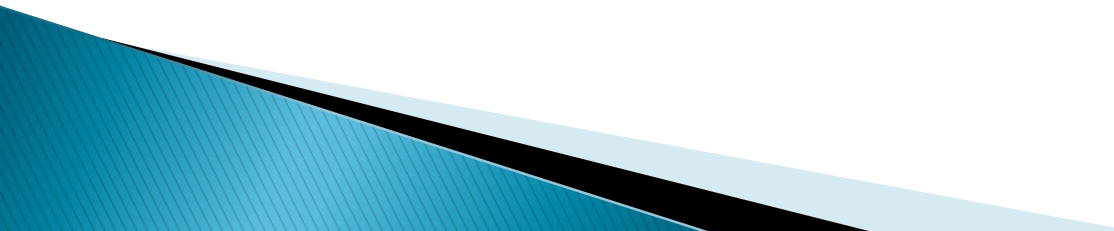
**ACCEPTING THE “OFFERS” THE
WORLD THROWS AT US:
BUILDING RESILIENT
COMMUNITY
AMONG STUDENTS AND STAFF**

November 16, 2022



Today, we will play with philosophical and practical tools.

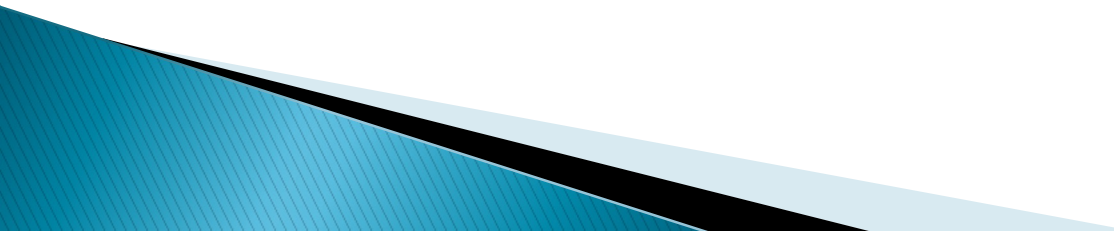
These are my offers – which we can explore together going forward:

- The improvisational tool of “Yes, and...” for promoting agility when dealing with uncertainty and change
 - Challenging the cognitive/emotive divide
 - Creating environments in which we can continually make discoveries about learning and development (no matter what the subject matter)
- 

“... Resist the pressure from whatever ‘powers that be’ who are in a hurry to “fix” kids and make up for the “lost” time. The time was not lost, it was invested in surviving an historic period... The children do not need to be fixed. They are not broken. They need to be heard. They need to be given as many tools as we can provide ... to nurture resilience.

“What-shall-we-do-about-the-children-after-the-pandemic” Teresa Thayer Snyder was superintendent of the Voorheesville district in upstate New York. She wrote this piece on her FB page and it was picked up widely.

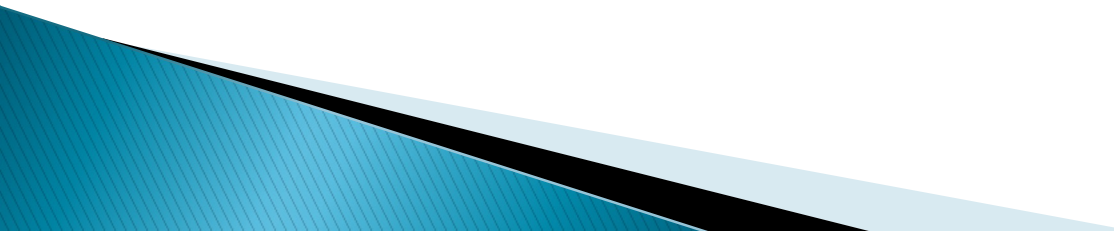
“[The children] will have returned with a new history... There is no assessment that applies to who they are or what they have learned... Our job is to welcome them back and help them write that history.”



“Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. **It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.**”

Arundhati Roy, *The Pandemic is a Portal*

Financial Times, April 3, 2020



Who/What are People

We are...

Shaped by our environment

Tool users...

Adapters to culture...

Members of identity and geographical communities

We behave

We are who we are...

And, we are also

Shapers of our environments

Tool makers

Creators of culture

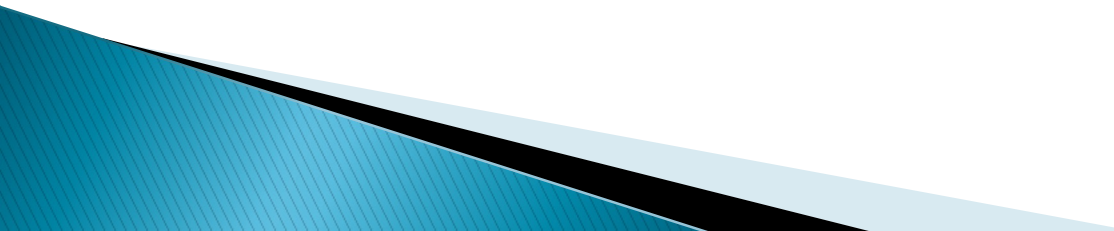
Builders of new communities

We preform

We are other than who we are/We are who we are becoming

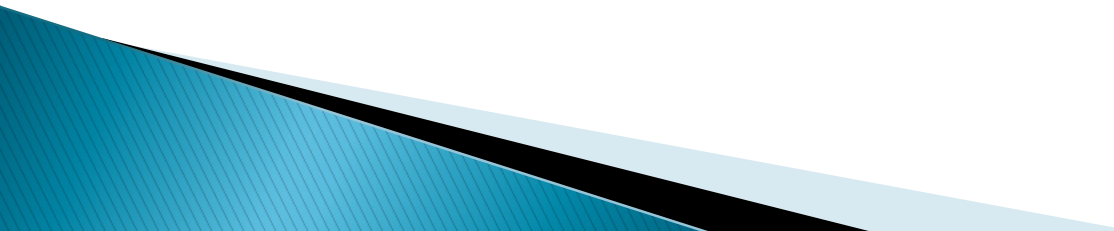
“As we consider the resilience and agility that allowed educators in the midst of a world crisis to lead the transition to online learning... What I’d like to focus on here is that **we couldn’t have done it without the students.** Though many... focus on the “losses” for students this past year (and there have been many) what we sometimes miss is that our partners in this creative endeavor have been our students. Even though human beings are the creators of the environments in which we live, we rarely get related to that way, especially if we are students.”

Gwen Loweheim, Creative Academic Magazine, Issue 19, April 2021



“Do the categories that are currently popular among us, categories like cognition, emotion, learning, motivation, personality, attitude, intelligence, etc., represent natural kinds?”

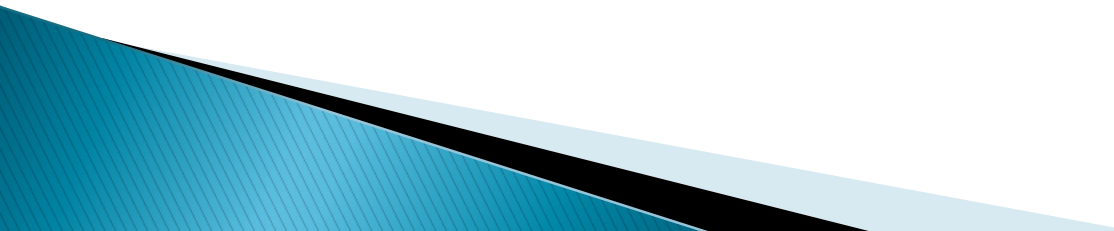
Kurt Danziger, [Naming the Mind](#) “Does the History of Psychology Have a Future?”



The Constraints of Language

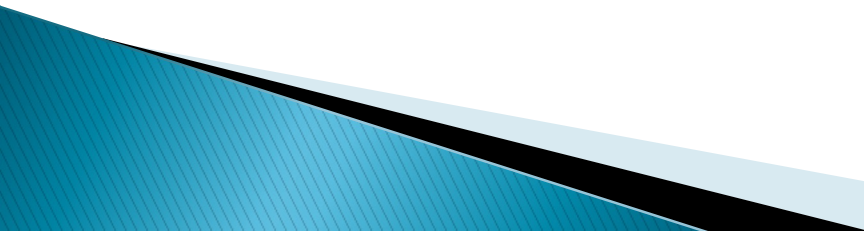
“A picture held us captive. And we could not get outside it, for it lay in our language and language seemed to repeat it to us inexorably.”

Wittgenstein *Philosophical investigations*, 1958



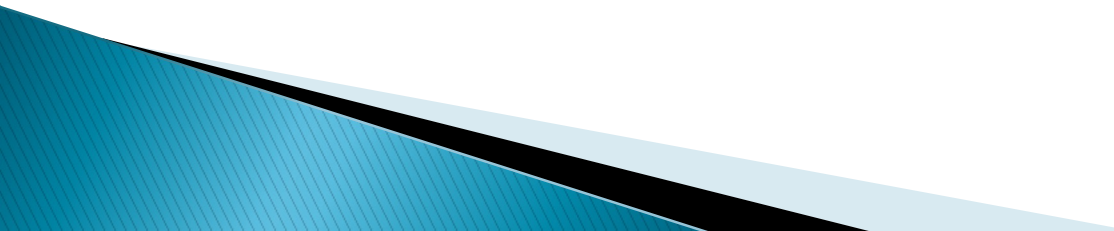
“Being in the world as a knower keeps us stuck. It constrains creativity and risk taking, keeps us and our dreams small, stops us from learning new things, and stifles our capacity to create new possibilities for ourselves, our families and communities, and the entire world. For that, we need a new form of life — something called ‘non-knowing growing.’”

Lois Holzman - The Overweight Brain: How Our Obsession with Knowing Keeps Us from Getting Smart Enough to Make a Better World



YES, AND

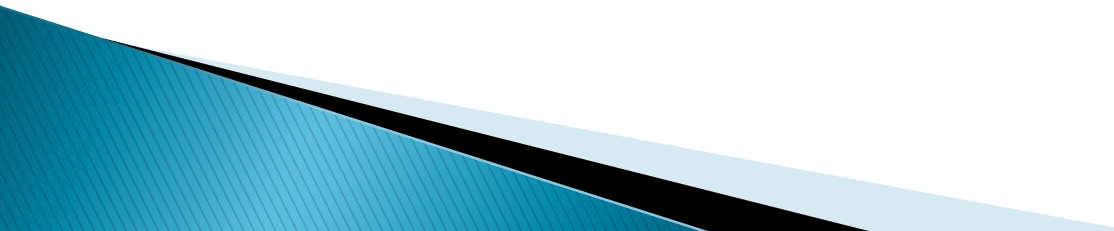
HANDY RULES OF IMPROVISATION

- ▶ Use Everything: Improvisation our willingness to create with everything that's available.
 - ▶ Accept All Offers and Build With Them: Offers can be understood as anything that a performer says or does in a scene. All offers must be accepted. Improvisers build with offers by adding something new. In improv this is called “yes and.” Every time improvisers speak or move in a scene they strive to build off what came before and add something that will take the scene further.
 - ▶ Don't negate: When a player does not accept an offer it is called negating and it usually serves to stop the performance from developing.
 - ▶ Create Collectively: One person is neither solely responsible for, nor credited with, the development of the performance.
- 

“In my opinion, out of control moments in history, when related to in a developmental way, embraced rather than receded from, we can grow perhaps the most.

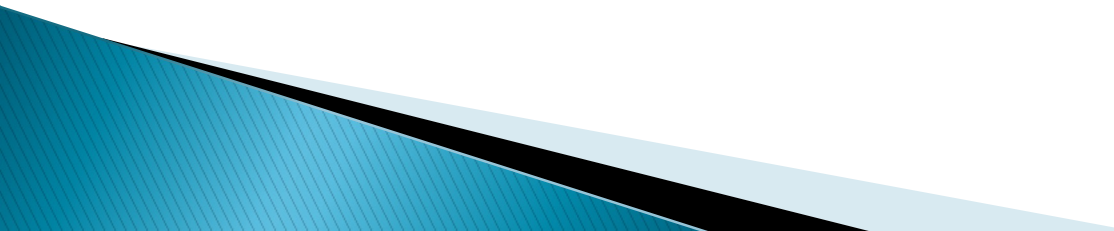
The creative experience is dominated by not knowing... We create off of not knowing. If we couldn't, we wouldn't be here! We (our species) is best at not knowing.”

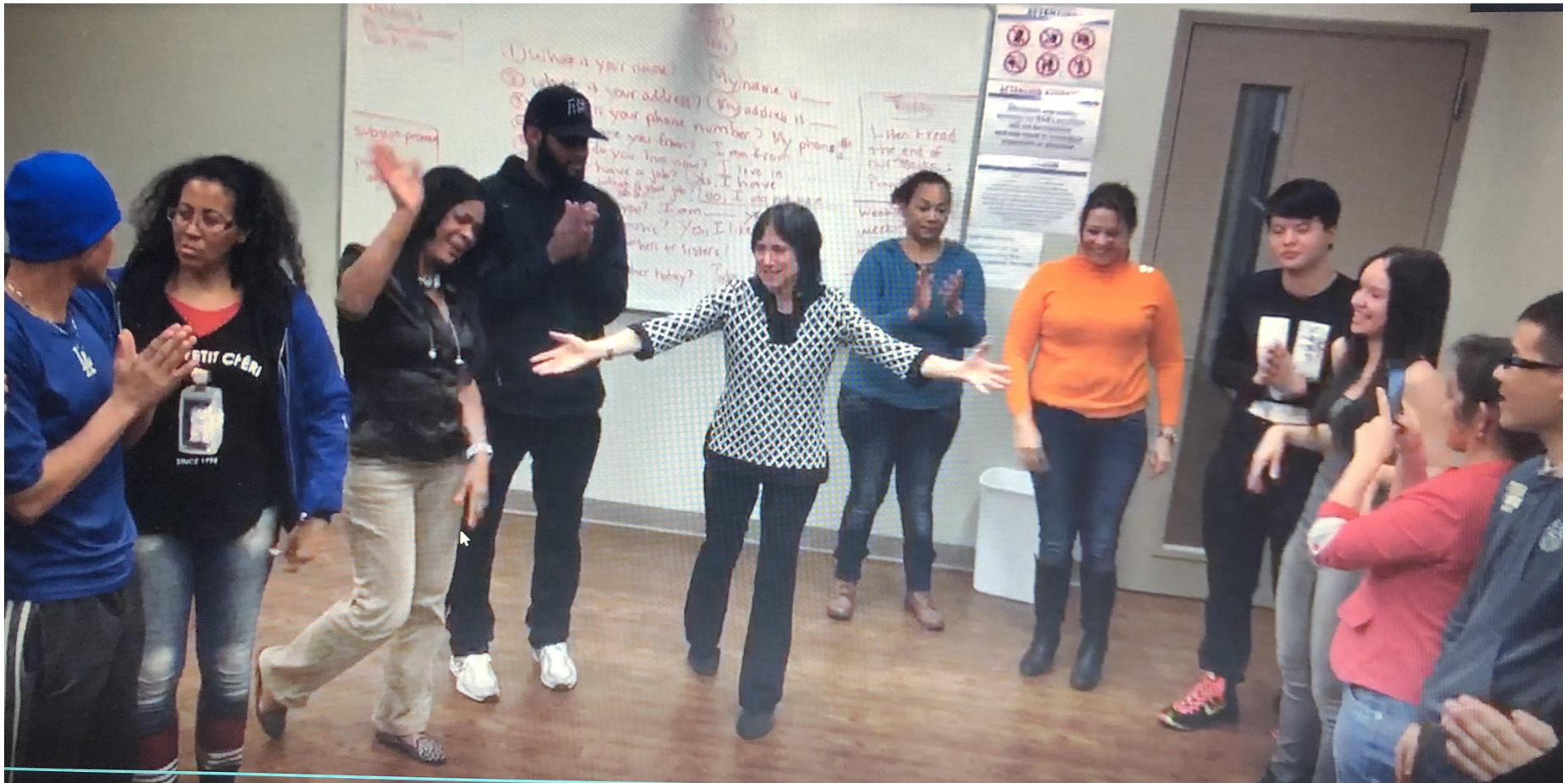
Fred Newman 2002 Lecture: “Will We Ever Be Normal Again?”



“What if normal is the ongoing human activity of discovering? The human species has made and continues to make discoveries about ourselves, discoveries about the world. We are discoverers. And in that we continuously create ourselves and our world.”

Creative Academic Magazine, Issue 19, April 2021





Resources

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ORGANIZATIONS & NETWORKS

- ▶ [Yes And Higher Ed Network](#): 3rd Friday of each month meeting at 7pm EDT Sign up for more info or to attend
 - ▶ Pace University [International Conversation Groups and Student Facilitator Training](#)
 - ▶ [East Side Institute](#) (check out events, trainings, articles, podcast, and more)
 - ▶ [East Side Institute International Associates](#)
 - ▶ [Global Play Brigade](#)
 - ▶ [Performance of a Lifetime](#)
- 