

LIFEWIDE MAGAZINE #23

THE WORK OF IMAGINATION:

LIFEWIDE EDUCATION'S CALL FOR ACTION

Exploring the role and value of imagination in learning, education, work and all other aspects of life

During this time of unprecedented change, the new normal is frequently referred to. But what is this new normal and how might we move towards it? What factors are important in achieving this new way of being and thriving in an ever changing and complex world? Our need for imagination has never been greater as more and more we are enfolded into a hyperconnected, contingent and increasingly disrupted 'white-water' world where the only certainty is uncertainty and change. This issue of Lifewide Magazine explores why imagination is important to us in all aspects of our life and why education needs to be more explicit in its concerns to enable learners to use and develop their imaginations.

"The seventh sense, in short, is the ability to look at any object and see the way in which it is changed by connection." Joshua Cooper Ramos 'The Seventh Sense: Power, Fortune, and Survival in the Age of Networks. ' This sense is entirely dependent on our ability to see with our imagination.

LIFEWIDE EDUCATION CALL FOR ACTION 'OUR IMAGINATIONS' PROJECT Norman Jackson & Doug Cole (Editors)

We believe that imagination is essential for human flourishing at any level of society. We also believe that not enough attention is given to the explicit encouragement and development of imagination in higher education. The first step in our call for action is to raise our own awareness of the role our own imagination plays in our own learning and actions.

In the August 2020 Issue of Lifewide Magazine we are exploring the role and value of imagination in learning, education, work and any other aspects of life. In addition to commissioned articles, we would like to invite anyone who is interested in joining our exploration, to contribute a short (up to 1500 words) illustrated article on any of the themes below. We would need your article no later than July 14th 2020.

*If you are interested in submitting an article please let me know
Professor Norman Jackson lifewider1@gmail.com*

1. A day in the life of my imagination

We invite you to create a narrative of how you used your imagination in a typical or atypical day in your life, perhaps as a series of snapshots through the day, and to reflect on the circumstances and process of imagining and how it was linked to action and effects, and your wider reflections on the role your imagination plays in everyday life.

2. My life and my imagination

We invite you to create a narrative about a particular situation in your life (outside work) in which required you to make significant use of your imagination and to reflect on the role of imagination in the process and the way it emerged.

3. Imagination and transforming something at work

In the context of a specific project involving change or transformation in your work, we invite you to form a narrative about how your imagination was involved in the process. We are particularly interested in the ways in which teachers and others working in educational settings have used their imaginations to accomplish something they value.

4. Encouraging others to use their imagination

In your role as a teacher, parent, colleague, friend or any other relevant role, we invite you to form a narrative about how you have encouraged and helped others to use their imagination. Drawing on a specific example or examples, we are interested in the methodologies, techniques and rationale of approaches that you used and how these helped a person or persons.

5 Combining and integrating imaginations

Many projects us involve us working with others and here we have an opportunity for our imaginations to interact in a productive way with the imaginations and talents of others. We invite you to create a narrative around an experience that you have had which involved you in such an experience and to reflect on the role of imagination in the process and the way it emerged.

We are, of course, open to other ideas and suggestions.

Norman Jackson & Doug Cole

Imagining a different world – the work of imagination

