



PHILOSOPHY IN PUBS

ENQUIRY DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Philosophy in Pubs (PIPs) are offering an Enquiry Development Series (EDS) for people involved in PIPs to improve how we participate in our philosophical enquiries. We are inviting interested parties from the wider membership to help us fashion a series of discussions, workshops, dialogues, enquiries, etc, to help us maintain/further the quality of our group practice. We have a fair understanding of what we think should be included in the development series, but need the input of the wider membership, not only to endorse these ideas, but to contribute their thoughts to the programme. This pack gives some background information for our launch events and an overview of what we are proposing.



Agenda for Launch Events

1. Welcome
2. PIPs ethos and EDS aspirations
3. Summary of the work of the EDS
4. Breakout rooms to discuss initial thoughts and reactions to EDS research
5. Summary of events (see right hand side)
6. Comments on events and final remarks
- 7 Close

EDS Research Topics

Community philosophy: The question of what exactly is philosophy and how does philosophy in the pub differ from that in the university?

Educational theory: Facts and reasoning, exams, curiosity, wonder, 'classroom' relationships and ambience ... how do they all fit together? What effect does education have on society as a whole?

Practical facilitation: How often do our enquiries leave us enlightened and appreciated? How can the facilitator contribute to this? Dealing with presumptive or unclear contributions, wanderings from the topic, becoming unphilosophical etc. How valuable would facilitation practice sessions be?

Thinking well: Can we make up for any shortcomings in our education system and learn effective critical thinking in adulthood? How do we counter our seemingly innumerable psychological biases?

Alternatives to PIP's Community of Enquiry method: e.g. Bohmian dialogue: without the constraints of a topic, flowing freely as participants suspend judgment and defer to the current speaker's line of enquiry. A thought provoking alternative ..?

Developing questions: As we try to make sense of the world how do we identify the most promising frontiers of our current understanding and articulate them in a clear and compelling way?

Democratising philosophy: What is the promise of philosophy for all and why might this not be fully realised?

Events

Session 1: Introduction to Enquiry Development Series followed by Community of Enquiry into 'What is Community Philosophy?'

Session 2: PIPs in the context of educational theory:
 i) Educational theory, their origins/history and connection to PIP's purpose.
 ii) How can we realise those ideas through the Community of Enquiry model and Facilitation?

Session 3: Facilitation
 i) Facilitation: building an understanding and awareness of challenges to good facilitation.
 ii) Community of Enquiry into 'What is Rationality?' (May use Steven Pinker podcast as stimulus)

Session 4: Critical Thinking
 i) Elements of thought: Clarity, Precision, Accuracy, Relevance, Complexity,
 ii) Intellectual standards of thought, implications for facilitation.
 iii) The qualities of a critical thinker: fair-mindedness etc.

Session 5: Bohmian Dialogue (Intro)
 i) Introduction to Bohmian Dialogue (talk with questions)
 ii) Practice of Bohmian Dialogue
 iii) Reflection on the Bohmian Dialogue (15 mins at the end?)

Session 6: Developing Questions
 i) Question formulation and problematisation
 ii) Community of Enquiry into 'What does it mean to Democratise Philosophy?'

Session 7: Facilitation Practice 2
 i) CofE sessions (summarising, tracking) different types of stimuli.