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# Assessing Complex Learning: The Story of HSDP Certification

## Human Systems Dynamics Professional



*Changing the world by  
changing how people think  
about the world.*

December 4, 2014  
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# Today we will explore . . .

## » WHAT . . .

Challenges are woven into  
assessing complex learning?

## » SO WHAT . . .

Evidence of those patterns  
affects HSD Professional  
Certification?

## » NOW WHAT . . .

Have we done to respond?  
Questions remain?



# Examples of Complex Learning



# What's the difference?

Assessment of simple learning . . .	Assessment of complex learning . . .

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Against benchmark	Fit for function



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Pre and post	Before, during, and after
Objective truth	Complex truth

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Objective truth	Complex truth
Global	Local

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Against benchmark	Fit for function
Same for everyone	Optimized for each
Normal distribution	Long tail
Formative and summative	It's always formative
Objective truth	Complex truth
Global	Local
And . . .	And . . .

# Challenges for Assessing HSDP Learning

No two learners  
are the same



The process  
is dynamical for  
one and all

# Challenges for Assessing HSDP Learning

No two learners are  
the same

- » Entry-level
- » Expectations
- » Interests
- » Learning style
- » Commitment





# Different Entry Levels

- » Engage in reflective application process
- » Include learners at various stages of development
- » Revisit expectations often during the learning





# Different Expectations

- » Develop personal praxis plans
- » Relationship with Praxis Partner
- » Provide preview of the journey and choice points



# Different Interests

- » Invite multiple media
- » Incorporate authentic work
- » Provide informal peer feedback and support



# Different Commitment

- » Play the infinite game
- » Support multiple relationships
- » Solicit multiple perspectives





# Challenges for Assessing HSDP Learning

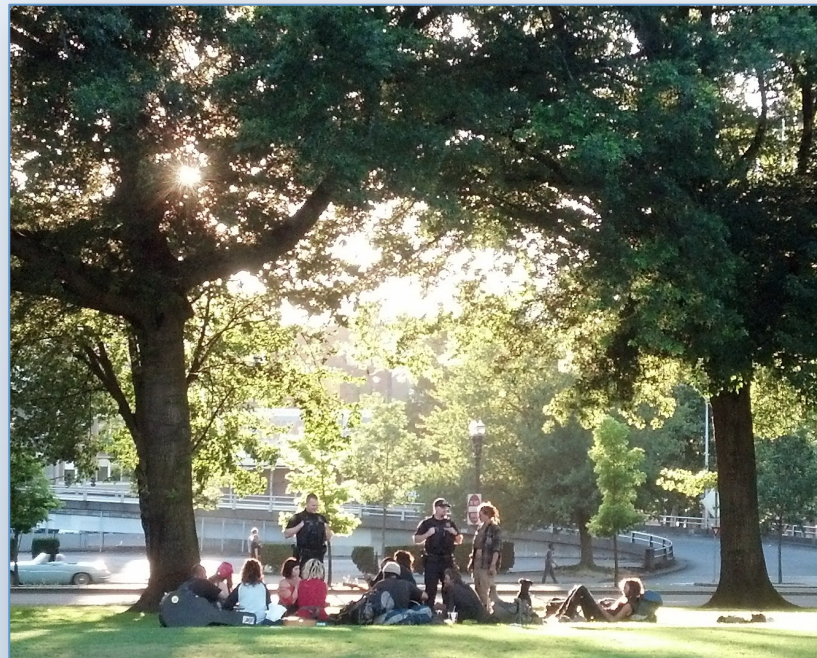
Change is dynamical  
for one and all

- » No there there
- » Nonlinear
- » Discontinuous
- » Unpredictable but patterned



# No There There

- » Find and exploit “fit for function”
- » Celebrate each step along the journey
- » Model on-going learning and self-reflection



# Nonlinear

- » Track history over time
- » Support individual and collective reflection





# Discontinuous

- » Collect data in many ways and often
- » Practice patience
- » Watch for and flag surprises



# Unpredictable but Patterned

- » Zoom out and zoom in
- » Leverage multiple perspectives
- » Watch for change over time



# Challenges for Assessing HSDP Learning

No two learners  
are the same



The process  
is dynamical for  
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# What questions remain?

- » What will support patterns of accountability?
- » When and how should we make this assessment approach explicit?
- » What should be roles of Praxis Partners?  
Other learners?
- » What level and form of documentation is appropriate?
- » How can we use these lessons in other contexts?

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# More resources

## » Books

- » *Adaptive Action: Leveraging Uncertainty in Your Organization*  
(Eoyang & Holladay)
- » *Systems Concepts in Action*  
(Williams & Hummelbrunner)

## » Web

- » [www.adaptiveaction.org](http://www.adaptiveaction.org)
- » [Wiki.hsdinstitute.org](http://Wiki.hsdinstitute.org)
- » [www.hsdinstitute.org](http://www.hsdinstitute.org)
- » Twitter: #hsd #adaptact @GlendaEoyang @rjholladay



# Your Opportunity To Become An HSD Professional

- » Patterns and Possibilities:
  - » Jan 2015 in Raleigh, NC
  - » July 2015 in Chicago, IL
  - » Jan 2016 in Helsinki, FI
- » Four months exploring an online learning ecology:
  - » Lively learning community
  - » Guided practice
  - » Large group learning and dialogues
  - » Learning packets on relevant topics
  - » Praxis Partner for support

» [Register:](http://www.hsdinstitute.org/learn-more/overview.html)

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- » [Register](http://www.adaptiveaction.org/Landing-Pages/Webinar-Registration) for the next session in this series:  
<http://www.adaptiveaction.org/Landing-Pages/Webinar-Registration>

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