

Dr Pamela Murray Senior Lecturer in Leadership

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Application of methodologies from coaching and from mentoring to advance leadership practice in the Royal Air Force

Scope:

To share a demonstration of the application of a Rogerian orientation used to extend leadership tolerances and thresholds in military performance

- 'Operation Accurate Empathy'
- Become informed : characteristics of individuals, groups, specializations
- Account for past & contemporary cultural insights, historical antecedents, symbolism, current
- Curiosity & acquisition of insights via formal & informal training means, attaining rapport; matching; acknowledging
- 'Operation Congruence'
- Credibility through authenticity
- Whole professional perspective
- 'Operation UPR' [unconditional positive regard]
- Awareness of overlaps, tensions, access, synergies, cognitive heuristics

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Defence Description

Leadership is visionary; it is the projection of personality and character to inspire people to achieve the desired outcome'

Defence Leadership Centre

To explore where leadership 'happens' through applied leadership development interventions

To access & delineate occurrences of leadership using the 'en vivo leadership' methodology (Murray, 2006) providing a means to enhance leadership thinking

Compatibility:-

Mission of Defence Leadership Centre

To run successful military operations and government departments, our people need to have the understanding and the tools that contribute to effective leadership practices and thinking skills.

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A 'blunties' tools for high end military performance enhancement

Development philosophies underpinning applied work

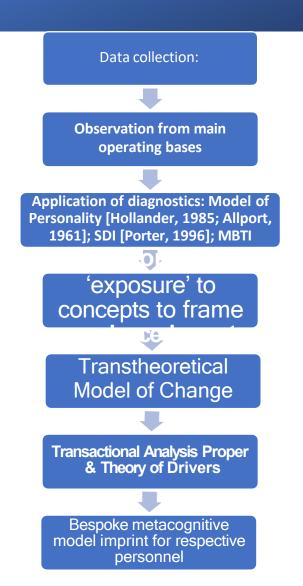
Carl Rogers Critical Conditions of Change

Accurate Empathy
Unconditional
Positive Regard
Congruence

Gerard Egan
Support without
challenge is anaemic

Challenge without support is brutal

Exploring leadership propensity



Analysis methods:

Need Achievement Theory

NLP event coding

Content Analysis

Psychodynamic screening

Transtheoretical Stages of Change behavioural diagnostic

Consideration of themes

n = 601 selection of findings shown using behavioural methodologies

Headline self report findings using MBTI as behavioural framework

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Myers Briggs Typology

- establish preferredquality from each categoryyield of 16 unique types
- emphasis on the value of naturally occurring differences:

Introversion/Extraversion
Sensing/Intuition
Thinking/Feeling
Judging/Perceiving

- opposite functions: Thinking over Feeling prevalent in natural setting
- 'J' preference increased with loading of situational pressures (natural & devised settings); 92%
- less perceived 'formal empathy' with failure/suboptimal outcome when deviation from STJ pathways
- impression of long prestart indicators offered

Aspects of headline findings MBTI

strong sample displayed 'military classic' ESTJ profile in natural setting decisiveness
observed; movement
to forcefully
implement decisions
quickly in devised
setting

STJ subset prevalent

Aspects of headline reported indicators using MBTI

expectation of greater facility & confidence in exercising dominant & auxiliary functions realised

ambiguity of leadership incidents reported to make more obvious pairs of mental functions in action

reported indicators of tertiary & inferior functions during vulnerable moments (reported evidence)

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Who am I? - Ego States

Are a way of making sense of the different and sometimes conflicting thoughts, feelings and behaviors that we all have.

Aspects of Headline Findings Transactional Analysis

strongest indent of Controlling Parent ego state made in Non Commissioned Officers weeks 1-9 of training; reinforced phase 2



strongest indent on commissioned officers at Initial Officer Training stage (phases 2 & 3 distinct)



Adapted Child ego state less transient & less adaptive than ideal



well honed 'internal rudder'



embedded Parent ego state perceived in less favourable; extreme forceful & vulnerable; enabling guiding & value base

Aspects of Headline Findings Transactional Analysis

- evidence of 'inconsistent fidelities' ingested messages part of leadership mix
- advanced Adult, type maturity most of time
- indicators CP-AC scarring
- precious windows of true insight best captured off-line via implementation of Rogers critical conditions of change

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Readiness for Leadership Performance

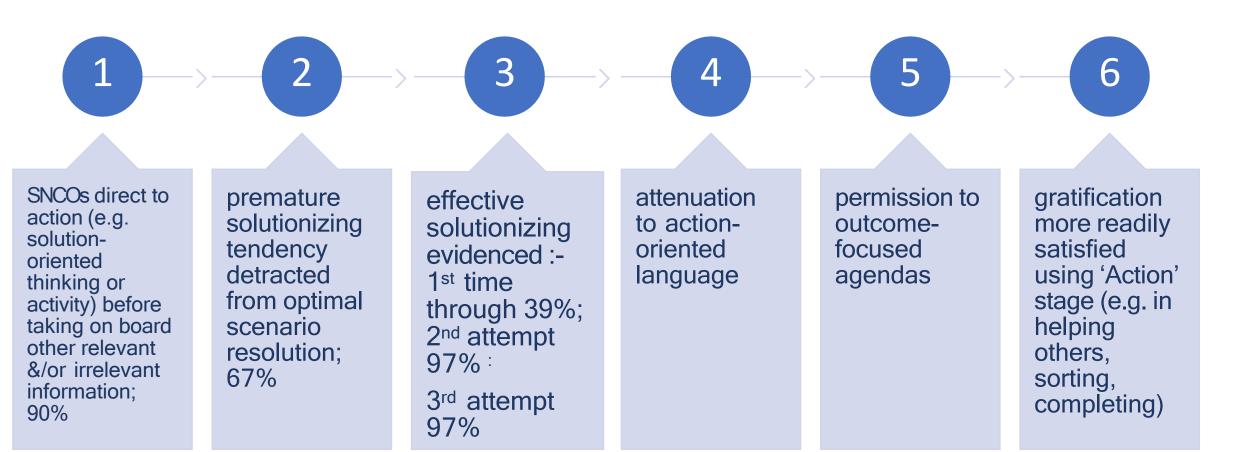
using Transtheoretical Model of Change

[Prochaska & di Clemente, 1982]

Focus on deliberation cognitions in 'Contemplation'

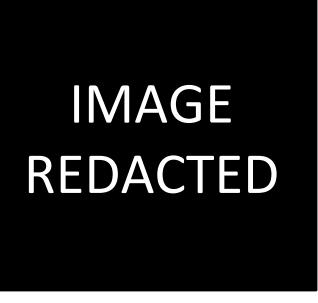
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Aspects of Headline Findings: Model of Change, 'Action' phase in stages of change



Aspects of Headline Findings - Interviews: how personnel construct leadership reality

- study of direct experience taken at face value
- leading pertaining to relationships with others
- 'bracketing' suspension of presuppositions
- leadership behaviour treated as determined by phenomena of experience
- word analysis giving meaning to experiences of leadership



Headline Findings - Interviews

notion of established profile as ideal for leadership perceived as myth

notion of established profile more visible for promotion perceived as reality

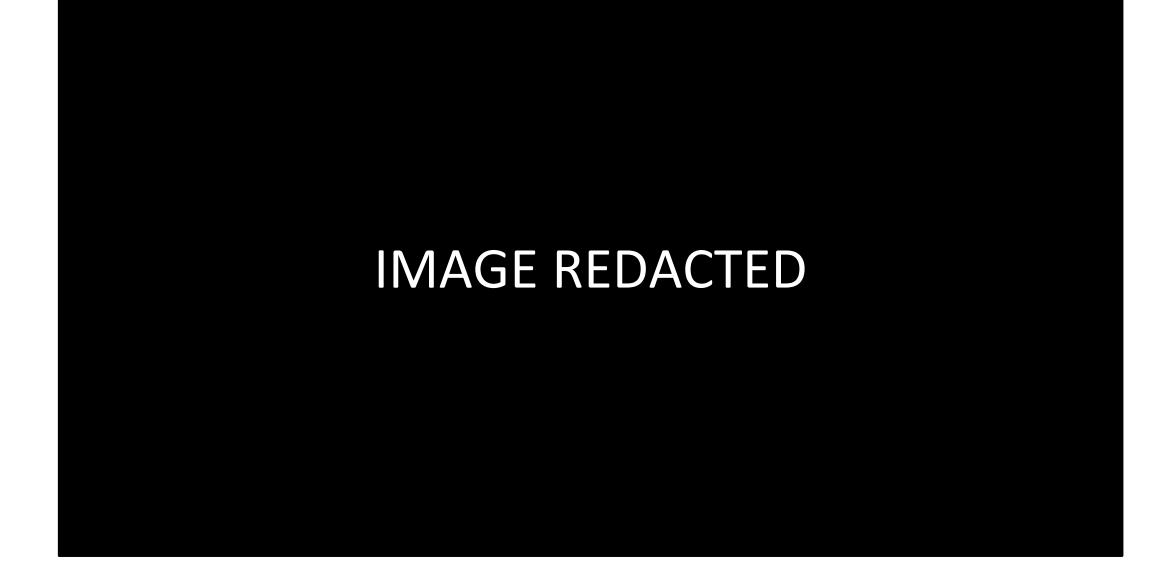
'can-do', proactive norm

'hi-nach' norm [high need achivement]

leadership hiccups created 'FOF' [fear of failure] outlook

quiet 'near misses'; point of no return

Preposition using Wheel of Change



En vivo leadership Aim: to sensitize personnel...

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to leadership as it is happening [although relationship between learning & awareness controversial]

to factors which affect mental processing, behavioural responses & chosen actions

'continuously-in-the-making' constructivist quality

- 'en vivo' approach dependent on individual's interpretation of events
- social constructionist leadership knowledge treated as adaptive
- multiplicities of social realities accessed
- occurrences within benign & deployed environments

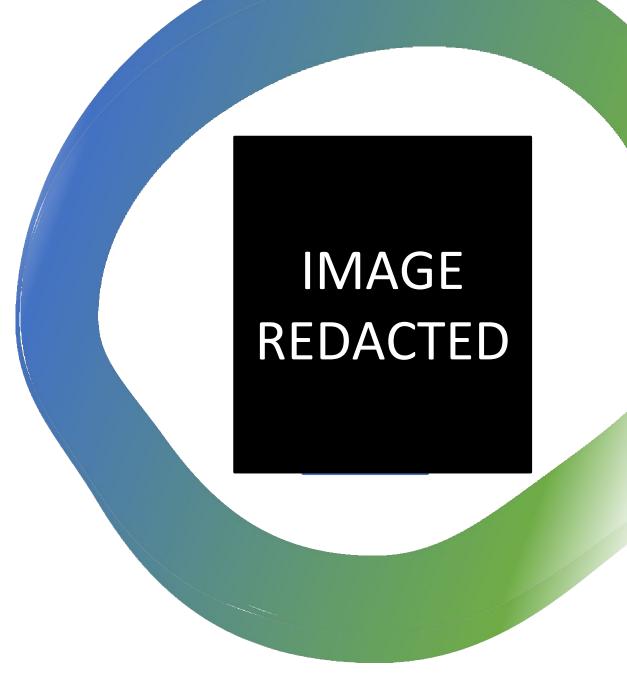


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Leadership performance identified & tracked using En Vivo Leadership ©

"En Vivo Leadership is a dynamic time phase within which intraindividual tendencies exert greater influence over behaviour than at other times"

 Murray, P.F. (2006). En Vivo Leadership.
 Centre for Leadership Studies. University of Exeter. Published Thesis.

Fig. en vivo leadership schematic © Murray

- 3 Medium Pre-start conditions of en vivo leadership
- 2 Short Pre-start Conditions of *en vivo leadership*
- 1 Start Conditions of en vivo leadership
- 1-4 Onset of en vivo leadership Time Phase
- 4-5 Post en vivo leadership Conditions
- **5-3** Long Pre-start Conditions

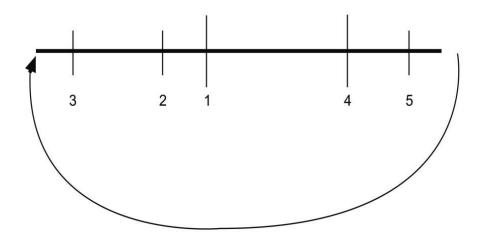


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En vivo methodology used

- to inform self-awareness
- to facilitate self- regulation
- to advance leadership cognition

- Active, constructive process
- Goals set by leadership proponent
- Proactive attempt to identify, monitor, regulate & influence aspects within the cognitive, motivational & behavioural realms of acute performance learning development

Aspects of cognition-phased analysis

variability of metacognition found to be a viable predictor of knowledge using en vivo model

sig. change in knowledge when immersive approach undertaken (e.v.)

no sig. change in facilitative leadership behaviour (d.v.) when regressed with metacognition (i.v) & military scenario knowledge (i.v.)

long pre-start combined with volatile/emotive events leadership are 'ignited' with the presence of ambivalence

ambivalence renders
individual more vulnerable
to intra-individuated
characteristics

sig. early attenuation informed by 'S', 'STJ'; diminished 'S' & 'J' during dilemma states

Strategic leadership from the intervention programme

- Concept used to inform next phase as originator of military enhancement strategy named 'Force Development'
- RAF Board sanctioned the strategic initiative
- 'being part of' training regime presented operational access & empathy
- action research intervention used to reveal emergent qualities & attributes to underpin 'successful' performance in officer cadre
- Packaged to formally establish the said key qualities& integrated with initial officer training [IOT]
- synthesised intra and inter leadership practice (neuro physiological, emotional cognitive & behavioural model & rehearsal)

Thank you

https://www.linkedin.com/in/pamela-murray-70975916/

p.murray@worc.ac.uk

