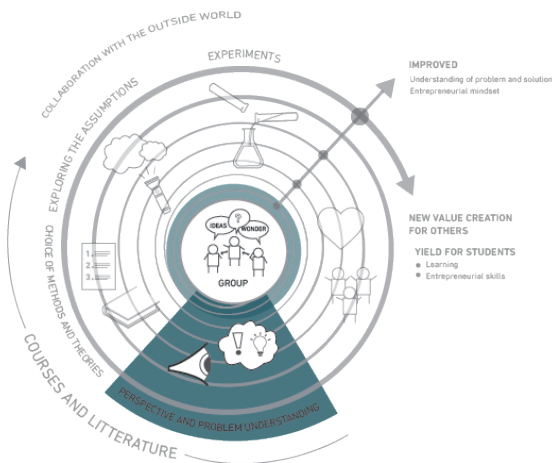


# TOOL | PROFESSIONAL WONDERMENT AND THE WONDERMENT WORKSHOP

## How is the tool linked to Entrepreneurship PBL?

As in the FIE model (see previous tool), Professional Wonder as a method can act as a supportive process tool for students in the development of problem understanding, learning, formation and entrepreneurial skills. An existential and ethical awareness, which is intrinsic to both FIE and the Wonderment Workshop can promote both humanistic and meaning-seeking innovation approach and ethical responsibility.

However, Professional Wonder can also help create value for external partners. In relation to Entrepreneurship PBL, Professional Wonder can help to establish engagement and inquiry in the group, the group's overall workflow and continuous reflections.



## What is the tool?

Professional Wonder and the Wonderment Workshop are a name and a process description of an innovative project maturation process (preject). The focus is on the key factor or 'driving force' in Entrepreneurship PBL, which is the dimension of wonder. Within entrepreneurship and innovation research, this method is linked to meaning and wonderment-driven innovation and entrepreneurship (Verganti, 2017; Hansen, 2018a,b) and to 'responsible innovation' (Owen et al., 2013; Philbeck et al. 2018).

## What can be achieved by using 'Professional Wonder' and the 'Wonderment Workshop'?

In Professional Wonder, the student or professional learns the difference between wondering in a pragmatic and knowledge and explanation-seeking way, on the one hand, and wondering in an existential, phenomenological and philosophical way on the other. The latter kind of wonder can be significant when, in creative and value-based innovation and entrepreneurship processes, one wants to work with radical innovation and 'wicked problems' and the so-called 'delicate problems' (Hansen, 2018a).

Behind common problems and 'wicked problems' are often 'delicate problems', which are delicate because they suggest or are rooted in the more existential and ethical requirements, basic conditions and questions that human life and the human vision of the good life is based on. These 'delicate problems' can be easily overlooked or treated superficially if one applies a primarily explanation-seeking and pragmatic cost/benefit and problem-solving approach to a project.

However, in the face of great existential and ethical questions and fundamental experiences (e.g. 'what is trust, courage, community' etc.), we often find the strength for innovation, radical innovation and 'responsible innovation', especially in the companies and organisations that work with people, creativity and the meaningfulness of (working) life.

In Professional Wonder, the aim is to maintain a sense of wonder — which is often more like curiosity initially — towards an existential and ethical awareness (i.e. emphasis on humanistic formation). This is inspired by research in the humanities, particularly in existential phenomenology and philosophical hermeneutics.

In practice, Professional Wonder is designed as a wonderment workshop consisting of five elements (Hansen, 2008, 2014, 2015).

The first element is the **phenomenological moment** when the group starts with a concrete, lived experience that has made an impression on them. In this phenomenological moment, they 'immerse themselves' in what they have experienced, so to speak, and then describe the life world and what they experienced as a sensory way that leads to a expressed wonder at a particular phenomenon (e.g. community).

In the **hermeneutical moment**, participants must examine in a Socratic, critical and wondering way the tacit values and basic assumptions that are taken for granted in lived experience. Together, they examine a selected narrative and are slowly led (by 'slow thinking') towards the beginnings of a philosophical wonderment at the chosen value and phenomenon ('what essentially is community?')

In the **aesthetic and philosophical moment**, the participants' own narrative, and thus their own personal philosophical wonderment, is placed in dialogue with the great wisdom narratives and wonderments of humanity. Here, art, fiction, philosophy, myths, fairy tales, music and so on are brought into the room for a further qualification of the group's wonderment.

In the **existential moment**, the created wonderment is brought back into the participants' own lives again. What did I learn? How can it be relevant and interesting to think of in relation to my own discipline, study or professional practice? How can it shed a new and innovative light on previous thinking or what is going on in a specific practice?

The fifth and final element is that of **phronesis**. Phronesis is the Greek concept of practical wisdom. Here, participants must reflect on why and how the process can be used in their professional practice. Or, as the process is illustrated by Eva Sommer, an innovation consultant from Vejle, and presented in Hansen (2018a): See below.

**How is it used?**

At Aalborg University, Professional Wonder has been used as a project qualification and project development tool. Professional Wonder adds an important humanistic formation to PBL and Entrepreneurship PBL processes, as the participants are trained to also include an existential and ethical awareness and learn to take a philosophically wondering approach to their own preconceptions and problem definitions.

Professional Wonder and the Wonderment Workshop are now also used in professional organisations, as an innovative tool in design thinking and design education (Hansen, 2014), creative enterprises and municipal organisational development (Hansen, 2018a,b), wonderment-based entrepreneurship teaching at university colleges (Hansen et al., 2017) and in the health sector (Hansen, 2016).

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**THE BUBBLE BATH - the phenomenological moment**



To dive into a lived experience from (work)life. What is my call? What do I long for?

**THE DARK CHAMBER - the hermeneutical moment**



To interpret the lived. What values are behind? Could it be any different?

**THE CATHEDRAL - the dialectical moment**



To see my own little story in the light of bigger narratives of art and culture.

**MY WAY - the existential moment**



To find myself in thoughts and words. Who am I in all this?

**LANDING - the phronesis moment**



To land in own practice again. What practical wisdom have we achieved? How to make the world better from here? What is the first step?

Finn Thorbjørn Hansen (2017) and his 5-phase model for the Wonderment Workshop, with illustrations by Eva Sommer.