

**Time, Place and Mind of Intellectual Capital:  
Commentary on Kenneth Mlbjerg Jørgensen's  
"Conceptualising intellectual capital (IC) as language game  
and power"**

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Jørgensen makes an excellent critical contribution, in applying what I mean about time, place, and mind in the social construction of narrative (Boje, 2001). The idea that stories have a time when they are told, a place for telling, and a mind comes from my colleague Kaylynn TwoTrees (1997). Now this concept of mind may be confusing, yet its elaboration is important to IC. "Every creation, even a story, has a life of its own. We create a story and it has a life. The stories have origins. You must tell a story with permission" (TwoTrees, 1997, notes). Stories have ownership rights.

IC is all about the problems of permission to tell a story. This is a hot topic in knowledge work and management of knowledge organizations. Story is treated as the repository of 'tacit knowledge' but the issue of story ownership rights, so central to IC, is not being addressed. This is where Jørgensen's article is pioneering, by looking at the ownership rights of some system or collective of the storied knowledge of workers. He takes a Foucault power perspective to explode the myth of knowledge transfer, from worker's story to stored system knowledge.

The social construction substitutes for Berger and Luckmann's (1966) take a value free viewpoint. I think its time to question the Gergen and Weick approaches, to see where languages games of social construction avoid power games.

Jørgensen's call to use Foucauldian archaeology and genealogy is a way develop a more critical theory of IC. It will mean taking all those managerialist and appreciate (inquiry) stories. People are socially produced by the fabric of stories around them, as well as by the power relations in that story fabric.

Since stories (tacit or otherwise) are allows in a process of emergence (becoming). The problem with contemporary social construction theory, is it orients the analysis away form power.

## **References**

TwoTrees, K. 1997. "Stories with mind," presentation at the April, 1997, postmodern organization track of the Standing Conference for Management and Organizational Inquiry (formerly an affiliate of IABD, now see sc'MOI at <http://scmoi.org>).

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