

Stimulating creativity by means of Logical Argument Mapping

Abstract

This paper addresses the question of how limitations of multi-organizational collaboration that are based on the fact that people frame problems, issues, others, and themselves differently can be overcome by a newly developed method called “Logical Argument Mapping” (LAM). Three considerations are crucial for LAM: (a) that visualizing what we think about an issue helps us to reflect on our own thinking and stimulates creativity; (b) that the best way to represent entire “webs” of mutually supporting beliefs as they are characteristic for framing processes is to present them as networks of mutually supporting arguments, that is as an argument map with an inferential structure; and (c) that imposing the normative standard of logical validity on the construction of argument maps both helps us to evaluate the soundness and strength of arguments and challenges us to criticize and improve our own thinking as long as it takes to create the best possible argument.

The paper provides an exploration of the theory, practice, and teaching of creativity from the perspective of philosophy, and here especially cognitive science and argumentation theory. It reports about a curriculum development that focuses on Logical Argument Mapping as a tool to analyze framing processes, to facilitate communication and collaboration, and to stimulate innovation and change in individual reflection and social interaction.

Keywords: creativity, framing, multi-organizational collaboration, argument mapping

The paper is supposed to be a contribution to the themed session no.3: Creativity: Pluridisciplinary Exploration of the Theory, Practice and Teaching of Creativity in Multi-Organizational Decision Making.

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