

Taking Cybernetics Seriously at a Science Center: Reflection-In-Interaction and Second Order Organizational Learning

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Abstract: Don Schön's ideas of reflective practice and organizational learning are connected with second order cybernetics. This connection enables a rethinking of a science center in terms of the ways that science is presented and "understood" *and* the organizational relationships, at all levels, that allow for and sustain the process of that rethinking. Through a conversation, emergent tensions (including the multiple hearings of a generative metaphor) are explored that point to the very frames within which a science center organizes itself. A scaffolding of an action research program for the science center is offered, emanating from questions raised in the conversation. Finally, a reformulation of some of Schon's key ideas that motivated the project is offered – from a reflection-in-action to a reflection-in-*inter*-action, linked to a second order organizational learning.

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