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Public Speaking – Improv That Works

Improvisation is often associated with comedy.
But we take improv seriously.

21/02/2020

Roberta Cuel

Improvise

- Creating in the moment in response to the environment
- Results in invention of new patterns, practices, structures, behaviours

Action → Reaction



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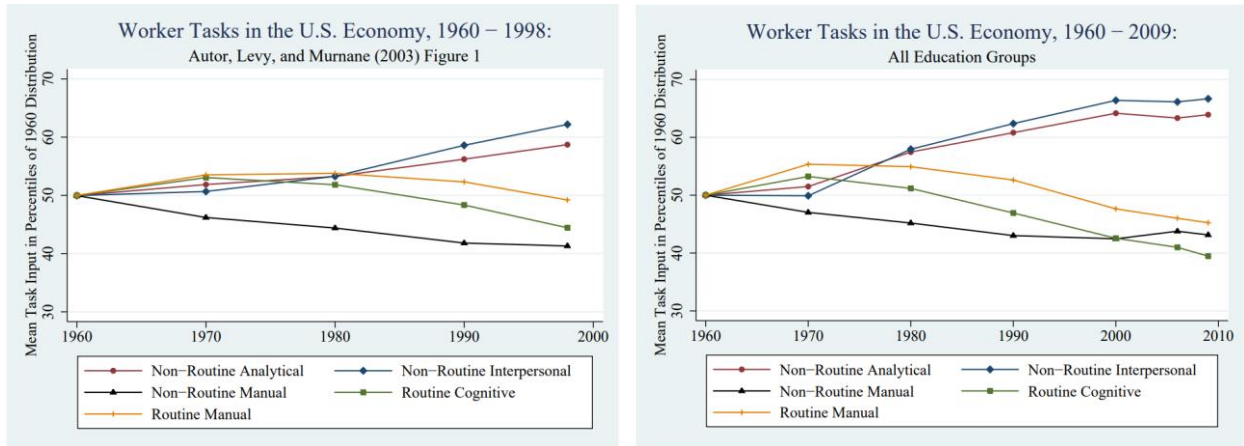
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Soft skills and innovation



The Changing Task Composition of the US Labor Market: An Update of Autor, Levy, and Murnane (2003)+ David H. Autor MIT and NBER Brendan Price MIT June 21, 2013

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Workflow interdependences (Thompson 1967)

Form of Interdependence	Demands on Horizontal Communications, Decision Making	Type of Coordination Required	Priority for Locating Units Close Together
Pooled (bank branches) Client	Low communication	Standardization, rules, procedures Divisional Structure	Low
Sequential (assembly line) Client	Medium communication	Plans, schedules, feedback Task Forces	Medium
Reciprocal (hospital) Client	High communication	Mutual adjustment, cross-departmental meetings, teamwork Horizontal Structure	High

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Business improv

Communication among team members and leaders, managers, and executives to:

- promote creative and adaptive problem solving
- overcome blocks to creativity and promote organizational innovation
- foster better communication
- build trust and support in teams
- accelerate and improve individual and group decision making
- enhance focus and concentration
- manage change more effectively
- manage conflict expertly
- communicate more effectively in crisis
- ...

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Improvisation is:

- Unexpected situations in which actors deal with their world interpretations
- Attributes are:
 - Detectable (requires no pre-knowledge)
 - Responsive (defines parameters)
 - Additive (accept all offers)
 - Present (involves the audience)

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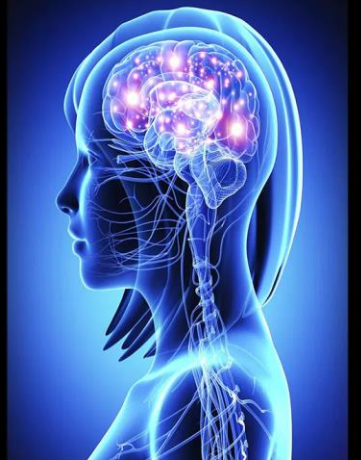
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To **IMPROVISE** produces
ENDORPHINES,
 it stimulates the
CREATIVENESS
 and the
IMAGINATION.



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Classical notation vs. Jazz notation



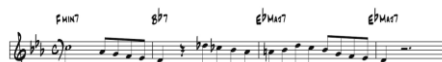
Classical notation vs. Jazz notation

Classical notation: A page of handwritten musical notation on aged paper, showing complex rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings like "poco rit.", "a tempo", "cresc.", and "poco a poco".

Jazz notation: A page of jazz notation for a song, showing a vocal line with lyrics, guitar, fretless bass, and drum kit parts. The lyrics are: "PICK THE FRUIT OF THE LOVE". The notation includes chords (D/E, Am7, Am7, Gsus2) and a "CHORUS" section.

MILES DAVIS JAZZ LICK

WWW.FREESHILLSOUND.COM



Bermant, G. (2013). Working with(out) a net: improvisational theater and enhanced well-being. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 4, 929.

- Improvisational theater (improv) fits well into an academic definition of improvisation: “the process and product of creativity occurring simultaneously” (Lewis and Lovatt, [2013](#)).
- [...] all forms of improvisation and competitive performance require basics to be learned and practiced until they become “second nature.”

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What are the basic rules in improvisation?

- Listen
- Accept (yes, and...) the proposal and the unexpected
- Fast reactions: do not block.
- Communicate clearly and represent effectively
- Collaborate and establish a relationship
- Trust yourself and the others
- Be empathic
- Make active choices being generous
- ...

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Knowing each other and Team building



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Working autonomously in a coordinated way (raft)



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Two tasks ... automatic processes are adopted (walk in circle)



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Coordinating to create innovative solutions in teams



Each person/worker contribute to the success of the whole group, anyone should coordinate for a common goal, the result of the group is always more than the sum of individuals thoughts

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Collaborating and collectively creating something together



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Solving the problem (together...)



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Non verbal communication



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Trust your colleagues

Trusting is always an important building block for collaboration. Trusting others, also help us to perceive the world (working environment) more openly using all our sense.



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Be focused and perceive the world and the environment using all your senses



Manage the way others interact with you according your role/personality?



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Understand your your role in teams or company



Understanding your role is fundamental in particular in project based companies. Students should act and behave accordingly.

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Create and represent a story, do not be afraid by errors ...



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Tell a story and explain a concept



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Storytelling and public speaking

Make a presentation and share a story is a key competence in company, for that we should adapt the story to our audience, using also our body language



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Why improvisation is important

For the company

- Fast technological changes
- Innovation

Inside the company

- Team workers
- Knowledge workers
- Continuous learning and job rotation
- Team work and team project organizations
- Conflict and diversity management
- Value sharing and storytelling (organizational culture)

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