

## Dialogue

I feel restrained as a thinker when I survey the available styles of academic communication; primary research, case studies, reviews or reflections. None of these enable enough unique attributes of being human; imagination, an epiphany, creativity, insight or abstract thought. Our conversations for knowledge construction are limited to scientific findings, both qual and quant. If someone is from a diverse culture, outside the dominate Western corpus of knowledge then participating in thought construction is restricted. Subjects, topics and phenomena from First Nations or other relational people cultural teachings, will rarely be funded to transition from observation to research findings. In this way Western corpus of knowledge is regurgitating itself, and limiting human potential. The current knowledge processes we utilise for thought construction are aligned with Western hierarchal worldviews, meaning they are competitive and possessive. We hide ourselves, discussing established facts, or becoming an expert, a leader or the author of a new theory scientifically proven. We castrate ourselves, from our unique humanness.



ChatGPT Image

Recently with a relational community, I experienced dialogue. Community groups with old and young, farmers and professionals, locals and outsiders invited, met to discuss a topic relevant to current experience. I am a proud Aboriginal woman, but also very socialised by Western worldviews. I asked this gathering; what outcome do you want? What will happen next after this meeting? Everyone seemed confused, unsure why I was asking silly questions. Eventually someone explained, we are having dialogue. We are exploring everyone's ideas; the process is in itself the outcome. All sorts of knowledges were discussed; feelings, science, books, dreams, Government policies, personal experience, theories, traditional stories and poetry. The experience was a celebration, a ritual with singing, eating, cups of tea and even drama to re-enact a scenario so everyone could experience a particular idea. All expressions held validity to be heard. Some discussions ended in hysterical laughter, members calling each other silly, some ended in an Elder stating; that's an important point. We will remember.

As a First Nations researcher I learn, experience and have insights into topics which may never fit the research agenda of academia to be investigated. Are all my thoughts scientific facts, no, some may even be silly. I search for academies, forums, institutes or spaces where diversity of thought is encouraged for innovation. Where human intuitive reasoning is not simply positioned as subjective

experience, spiritual, frivolous, heresy or conspiracy, but as fertile ground for sense perception or the primary premise of which scientific knowledge could be built from, as described by Aristotle below;

*Intuition or sense perception is the original source or primary premise of scientific knowledge*

It's ironic my ChatGPT search for a research process which starts from human intuition, led me to Aristotle, as I strongly disagreed with the Great Chain of Being theory in my article on relationality (McMahon, 2025). I smiled remembering how humility is part of sitting in a community circle holding dialogue. Aristotle's method as I understand includes 1) personal observation, or experience of a topic creating a premise or idea 2) presented with any related scientific understandings which could possibly support the premise 3) a formulated intuitive hypothesis of a phenomena, which might exist but isn't proven. These intuitive 'primary premise' were then robustly discussed through dialogue, and some were later substantiated through scientific research processes. Some probably remained a good giggle, however this process enabled a pathway for innovation.

Concepts such as Ancestral memory or interconnectedness with nature, which have held multiple intuitive 'premises' for First Nations communities and other relational people groups for thousands of years may never access the opportunity for First Nations led scientific positioning, we can only watch from the side as Western academia discusses epigenetics and health benefits of green spaces. With my new ally Aristotle, and his advice for formulating a primary premise, I want to learn more about 'dialogue', the human creative space, before research has even started. A space, which requires diversity of thought, and were not thinking about career progression, or how silly we might sound. We laugh, we argue and we listen. Aware that some of our intuitive, creative or abstract ideas could later become new scientific fields of knowing.

Aristotle's Posterior Analytics, trans. E.S. Bouchier, B.A. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1901).

McMahon, M. (2025). Roar of relational peoples. *AlterNative*, 21(1), 178-187.  
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