

Making sense of Meaning



What we're Exploring

1. “Meaning” – as a term – its different meanings: pun intended 😊
2. CIN-Model as a useful short-cut to think about “needs”
3. “Agency” and CIN and Meaning #1
4. “Doing” → Social Practice Theory → Meaning #3 and #4



1. Meaning as a term



Meaning as a term

1. “Meaning” of importance, of worth, of impact
2. “Meaning” referring to definition
3. “Meaning” referring to interpretation
4. “Meaning” referring to associations (Social Practice Theory)



2. CIN Model of Needs

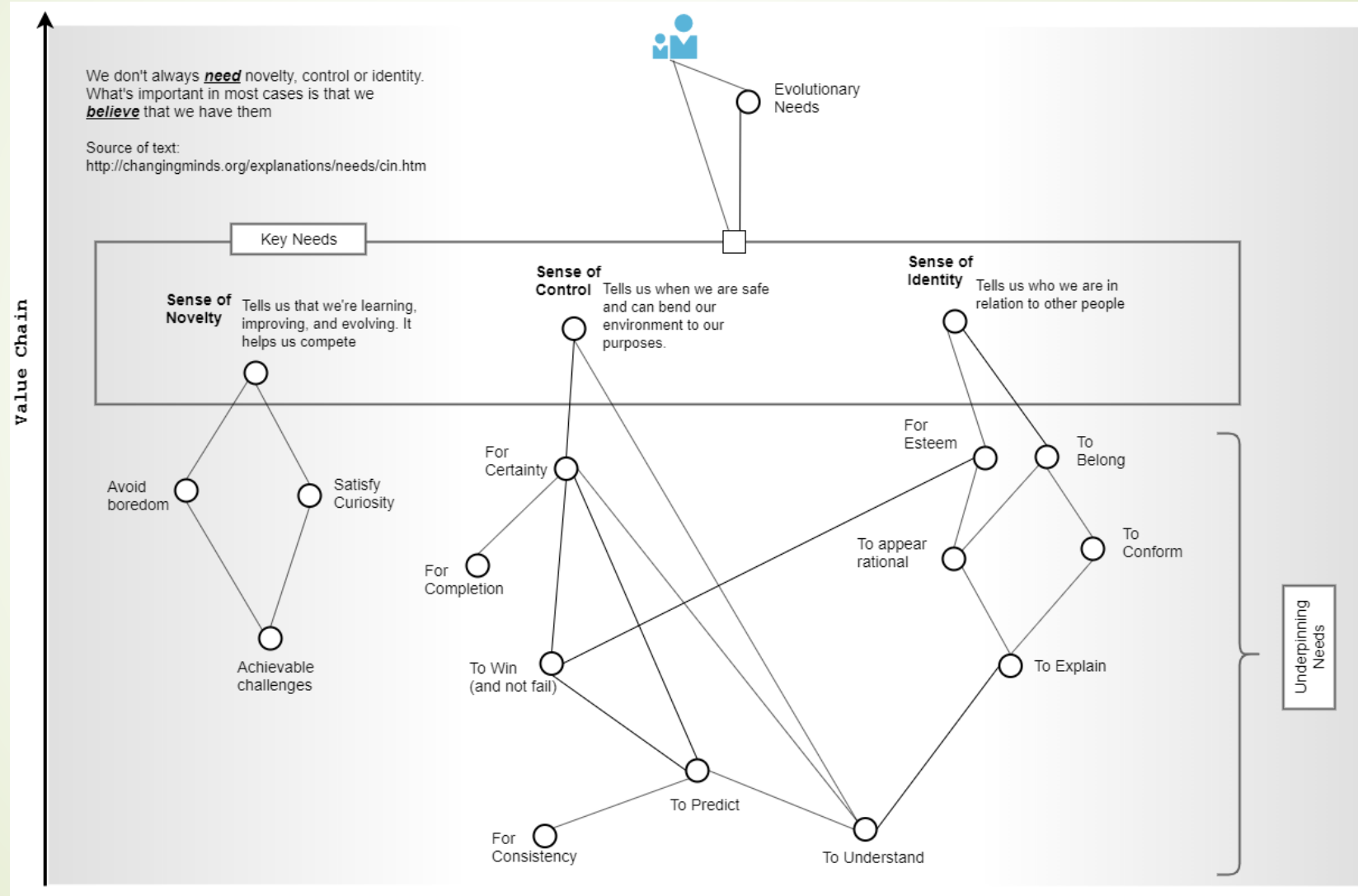


CIN Model

- ▶ CIN = Control, Identity, Novelty -> our underlying needs.
 - ▶ Source: changingminds.org

- ▶ If we can meet those needs, then we have Meaning #1

CIN Model – Value Chain





CIN Model

- ▶ if I in what I do I have some Control, some Novelty, and belong, then it feels worthwhile. It's meaningful.
- ▶ The same applies if we apply it to a group, a team - if we have some Control, some Novelty, and Belong, then it feels worthwhile. It's meaningful.
- ▶ Practical applications – “Agency”



3. Agency with CIN → Meaning # 1



Agency 101

- ▶ I'm borrowing "Agency" from **Jabe Bloom's** talk "*Whole Work: Sociotechnicity & DevOps*" where "Agency" in a group context is better than "Autonomy."
- ▶ "Agency" defined as "the ability to choose action to take and be able to observe the results of those actions in the system one acts within."

Agency 101

DevOpsCon

Whole Work:
Sociotechnicity &
DevOps

Jabe Bloom
PraxisFlow

Agency of Purpose

Agency of Goals

Agency of Process

I can see how my actions
modify our purpose

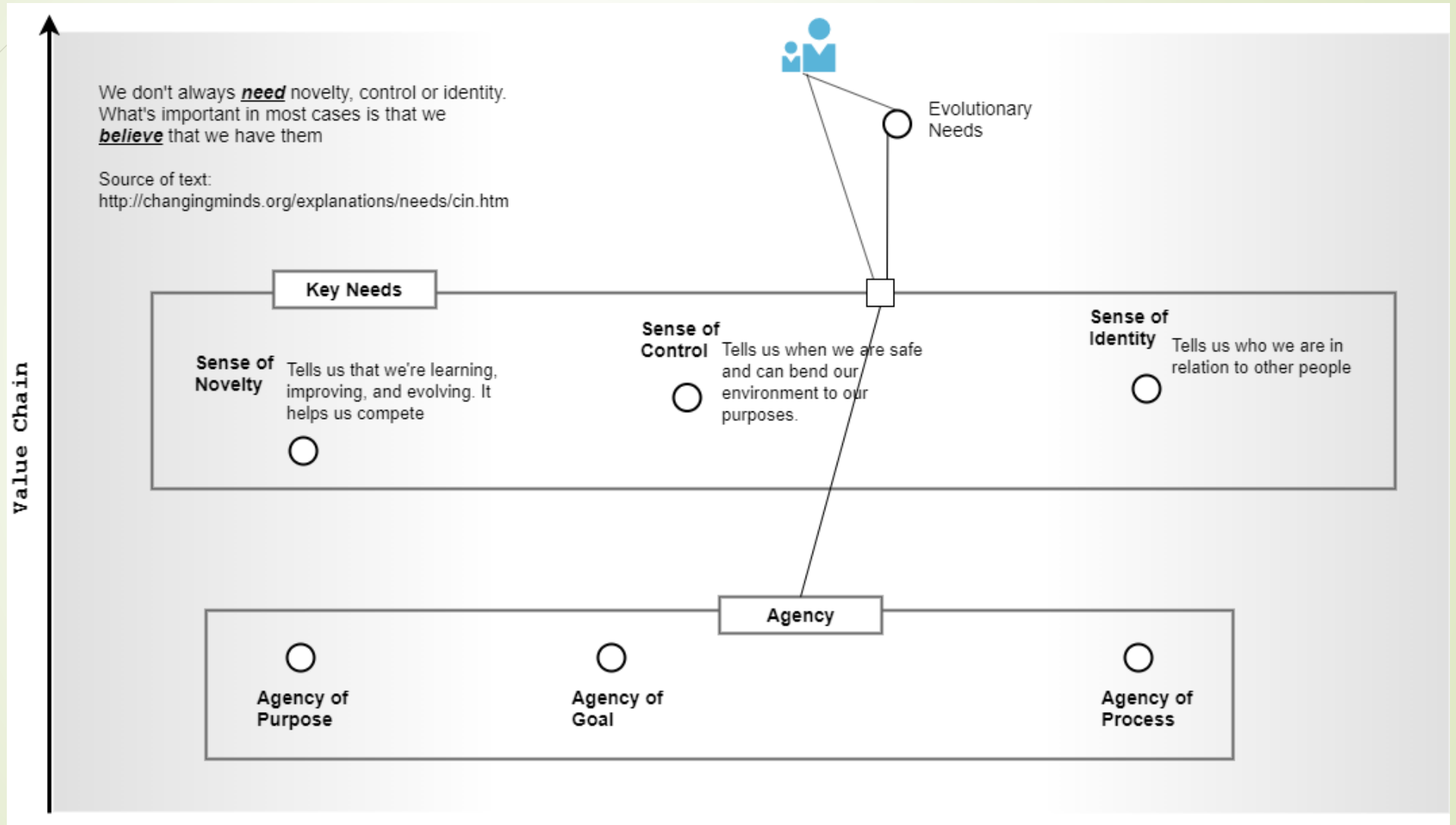
I can see how my actions
change our goals

I can see how my actions
change our processes

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PRAXISflow

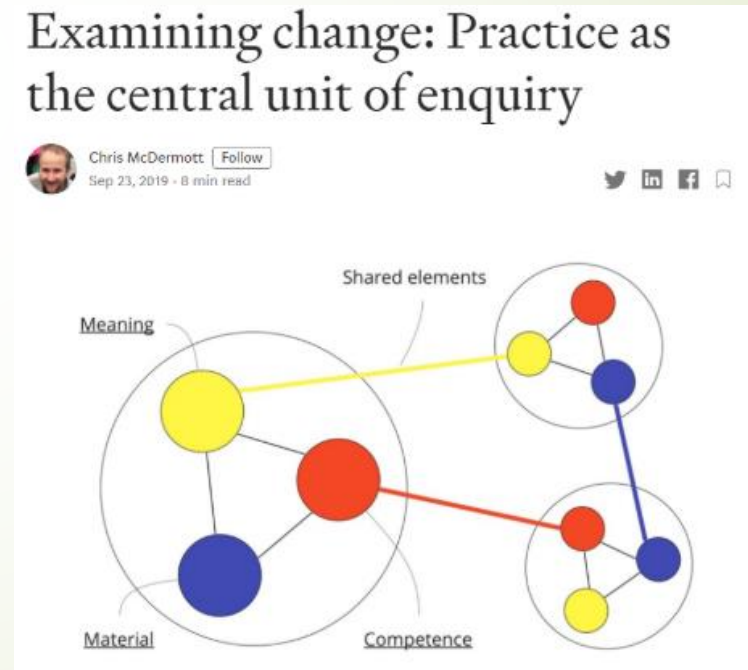
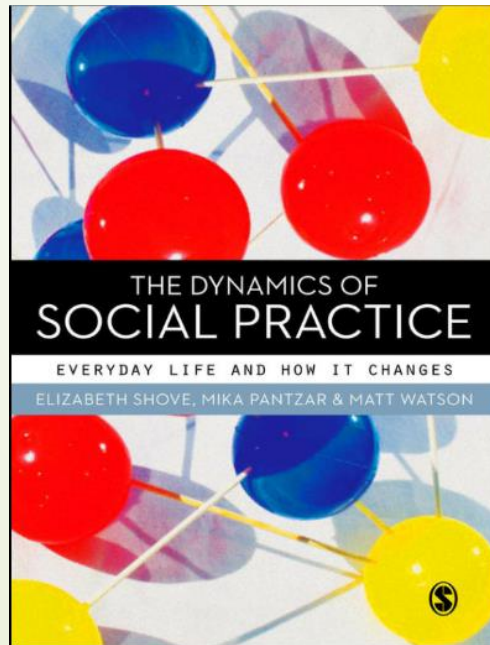
Agency with CIN → Meaning #1



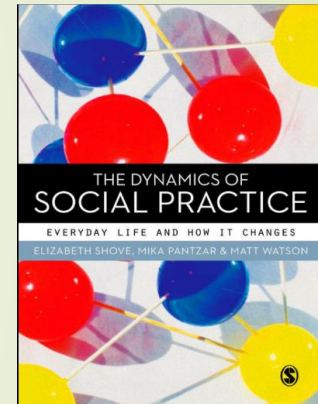
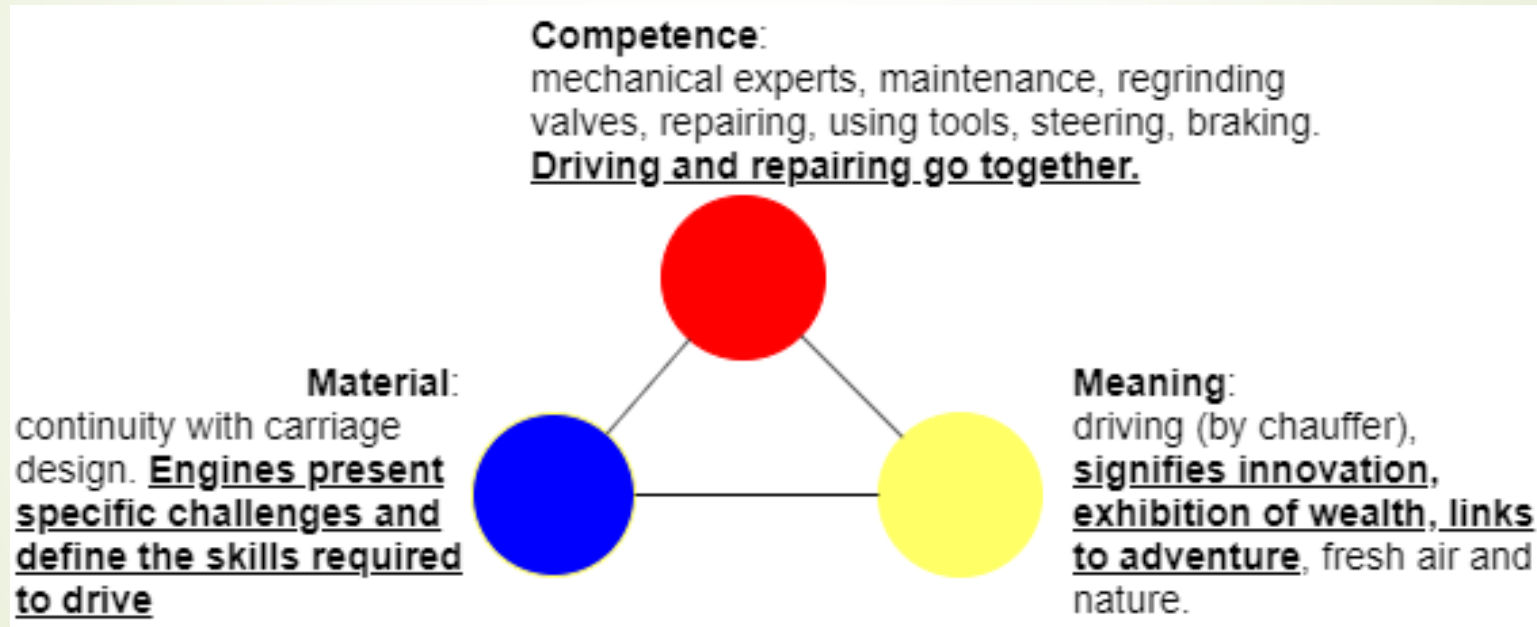
4. “Doing” → SPT →
Meaning #4

“Doing” and “Meaning” in Social Practice Theory (SPT)

- Social Practice Theory combines “what we do” with “Meaning #4”, i.e., what’s associated with the practice?



“Doing” and “Meaning” in Social Practice Theory (SPT)



Source: Page 29 (Kindle Edition)



“Doing” and “Meaning” in SPT Applied: in Architecture Assessments

One of the first questions: “How is area #1 of the Systems’
Architecture perceived?”

The next set of questions deal with Material and Competence



“Doing” and “Meaning” in SPT

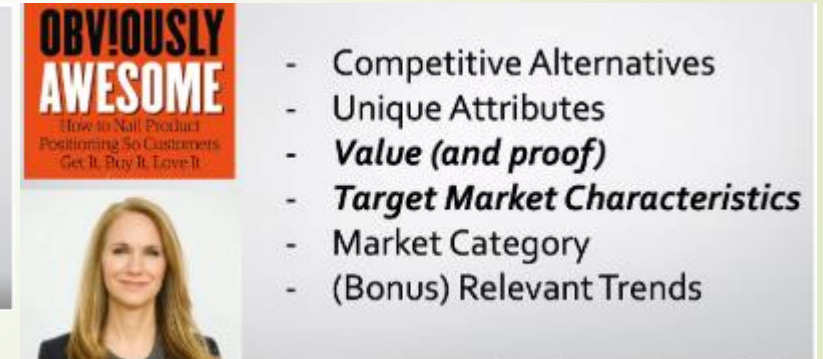
Meaning #4 (association)

- ▶ If we know the image (perception) associated with a (our) practice, we can:
 - ▶ Understand it
 - ▶ Maintain it
 - ▶ Change it

“Doing” and “Meaning” in SPT Meaning #4 (association)

- ▶ If we know the image (perception) associated with a (our) practice, we can:
 - ▶ Understand it
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 - ▶ Change it

See Cory Foy's Series on
Wardley Maps and April
Dunford's Product
Positioning Framework





“Doing” and “Meaning” in SPT

Meaning #4 (association)

- ▶ If we know the image (perception) associated with a (our) practice, we can:
 - ▶ Understand it
 - ▶ Maintain it
 - ▶ Change it
- ▶ We have “Agency”

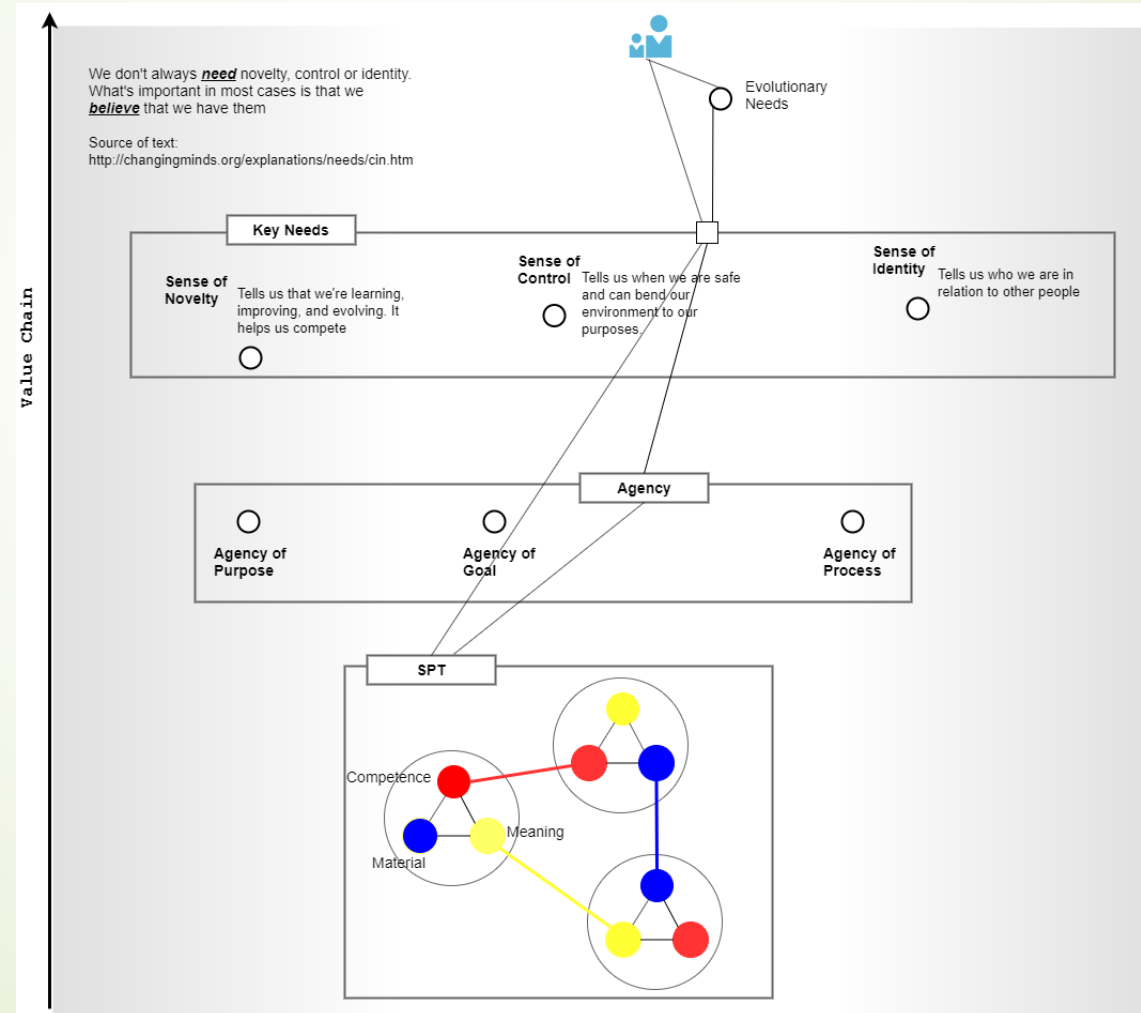


“Doing” and “Meaning” in SPT

Meaning #4 (association)

- ▶ If we know the image (perception) associated with a (our) practice, we can:
 - ▶ Understand it
 - ▶ Maintain it
 - ▶ Change it
- ▶ We have “Agency”
- ▶ We have Wardley Maps for understanding and deciding

“Doing” and “Meaning” in SPT Meaning #4 (association)



Recap



What we've explored

1. "Meaning" – as a term – has different meanings – pun intended 😊
2. CIN-Model as a useful short-cut to think about "needs"
3. "Agency" and CIN and Meaning #1
4. "Doing" → Social Practice Theory → Meaning #3 and #4
5. Wardley Maps for understanding and deciding → Meaning #3 and #4