# Instruments Visionary Group

Question: How to develop a model of university's comprehensive and balanced communication?

Our questions are real. Please consider them. These questions are not for consumption; they are for engagement. Please ask them to yourself and others. This is not the end point, but the start of a dialogue. We invite you to join the conversation (you can add your own thoughts and responses here: https://tinyurl.com/dta8xjwy). While reading through these pages, let the questions wash over you and settle in. The spaces are for your thoughts, your words.
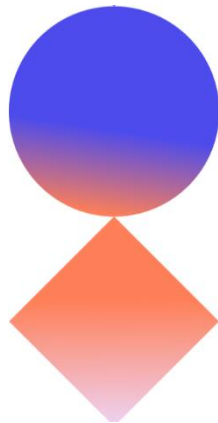
We're listening.

Nothing has meaning until it is communicated.
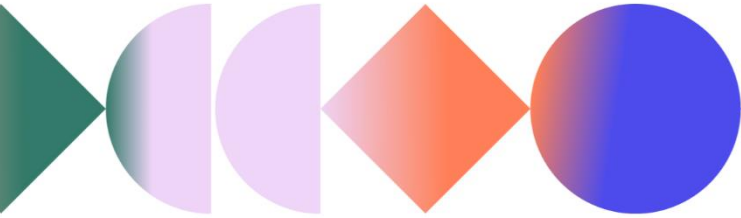
If it is not communicated,
does it really exist?

Communication is essential, at the center. Learning is communication, research is communication, universities are communication.
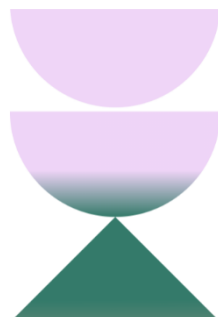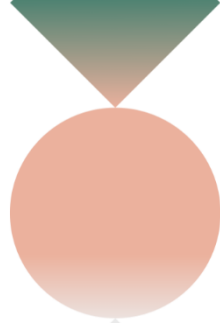
Without communication,
do these activities really have a
purpose?

We are in the world to engage, communicate, participate, provide a basis for communication, dialogue, discussion, debate.

Communication is connection, collectivity, an ongoing process, meaningful, the whole point.

What is a university without
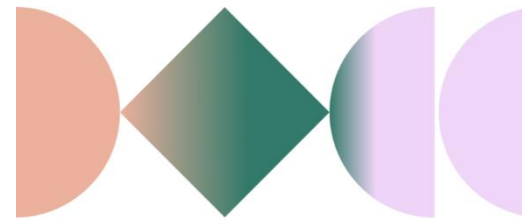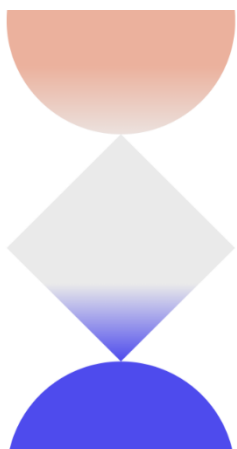holistic and comprehensive
communication?

What is left?

Communication is humanity, living, it is you and me and us, it is participatory and open and questioning and vulnerable, uncertain, creative.

What are we without it?

aren't we all

individual

in vast spaces

filled with people

What about thinking in terms of ALL of us?

What if the university is not unified, but is utterly diverse in its constituent parts (people) and needs?

What does this mean for how we ALL communicate?
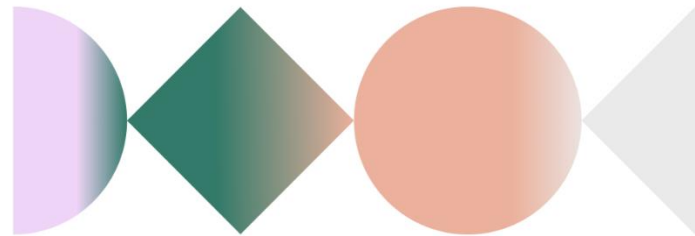
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time is water

time is everywhere and slipping through my fingers

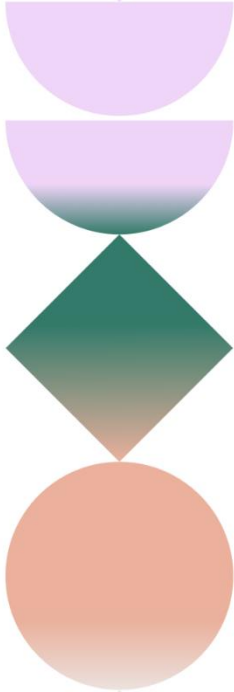I swim in time, I am here and there, I am in the waves

asked to do this this this

there is little left

of me to do

How do we make COMMUNICATION empowering rather than overpowering?
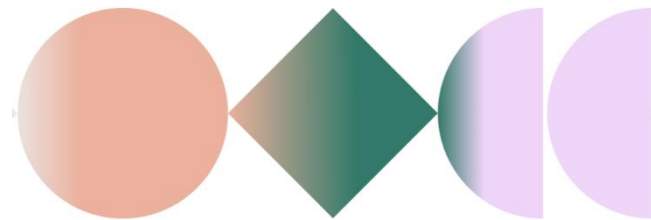
How do we avoid drowning in it all?

How do we make enough time and
space to make communication natural, a
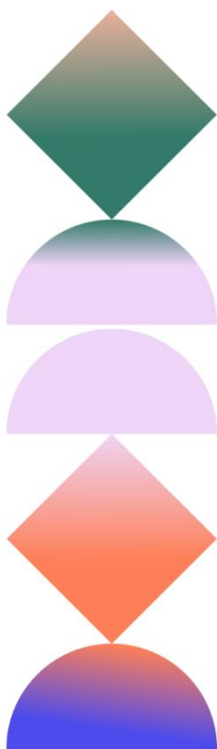pleasure?

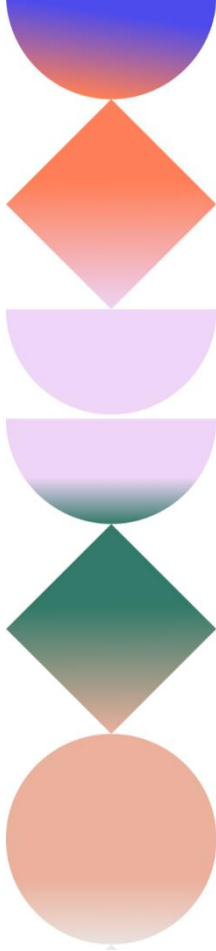what I am trying to say to you is

what I am saying to you is

are these the same?

what do you hear?

what is coming across?

How is communication
shaping/influencing
the work of the university?

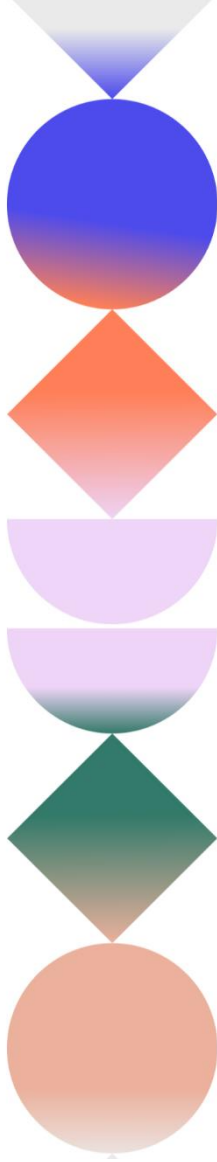How do we become
more aware and intentional about it?

How do we say what we mean, and
mean what we say?

How can what we say reflect the reality
of our experience?

How can we listen in an open way to the
experiences of others?

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what I am saying to you is this

this is what is (from my point of view)

do you agree or disagree?
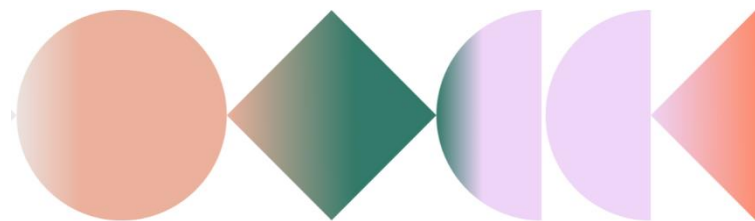
where are you?

can I see you?

can I feel you?

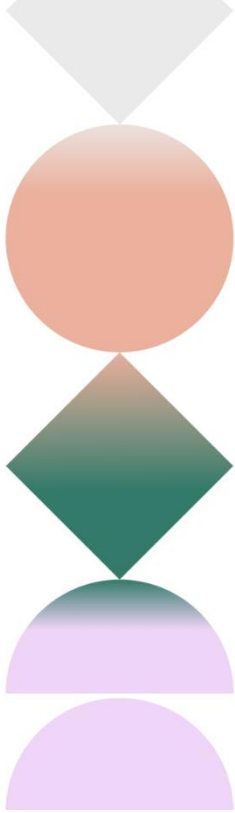I'm reaching out, out...

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the gatekeeper is always there

are they keeping me in or out

are they keeping you in or out
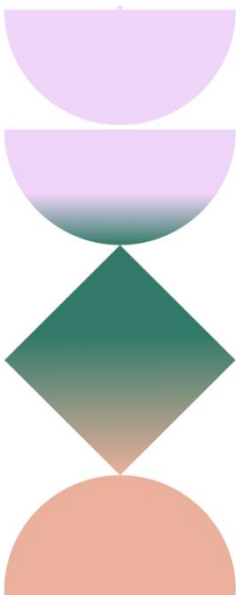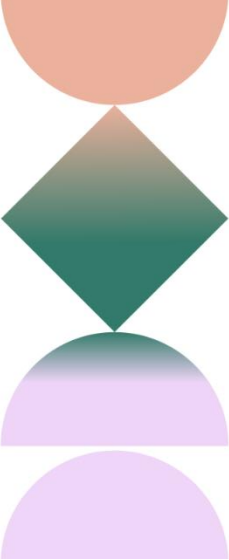
are they a librarian?

are they a log cutter?

are they a sifter?

do they help me find

what I am searching for?
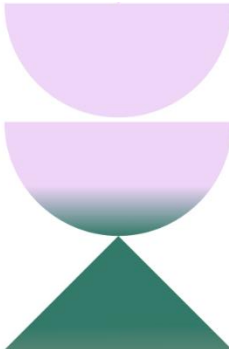
do they help me find

you?

What am I trying to say?

Who am I speaking to?

Who is listening?

Who am I listening to?

How do we make this into a dialogue rather than a speech?

In my dream we were all together, someone was reading aloud. There were wildflowers all around us, the many colours blurring red and blue, blue and yellow, yellow and green in the brilliant light. I understood something of your experience, you understood something of mine. We felt the sun on our skin. That was something we shared. That was something I learned.

What about the collective?

What about letting go of individual identity a little and embracing *us*, but without losing us – what does that look like in our digital world?

But is it only the really privileged who get their heads above the fray, who are recognised?

How do we care for ALL of us without losing ourselves in the sea of humanity?

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the water needs a cup, a funnel, a pipe, a bridge to cross it, a boat to row over it, a submarine to navigate within it

Is communication already a value itself or is it a steady "work in progress" to make communication valuable?

How can we avoid endangering free communication?

What holds us back from revolutionising our ways of communicating?
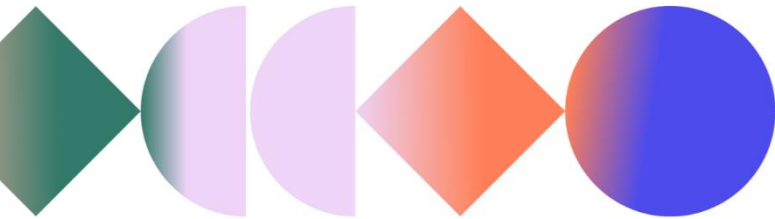
Why is it so difficult to overcome the gap between knowing and acting?

Who or what can help us find the information we need?
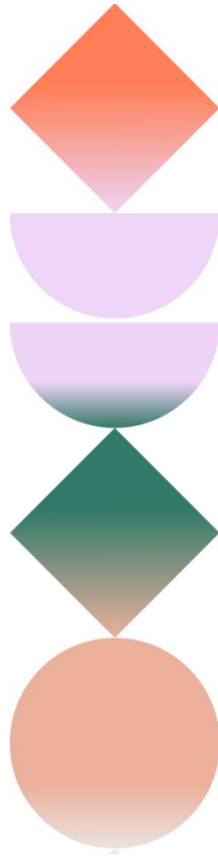
What structures and frameworks support creativity and openness? (The sieve through which the water pours, in which the gold is discovered…)

I'm going to dream of you so I don't have to fly to you

I'm going to speak to you very softly

so as not to waste any energy
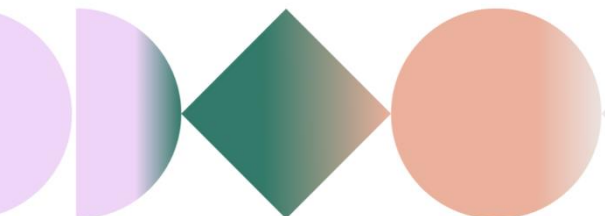
listen, lean closer, I'm whispering

Everything leaves footprints, what kind of traces do we want to leave?

How can we be together without hurting one another?

How can we communicate in a responsible and gentle way/form, considering our limited resources?

What if everyone had all the information they wanted/needed and no more?

What if you felt really happy about how you were communicating and being communicated with? What would that look like?

Some other questions for you to consider:

What is the silent university?

What is the telepathic university?

What is the university that communicates only through music?

What is the visual university?

What is the speaking only university?

What is the text university?

What is the only tech university?

What is the only non tech university?

Can we IMAGINE some very different vistas?

What if communication was integrated into the work?

What if it wasn't another layer that needed to be added?

What if the work was communication?

What kind of platforms, structures, skills, tools, mindsets, values, culture, technical/non-technical tools would be needed for communication to be inherent in the work?

How could better models of communication lighten the load of the work? How could it support the university's aim (be it administrative staff, students, researchers, teachers)?

What is the co-creative, co-owned, cooperative university?

How do we achieve clearer and freer communication?

We want the university to be more open, dialogical, flexible, collaborative - how do we approach our vision from that point of view with an understanding of the current situation and with empathy, sympathy and an open mind?

How do we facilitate more natural, ongoing flows of information, models of communication, curation and filtering, personalisation, automatisation of communication flows in useful ways, 'Communication as unity of information, message, and understanding' (Luhmann)?

Who says what in which channel to whom with what effect? (Lasswell)