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Education as Philosophy and Philosophy as Education: lessons for disciplinarity from running a philosophy course within an academic development programme

'Foundations for the future', HEA Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies conference, 13-14 July 2011

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Philosophy as Education: insertions in

Academic/Professional Development programmes

UCL:

- Research Methods
- Issues in Research Practice
- Issues in Higher Learning

UoK:

- Educational Research Methodology
- Philosophical & Theoretical Issues in Higher Learning

But what does it add?... the double-bind (even for Locke's "under-labourer")

(1) Philosophy as making another subject more well-rounded?

- a) Problem: if beyond the 'Education' curriculum...
- Hifalutin, etc....
- If it should be done, how if no-one qualified?

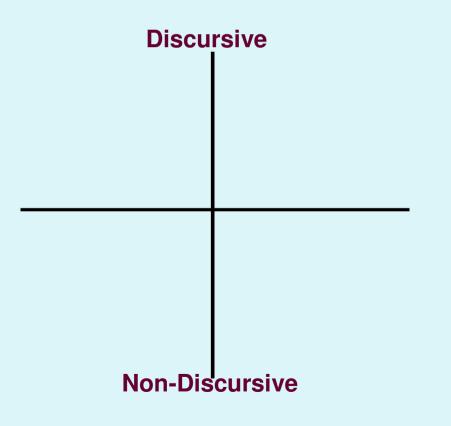
b) Problem: if naturally part of the 'Education' curriculum...

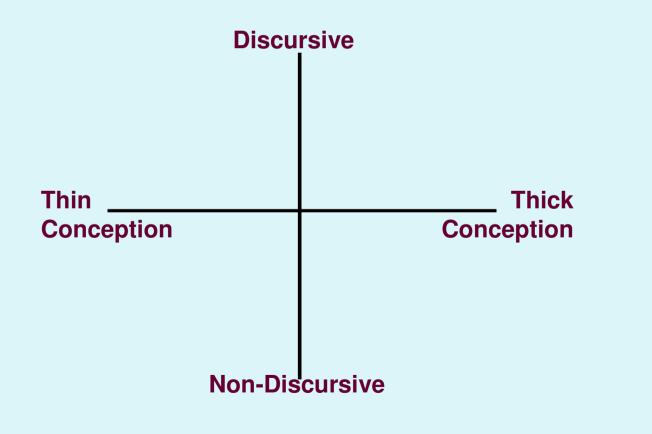
- No need to change anything
- Or, if it should be done explicitly, don't need anyone especially qualified – why should one who is be superior?

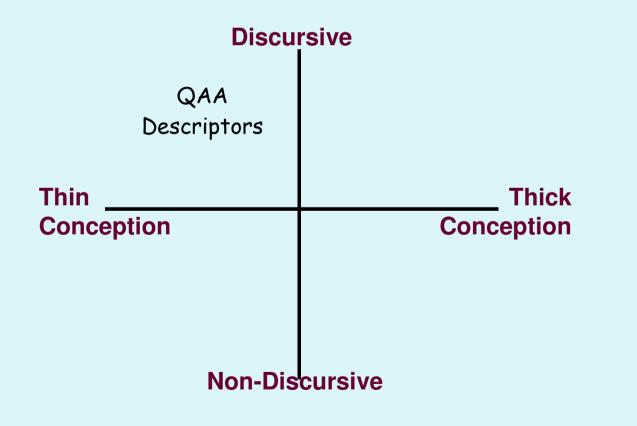
Also (2) Philosophy as meddling:

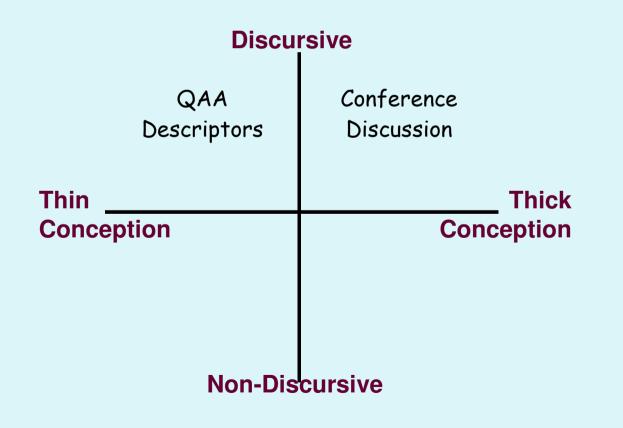
 Making issue more complicated than it really is (for "getting on with it")

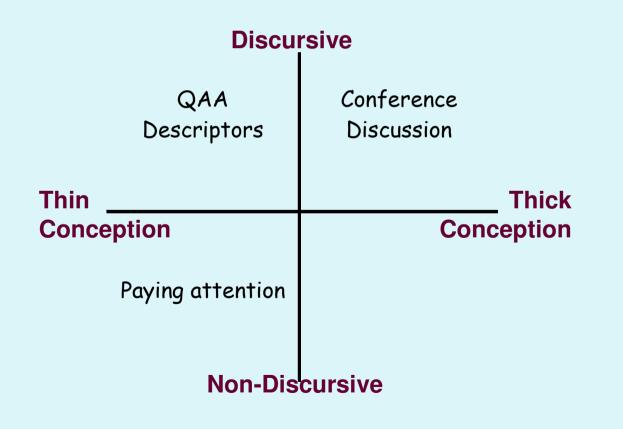
- Individual vs Group vs Social(=societal) vs Institutional
- Discursive vs Non-Discursive
- Thin vs Thick (Luntley)
- Primary vs Secondary (Keith Hoskin)

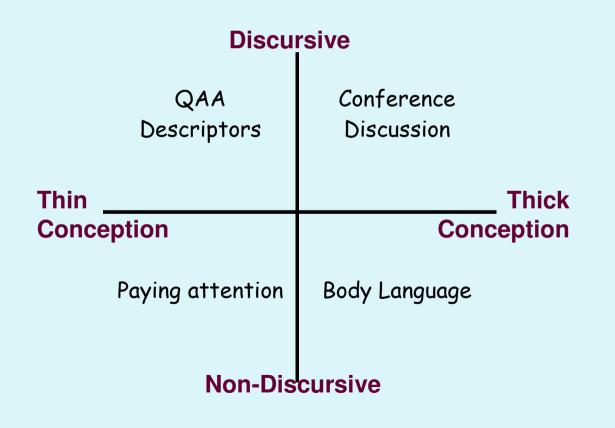


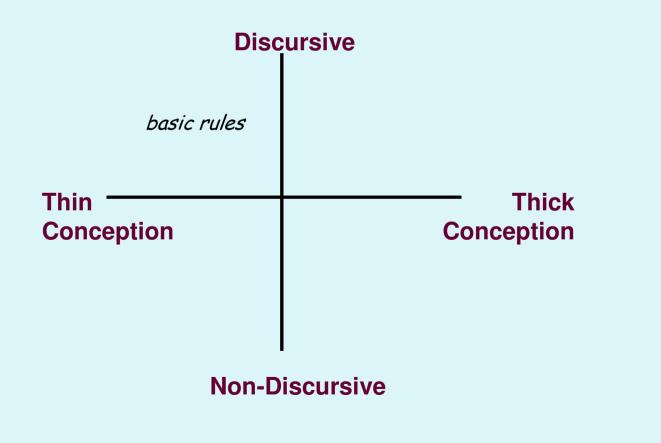


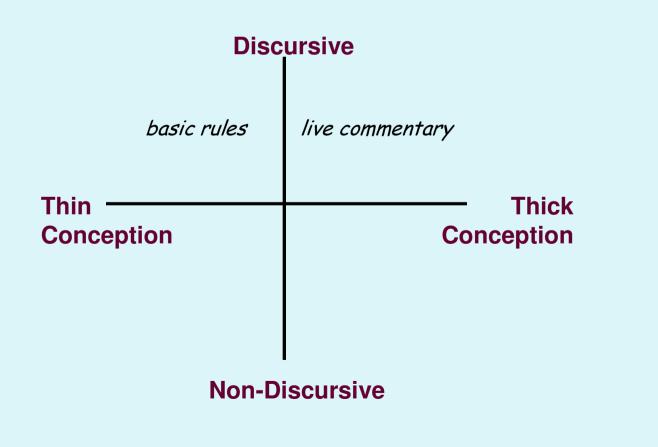


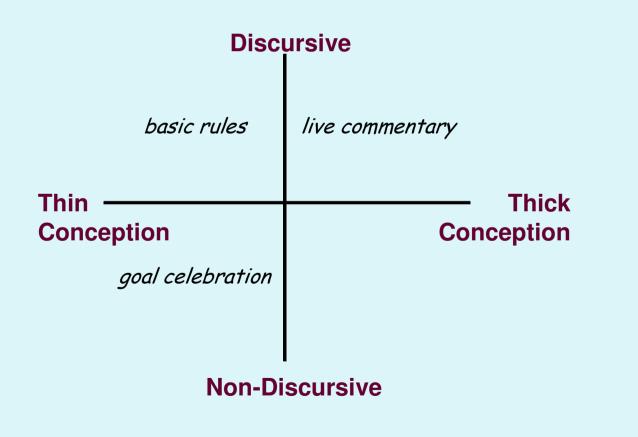


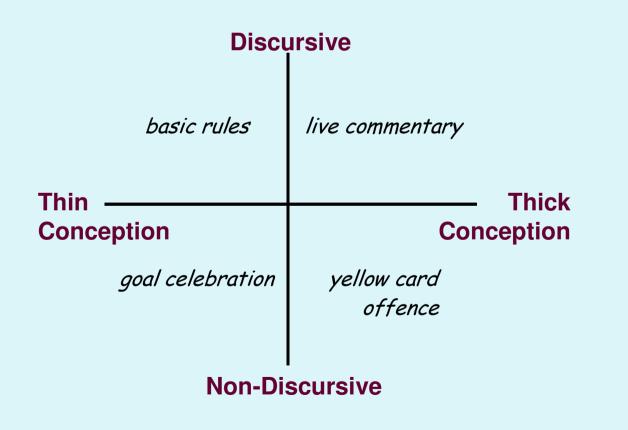












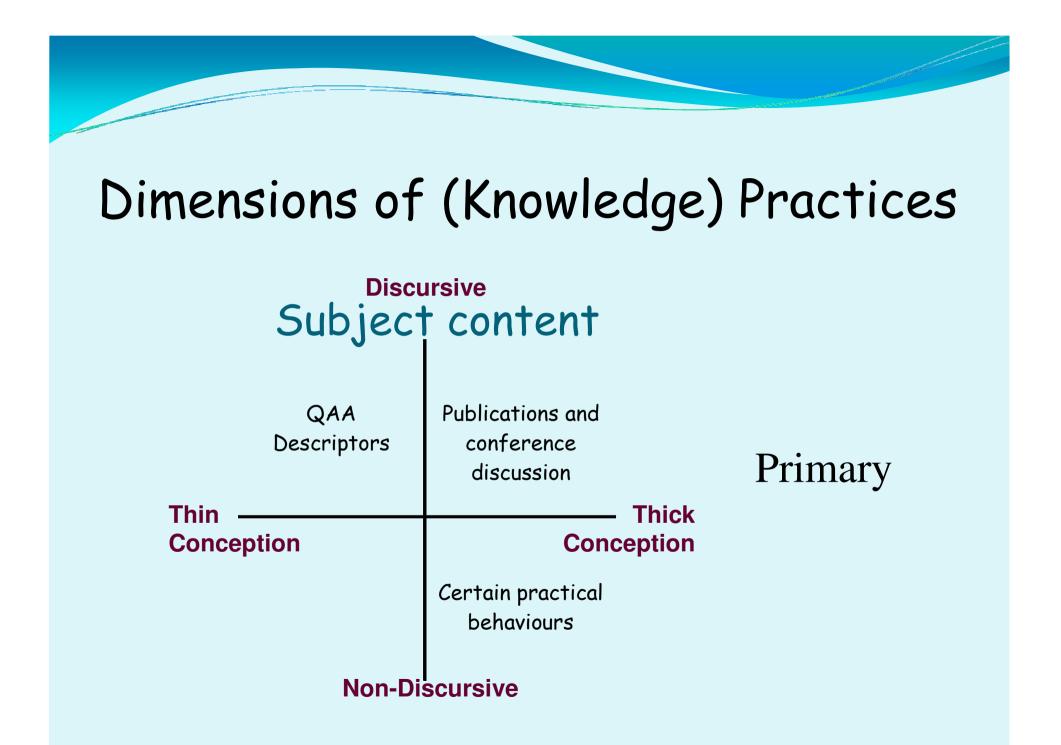
Primary level of practice:

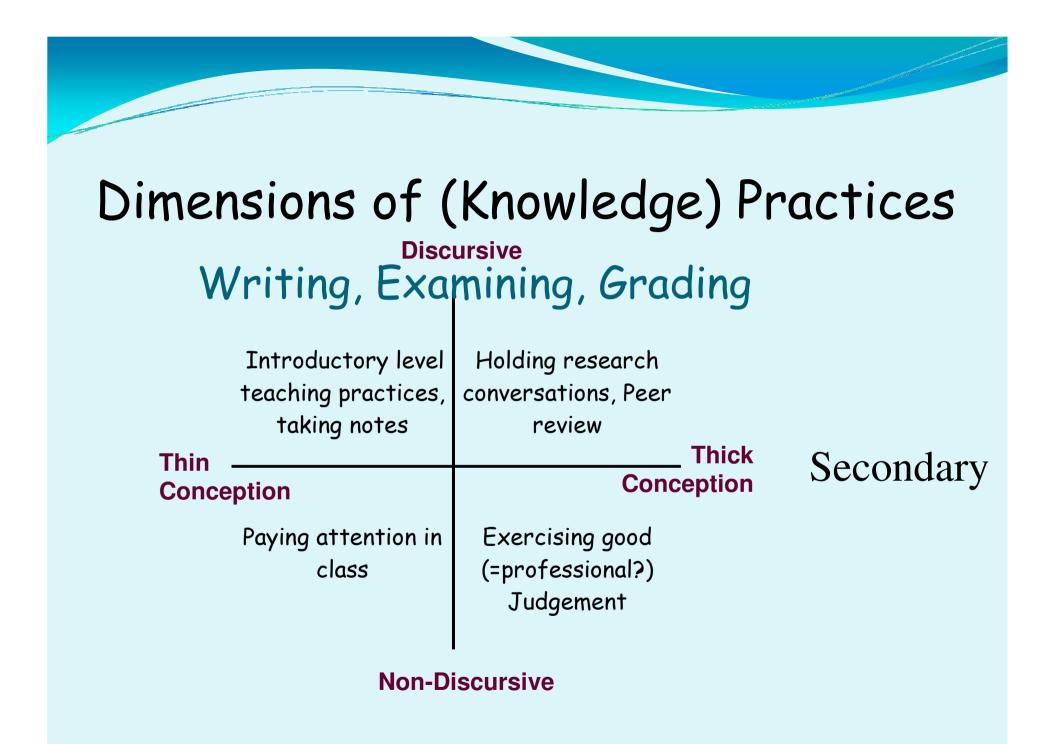
•What defines what your discipline is about uniquely, e.g. explicit subject content

Secondary level of practice:

•What you do which underpins the primary level, relatively generic and more disciplining aspects

– Hoskin: writing, examining and grading





Re-conceptualising disciplinary relations

Hoskin: Education not a discipline

- Not because Teaching & Learning sub-disciplinary under-labouring
- Education is supra-disciplinary
- Ditto for Philosophy

Knowledge as transdisciplinary? (c.f. Gibbons et al.)

Rather.... individuals become transdisciplinary ('connective specialists' – Young)