

A critical friend is a student in a critical friendship group who helps a fellow student to do his or her research and write a research report. He or she does this by asking critical questions, contributing his or her own perspective to the discussion, providing information or offering advice. The critical friend takes responsibility neither for the content of the research, nor for the report or the research process. A critical friend reads drafts of chapters and comments on them, helps the student researcher to think about the research question and the research design, helps with data analysis, and so on.



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## My learning



Born in Rotterdam; father a trader/broker in dairy products

Youngest in family of 3 daughters

Action Research and concept of critical friends International cooperation with Asian and African students

Trained and worked as a professional mediator Teaching and rolemodeling critical friendship towards students M EN

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## Action researchers about working together

Iterative learning best in a context of a *co-operative peer group* that can provide mutual support and challenge.

Co-researchers develop a quality of *self-reflective inquiring attention* which shifts their focus from seeking a desired outcome to the process of learning itself (Reason, 1999)

Collaboration among members of the group as a 'critical community' (Altrichter e.a. 1990; p. 19-20)



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## International Students about working together as critical friends in their master

Critical friend is like falling in love: easy in the beginning, but staying in love is difficult.

I want to use this brilliant idea / concept in whatever I could. I know the stars and the shortcomings in the aspect of time.

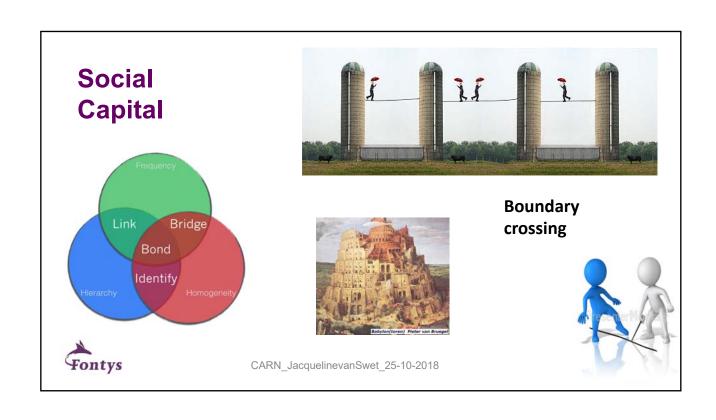
The critical friend group is one of my richest experiences. It is wonderful to come out of my shell and to do what I feel as what I have to do.

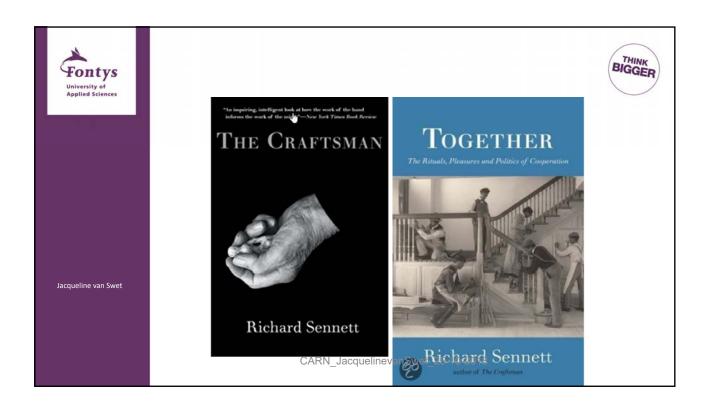


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