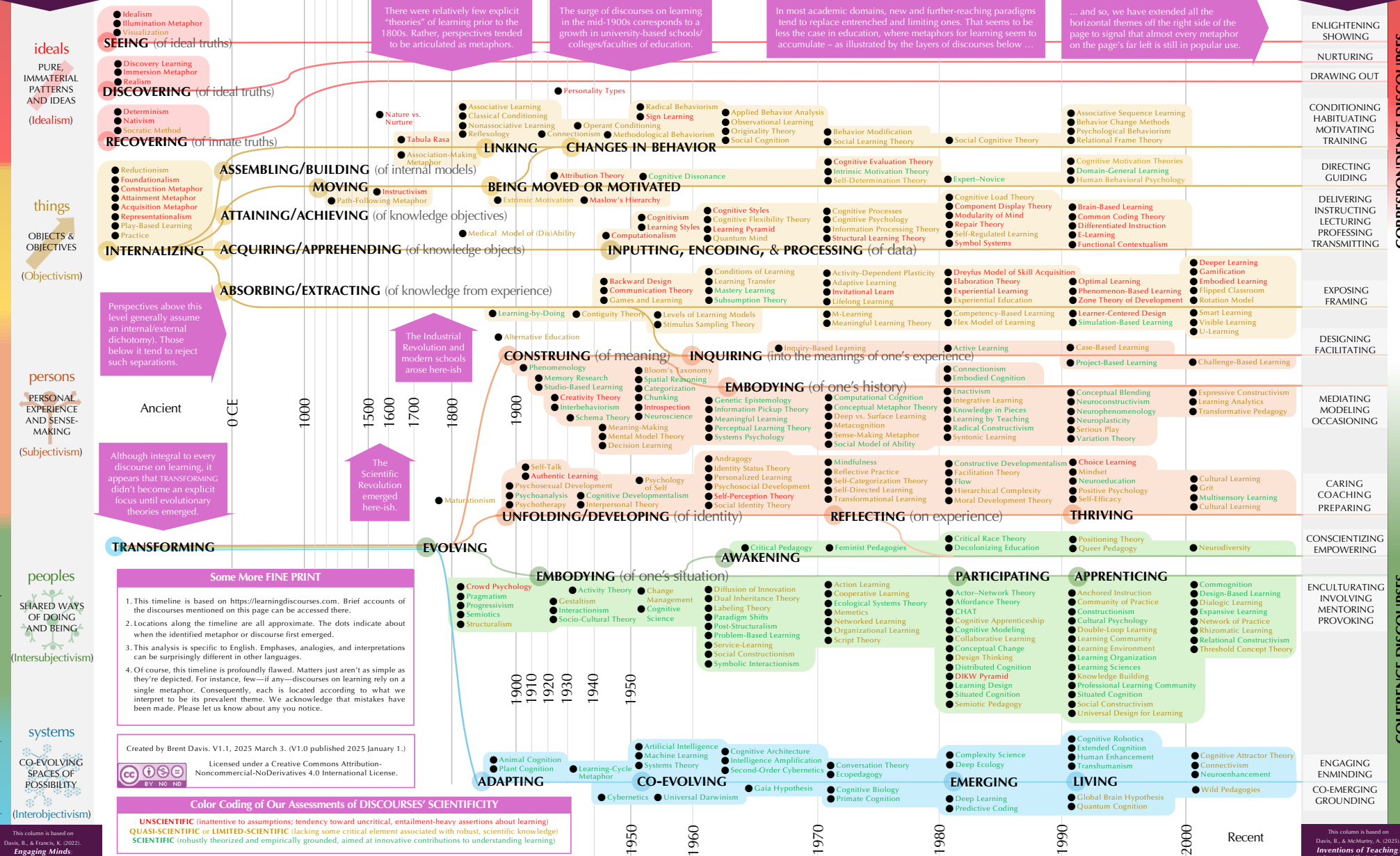


# A Timeline of the Emergence of Prominent METAPHORS for LEARNING and Some of Their Associated Discourses

Identified Sites of and Metaphors for KNOWLEDGE

Some Aligned Metaphors for TEACHING



Memorial Formal Education

Standardized Education

Authentic Education

Democratic Citizenship Education

Systemic Sustainability Education

ENLIGHTENING SHOWING

NURTURING

DRAWING OUT

CONDITIONING HABITUATING MOTIVATING TRAINING

DIRECTING GUIDING

DELIVERING INSTRUCTING LECTURING PROFESSING TRANSMITTING

EXPOSING FRAMING

DESIGNING FACILITATING

MEDIATING MODELING OCCASIONING

CARING COACHING PREPARING

CONSCIENTIZING EMPOWERING

ENCULTURATING INVOLVING MENTORING PROVOKING

ENGAGING ENMINDING

CO-EMERGING GROUNDING

COHERENCE DISCOURSES

COHERENCE DISCOURSES

**Some More FINE PRINT**

- This timeline is based on <https://learningdiscourses.com>. Brief accounts of the discourses mentioned on this page can be accessed there.
- Locations along the timeline are all approximate. The dots indicate about when the identified metaphor or discourse first emerged.
- This analysis is specific to English. Emphases, analogies, and interpretations can be surprisingly different in other languages.
- Of course, this timeline is profoundly flawed. Matters just aren't as simple as they're depicted. For instance, few—if any—discourses on learning rely on a single metaphor. Consequently, each is located according to what we interpret to be its prevalent theme. We acknowledge that mistakes have been made. Please let us know about any you notice.

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**Color Coding of Our Assessments of DISCOURSES' SCIENTIFICITY**

**UNSCIENTIFIC** (inattentive to assumptions; tendency toward uncritical, entailment-heavy assertions about learning)  
**QUASI-SCIENTIFIC or LIMITED-SCIENTIFIC** (lacking some critical element associated with robust, scientific knowledge)  
**SCIENTIFIC** (robustly theorized and empirically grounded, aimed at innovative contributions to understanding learning)

This column is based on Davis, B., & Francis, K. (2022). *Engaging Minds: Evolving Learning & Teaching*. Routledge.

This column is based on Davis, B., & McMurtry, A. (2025). *Inventions of Teaching: A Genealogy*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Routledge.