Representing Thinking – Or, Presenting Thinking

In the professional learning workshops we have delivered over the last few years, we have used a variety of ‘languages’ (e.g. song, drama, drawing, collage, construction, sculpture, writing, talking) to help people transform and represent their thinking. As we have worked we have increasingly begun to question whether participants are ‘representing’ their thinking or ‘presenting’ their thinking. We believe there is a difference. ‘Representation’ implies an analogous process, ‘presentation’ on the other hand is more product oriented.

This workshop will be an interactive one in which we and the participants will explore these ideas. We wonder:

- What are the purposes of ‘representing’ or ‘presenting’ our thinking?
- Does our choice of medium or ‘language’ change when we ‘represent’ or ‘present’ our thinking?
- What impact does an expectation of ‘presenting’ or ‘representing’ have on the transformation process?
- Who is the audience when we ‘represent’ or ‘present’ our thinking?

We envisage that participants would undertake some activities involving some (or all) of these languages and reflect on their experience to identify differences (if there are any) between representing thinking and presenting thinking. Participants can expect to laugh, talk and learn.

Presenters:
Dr Marie Martin and Dr Anna Alderson are the Directors of Learning Conversations, a company that strives to identify strengths and build capacity. Our work involves organisations, community groups, schools and individuals in learning through conversations.