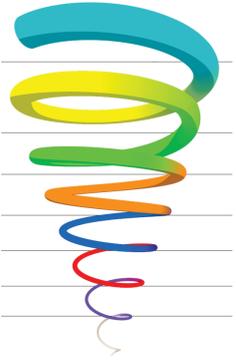


Yes but what *is* 'Boomeritis'?

(and how does it affect me)

There's been a fair bit of talk recently about 'Boomeritis', and how the community has loads of it. So it might be useful to give a brief introduction.



Spiral Dynamics Integral (SDi) provides a map of how human consciousness has evolved through waves or levels, with each one supporting the emergence and health of the next - as they **flow** into each other. Each level has distinct sets of drives, values and beliefs that emerge out of previous waves. Becoming aware of these, we can see where individuals, groups, communities and even companies are at and where the next stage of development is. SDi isn't a new fad, it's been around since the early 1970's and has been subjected to extensive research.

One level of this spiral, quite a high level, is called *Green or pluralistic* and is driven by a need for connection and community. Green brought us the vital gifts of environmental awareness, the civil rights movement, increased equality between men and women and a more caring society wherever it went. Green emerged from the shadow of the industrial mindset as the 'Orange' machine separated people and caused environmental damage. ***Awareness of the shadow of one level facilitates the emergence of the next.***

The underlying belief of Green is that of pluralism. This belief holds that all truth comes out of a cultural context, therefore truth is relative to context - "you have your truth and I have mine" as the saying goes. In this way Green brings equality and inclusion to previously marginalised views. Every level has a shadow, however, and Green is no exception.

If all truth is relative, it is impossible to value one truth over another. In turn, this makes making decisions very very difficult - especially as Green wants to hear everybody's voice! Remember any very long meetings without outcomes by any chance? Sound familiar?

To move up the spiral, ***each level is a necessary stepping stone.*** No level can be missed or jumped. The previous levels to Green on the spiral are focussed on money/business (Orange) and structures/religion (Blue). We can still clearly see these levels in play today around the world. The Blue level is still prevalent in the United States, accounting for about 40% of the population (the key support for Donald Trump) - although Orange is currently the largest level by numbers in the Western World.

Green has to emerge from the awareness of the shadow of Orange. However, when humans move between these levels they tend to completely deny the very stepping stones of the pathway that got them there. The mindsets are like oil and water, they dislike each other as they see previous levels through tinted glasses. They therefore live in a fractured whole, unable to integrate the previous levels to create a deeper integrated wholeness.

In so doing the baby gets thrown out with the bathwater. Green cannot see the huge benefits that industrialisation has brought although it uses the products every day. It can only see the environmental destruction and greed rather than any of the good that businesses do. Green therefore has a tendency for issues around money and business due to this Orange hangover and subsequent repression. Green has the noble aim of redistributing wealth but doesn't create new income streams of its own as it sees that as **bad**, sometimes preferring to advocate poverty! Everybody at Green has to come through Orange but Green seeks to remove the very ladder that it used to get there itself, unaware that it is blocking movement for other people up the spiral of emerging consciousness.

This is what Ken Wilber calls Boomeritis - living life through the Green lens but refusal to see the value of the previous levels of the spiral. It is a fractured view that denies its own growth pathway. Wilber states that because of this **it cannot create world peace** - because these 'first tier' levels can't see past the shadow, forgive and integrate.

The method to transcend Boomeritis to **second tier** is to take the vital and healthy aspect of Green and recognise and integrate all the healthy aspects of the preceding five first tier levels. Second tier brings discernment, flow and functionality to diversity. The shadow aspects drove each new transformation and were also vital themselves. Without them we would never have got to Green or any further. Can they be forgiven?

Once the previous levels are included again, human consciousness has retrieved the energetic flow to break through to second tier - described as a monumental shift in meaning. This emergence is taking place in significant numbers now across the world. Exciting times!

For more information the book 'Boomeritis' by Ken Wilber is a great introduction, as is 'Reinventing Organizations' by Frederic Laloux.

There is also lots of information and videos online, introducing the concepts of Spiral Dynamics Integral (such as <https://goo.gl/DzeShB>, which unfortunately doesn't work on mobiles) and we have a Facebook group (search for 'Centres Integral').