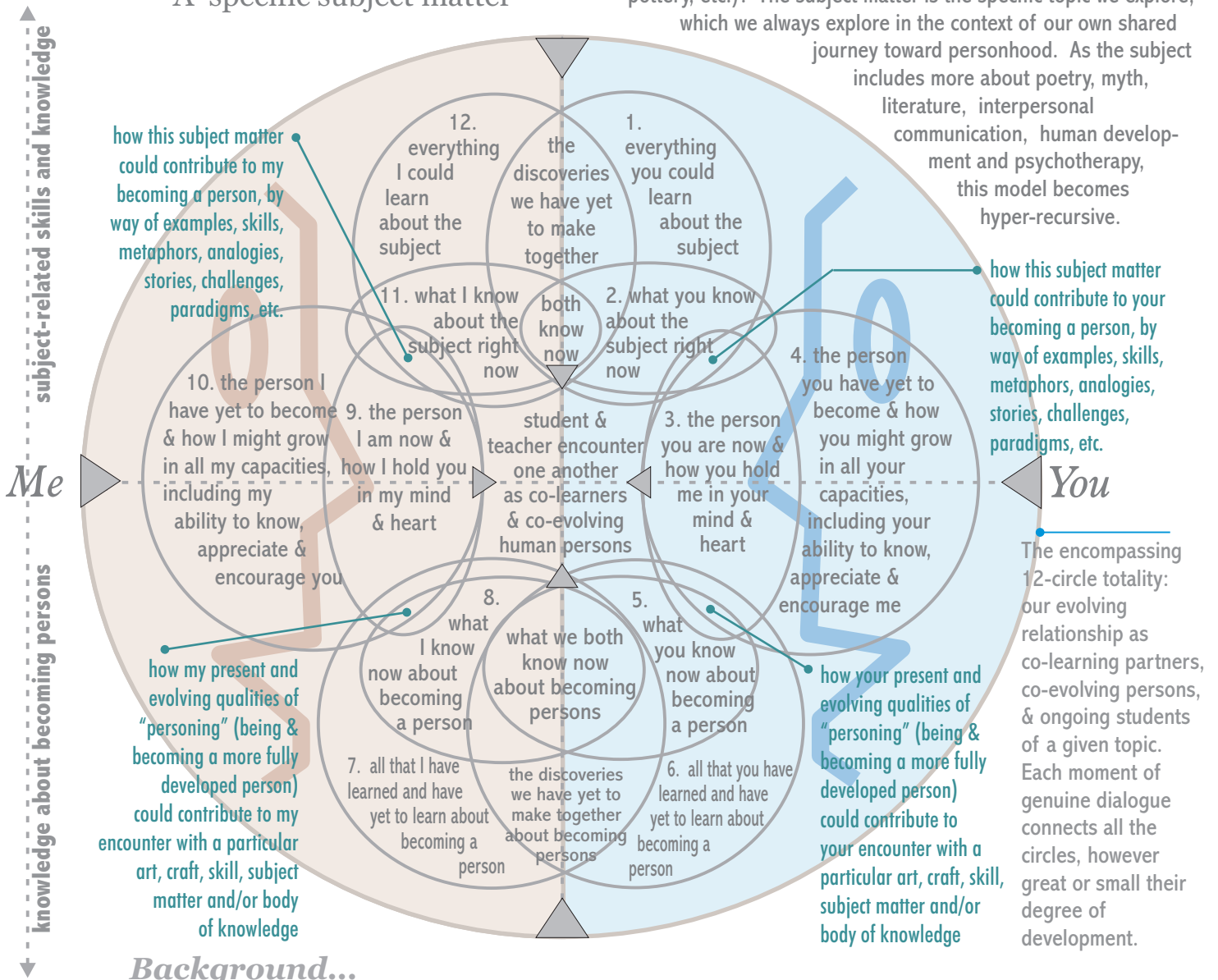


*the geometry of dialogue in teaching and learning a given subject
and evolving our personhood at the same time
a recursive, twelve-intertwined-circles model by Dennis Rivers*

(Note: They are actually ellipses, which are easier to draw & interleave, but “twelve intertwined circles” sounds better.)

Foreground...
A specific subject matter

the foreground: exploring and mastering specific skills and subject matter (history, algebra, bicycle repair, literature, gardening, cooking, pottery, etc.). The subject matter is the specific topic we explore, which we always explore in the context of our own shared journey toward personhood. As the subject includes more about poetry, myth, literature, interpersonal communication, human development and psychotherapy, this model becomes hyper-recursive.



Background...

Our skills, knowledge, activities and awarenesses of becoming persons as the constant, and constantly changing, background of all knowledge and skill: the evolving persons who hold and use the knowledge and skill about a given topic. (Personhood is understood here to include the many open horizons of human development: awareness, compassion, honesty, creativity, insight, vitality, sense of beauty, ability to think clearly, capacity to understand and bring out the best in others, etc. How we hold others in our minds and hearts is a big part of who we are.)

Thanks to Dr. Michael Geis, Martin Buber, Gregory Bateson and Ramon Panikkar for the ongoing inspirations.

My friend Michael teaches poetry and part of the subject is always who we are becoming, together, in that moment.

For more recursive diagrams and theory, please see *The Geometry of Dialogue*, by Dennis Rivers, at www.newconversations.net. 2006 Edition. Copyright, Dennis Rivers, 2006. May be reproduced for nonprofit, educational purposes. Revised 5/19/06.