

EP 038 No Process to Hide Behind with David Pearl https://www.davidpearl.net/

(Un) Professionalism

Unprofessionalism is saying out loud what everyone in the room can feel, and nobody is saying it, lightly enough that people can hear it. It brings into the meeting room what we already say about our work at home.

Unprofessional Advice

Keep it light. When things get serious, stay playful, because getting serious about serious things makes them heavier, not lighter.

"Expertise is often mixed up with professionalism."

Wisdom Nugget

We tend to call someone professional when they know their stuff. But expertise is only one part of it. As knowledge becomes increasingly accessible, professionalism has to mean more than knowing the answer. It means bringing judgement, curiosity, imagination and empathy to situations where expertise alone cannot help us decide what to do.

"If you're serious about serious things, they get heavier, not lighter."

Wisdom Nugget

We confuse professionalism with seriousness. But when things are already heavy, adding more gravity rarely helps. Playfulness creates space to think, imagine alternatives and see what seriousness makes invisible. Taking something seriously doesn't require us to become sombre.

Try It Out

If you think you're a different person at work than at home, check at home. Ask someone who lives with you what mood your working week leaves you in on a Friday night. Listen without defending yourself.


UNPROFESSIONALISM