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Researching Coaching: A critical perspective -

With the growing interest in coaching around the globe, people are asking questions such as: Does it work? Is it value for money? How does it work? What do we do? How do we know that it is working? These are valid and legitimate questions that any manager within an organisation would ask. However, with coaching, there are few right answers only more questions! This is what makes it such an interesting subject for research. What are the main models of research and what do they tell us? In this session, I will address this question critically and from a research perspective.

Biography

Professor Bob Garvey is one of Europe's leading academic practitioners of mentoring and coaching. His work is regarded as influential, groundbreaking, original and innovative in terms of both research and practice. For example, his research has influenced policy, practice and productivity in a range of organisations in all sectors - corporate, small business, public and the not for profit sector.

He is currently leading a longitudinal evaluation study into developing a coaching culture within a large manufacturing organisation, an evaluation of the London Deanery's mentoring programme for doctors and dentists and coaching practice with a UK Health Service Organisation.

Bob has conducted mentoring and coaching workshops, designed and established schemes with a wide range of public and private sector organisations. He is co-author of the internationally best selling *'The Mentoring Pocket Book'* and was a consultant to the films *'New Chances New Horizons'* and *'Mentoring Conversations'*. Bob currently coaches and mentors a number of people including senior executives, top musicians, art therapists and managers. Bob has published many papers on the practice of coaching and mentoring in a variety of journals and his new book, *'Coaching and Mentoring Theory and Practice'* with colleagues David Megginson and Paul Stokes was published by Sage early in 2009. He is working on a new coaching and mentoring book for Sage which is due for publication in 2010. He is a founding member of the European Mentoring and Coaching Council.

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