

**ASMCUE May 20 – 23, 2010**  
**San Diego, CA**  
**Try Something New Concurrent Sessions**  
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**SoTL Session 1**

**Considering pedagogical models as visualizations (from Gilbert, 2005)**

**Mental Model** – private and personal representation formed by an individual either alone or in a group. By its very nature, a mental model is inaccessible to others.

In order to facilitate communication, a version of that model must be placed in the public domain → becomes an **expressed model**.

A social group or learning community can come to agree on a common expressed model → becomes a **consensus model**.

If this consensus model is accepted and recognized by professionals and practitioners of a specific discipline → becomes a **disciplinary** or **conventional model**.

A superseded disciplinary model can be called an **historical model** (e.g. Copernicus' heliocentric model, with the Sun at the center of the universe).

Simplified versions of disciplinary or historical models may be produced as **curricular models**, which are then used in teaching.

Or instructors may choose to employ curricular models that are **hybrid models** because they merge characteristics of several historical models.