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## **Doing philosophy**

Philosophy can be done in many ways. My preferred way of doing it is a modern version of the classical method, *reflective conversations with interested dialogue partners*. A procedure of mixed parentage, Socrates and analytic philosophy, with an emphasis on how our lives and worlds are shaped by the words we use. Reflection on examples and underlying assumptions are key elements in the conversations.

My first project of this kind was a study of Sudanese thinking about sharaf (honour) and karāma (dignity) and other elements of Sudanese ethics as I found it during my five years in Khartoum in the 1960s. The immediate aim was to find out how the dialogue participants understood those words and their settings, and looking forward, stimulating reflection in the Sudan and elsewhere on received views on honour, dignity and self-respect.

From that on, reflective conversations with interested dialogue partners have played a key role in my contributions to projects in fields like art history, working life studies, research into practical knowledge, and development studies.

Those activities have led to a number of books, research reports and shorter texts. For details, go to *Practical knowledge and ethics*, *Understanding art*, *Philosophy of the cultural sciences* and *Philosophy of development*.