

Carnival

[From Wikipedia](#)

Bakhtin explains that carnival, in Rabelais' work and age, is associated with the collectivity; for those attending a [carnival](#) do not merely constitute a crowd; rather the people are seen as a whole, organized in a way that defies socioeconomic and political organization. According to Bakhtin, “[A]ll were considered equal during carnival. Here, in the town square, a special form of free and familiar contact reigned among people who were usually divided by the barriers of caste, property, profession, and age”. At carnival time, the unique [sense of time](#) and space causes the individual to feel he is a part of the collectivity, at which point he ceases to be himself. It is at this point that, through costume and mask, an individual exchanges bodies and is renewed. At the same time there arises a heightened awareness of one's sensual, material, bodily unity and community.

Is this not a wonderful
metaphor for a
community of
learners?