

# Mile High Agile Keynote:

## Let Go of Knowing: How Holding onto Views May Be Holding You Back

by Mike Cohn •

6 Comments

I'm going to be giving the conference keynote this spring at Mile High Agile in Denver on April 3, 2015.

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Meditating Goat in Lotus Position

I'll be talking about the importance of being able to let go of some of our firmly held beliefs in order to move on. Here's the official session title and description. I hope you can join me at this event!

### **Let Go of Knowing: How Holding onto Views May Be Holding You Back**

You undoubtedly have a firmly held set of convictions about what is necessary to do agile well. These convictions have served you well—your teams have delivered better products more quickly and more economically than before they were agile. But could some of your firmly held convictions be holding you back? And have you ever wondered why some of your most agile friends are similarly firm in their own opinions—even ones that are the exact opposite of your own?

In this session, you'll see ways that biases may be preventing you from questioning your assumptions, why being open to new views is hard but vital, and why beginners so often think they know it all.

After this session, you will know how to discern the inviolate rules of Scrum from its merely good practices. You'll know why you feel certain of some aspects of agile, less so about others. You'll leave with the confidence to let go of knowing. And when we let go of knowing, we open ourselves to learning, which is the heart of agile.

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## About the Author

Mike Cohn specializes in helping companies adopt and improve their use of agile processes and techniques to build extremely high-performance teams. He is the author of *User Stories Applied for Agile Software Development*, *Agile Estimating and Planning*, and *Succeeding with Agile* as well as the [Better User Stories](#) video course. Mike is a founding member of the Agile Alliance and Scrum Alliance and can be reached at [hello@mountaingoatsoftware.com](mailto:hello@mountaingoatsoftware.com). If you want to succeed with agile, you can also have Mike email you a short tip each week.

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