

## TABLE TOPIC DIALOGUES

**Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 – 2:15 PM**

**Choose ONE Table Topic Dialogue. Visit the buffet to pick up your lunch and then join the table for a lively discussion.**

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### **1**

**Title: Dynamic Relationships: Unleashing the Power of Appreciative Inquiry in Daily Living**  
Facilitators: Jackie Stavros and Cheri Torres

Topic: The authors of *Dynamic Relationships: Unleashing the Power of Appreciative Inquiry in Daily Living* will begin with a brief overview of the book, discussing how this book is just the beginning of a dialogue. They will then open the conversation around using the Principles of AI and Awareness as the foundation for relating in ways that generate and sustain positive change within organizations, communities, and families and across cultures.

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### **2**

**Title: Experience AI: A Practitioner's Guide to Integrating Appreciative Inquiry with Experiential Learning**  
Facilitator: Miriam Ricketts and Jim Willis

Topic: Jim and Miriam will present the main concepts from their book *Experience AI: A Practitioner's Guide to Integrating Appreciative Inquiry with Experiential Learning*. Share in a conversation around the power and efficacy of embedding experiential learning models, tools and techniques into appreciative inquiry in order to accelerate positive change, motivate teams and individuals, generate buy-in and engage people at all levels. By sharing and learning from experience, people attain the high levels of rapport, empathy, trust and mutual understanding necessary to risk and embrace change together. When integrated into each stage of an Appreciative Inquiry, Experiential Learning supports and illuminates the AI process, making AI "come alive" for all stakeholders.

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### **3**

**Title: Experiential Learning Exercises in Social Construction**  
Facilitator: Robert Cottor, et. al.

Topic: Members of the Institute for Creative Change will share concepts and learnings from their field book titled *Experiential Learning Exercises in Social Construction*. This book presents exercises that have been organized into Learning Labs that will invite innovative thinking and practice with those familiar with social construction theory as well as those who are newcomers to constructionist thinking. Learning Labs are designed to generate new thinking about diverse societal and professional issues. These exercises promote and enhance creative change strategies for mental health, educational and organizational development professionals.

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#### 4

**Title: Appreciative Sharing of Knowledge: Leveraging Knowledge Management for Strategic Change**

Facilitator: Tojo Thatchenkery

Topic: In this Table Topic Dialogue, we will talk about a new tool for enhancing knowledge sharing in organizations. I would like to initiate the conversation by borrowing from my recent book about a new knowledge management methodology called Appreciate Sharing of Knowledge, or ASK. Using research evidences I will show that appreciation is the missing link in facilitating knowledge sharing and seek your reactions supporting and challenging this proposition.

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#### 5

**Title: The Social Construction of Philanthropy in Seacoast New England**

Facilitator: Susan Lord

Topic: This discussion will focus on the findings of a qualitative research study I conducted with a sample of wealthy philanthropists in southern Maine and southern New Hampshire. The study examined the patterns and social structures of elite philanthropy in these areas, looking at issues of class, culture, social capital, and civic participation. Previous studies have concluded that philanthropists give to organizations that maintain the status quo and perpetuate their positions of power and influence in society. In this study I uncovered a previously unstudied group of wealthy philanthropists, some of whom engage in traditional practices of elite philanthropy and others who support organizations that are working to offer social provision to those in need, and organizations that are working to alter some of the social structures in society that lead to inequality. Discussion will also focus on an exploration of participants' views on philanthropy and its role in society, experiences participants may have had with philanthropists, and ideas they have held about philanthropists and the relationships that are possible between philanthropists and nonprofit organizations.

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#### 6

**Title: Dialoguing the tensions: Relationships between Academia and Practice**

Facilitator: Karen Frewin

Topic: Sharing 'significant' moments in both my academic and therapeutic journeys that have prompted me to reflect upon my philosophical worldviews and how I am positioned in my world. In particular discussing the tensions and conflicts produced through

a) in 1992, taking up traditional undergraduate psychology studies alongside training outside the tertiary setting in alternative psychotherapeutic practices such as Gestalt, Psychodrama, Bioenergetics, and Transpersonal Psychology ...

b) my introduction to social constructionism in 1994 and the shattering of all my worldviews,

c) the challenges produced through attempting to explore poststructuralist theoretical positions in a mainstream academic setting and the complexity of 'integrating' poststructuralist academic research positions with my psychotherapeutic practice,

- d) the thrill of poststructuralist research; sharing the process of engaging with my doctoral dissertation (2002) which explores constructions of self and subjectification to psychotherapeutic practice through a poststructuralist standpoint,
- e) in 2005, reflecting on my practices, both academic and psychotherapeutic.
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## 7

Title: **Creating Radical Mutuality in the Training Center Context**

Facilitator: Marjorie Roberts and the Rev. Bill Blaine-Wallace

Topic: Trainees and clients, subject to the dominant societal discourse of authority, are apt to enter a counseling center with a presumption of a “three tiered universe,” a hierarchy, from the top down, of therapist, therapist-in-training, and client. The facilitators, one a supervisor and the other a supervisee, will dialogue with attendees about their experiences in a therapy and training center committed to deconstructing a vertical, power-over dynamic, and privileging a horizontal, power-between environment. The presenters will dialogue with participants about how they seek to co-create and preserve such an atmosphere. This collaborative environment is one in which a visitor walking into the interview room, and listening to the conversation, would be hard pressed to distinguish who is in the supervisor, supervisee, or client roles.

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## 8

Title: **The Social Construction of “Professor:” Mona Lisa’s Grimace**

Facilitators: Laura Béres and Allan Irving

Topic: Laura has just completed her first year as an assistant professor, after 14 years of direct practice as a narrative practitioner. She is informed by postmodern thought and critical pedagogy and theory and so has found it a challenge to bring her ideals of multiple truths and client expertise into an academic setting where she experiences students and the hierarchy expecting her to take on the role of expert. Allan has been a professor for 26 years, but has also been shaping and reshaping his approach within the classroom, informed by postmodern thought and the desire to bring creativity, compassion and chaos into his interactions with students. We wish to start a discussion about what has influenced our approaches to the role of “professor” and ask others to join us in sharing their experiences negotiating that role – whether in their interactions with students, professors or in their own development as professors.

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## 9

Title: **Imagine New Orleans**

Facilitator: Bliss Browne

Topic: A conversation to discuss effective participative processes for re-imagining the future of that city and region. In recent years, New Orleans' economic imagination has focused around its past; the devastation wrought by the hurricane opens the possibility of organizing around a vision of its future. What can we social constructionists contribute to the design and facilitation of a process of reconciliation that can gain authority and political support? What process might be large, inclusive and practical enough to re-enchant the heart of America?

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## 10

Title: **Is there a balance for individuality, liberty freedoms and aggregate behavior with social organizations, systemic cybernetic monitors, and civil public discourse?**

Facilitator: Roz Leppington

Topic: Our culture prizes individuality, liberty and choice. Personal identity construction is commodified into media, corporate and capitalist interests ~as~ Media, corporate and capitalist interests are expressed through personal identity construction. Aggregate behaviors produce unintended or anti-social consequences. We create systemic structures that exacerbate painful paradoxical tensions between individual freedoms and social responsibilities. One man's litter destroys the human ecological niche. Social Services break up families in the name of protection. Politics and theology intervene to apply ideological dictates. The Patriot Act "protects" us from terrorism but erodes our human rights. Can we imagine systemic process-structures that manage these tensions and contradictions, or that supersede them? Do social constructionism and collaborative practices point towards some forms of "cooperative anarchy" as a viable philosophy, a moral political movement and a radical social activism?

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## 11

Title: **Revisioning Organization Development**

Facilitator: Gervase Bushe, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada

Topic: Gervase will present a model of the evolution of organization development incorporating post-modern elements to elicit discussion about:

- 1) whether this model captures a post-modern vision of organization development
  - 2) actual change practices (besides appreciative inquiry) people are using that incorporate these (or other post-modern) principles
  - 3) interest in contributing to a book on these ideas.
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## 12

Title: **Civil Collaborative Law**

Facilitator: Kathleen Clark

Topic: Civil collaborative law is an emerging process in which parties in conflict, with the assistance of their attorneys, negotiate problem-solve, and make their own decisions without court intervention. The process is thoughtful and respectful of the parties, involving open exchange of information and respectful communication. It is an alternative to litigation. The process, which has been used successfully in the family law context for over ten years, is increasingly being used in other areas of the law, including medical malpractice, probate, and commercial transactions.

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## 13

Title: **Change-Talk©.**

Facilitator: Muriel McClellan and Wendy Ellis

Therapists and consultants who work under the umbrella of a social constructionist perspective often find themselves frustrated with the lack of supplementary "self-help" books to recommend to their clients. Muriel and Wendy have written a self-help book that is useful as an adjunct to

therapy or consultations that value collaborative and relational stances. It serves as a valuable bridge between the writings of Ken and Mary Gergen, Harlene Anderson, Sheila MacNamee, David Cooperrider and others with the public.

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