

Brief Encounters with the Taos Institute

August 2017

This month we welcome Celiane Camargo-Borges, a Taos Institute Board Member, as she reflects on...

Social Construction: Premises and Practices – Working within the Global Context



By Celiane Camargo-Borges

Every year, when I facilitate the online workshop on [“Social Construction: Premises and Practices”](#) I am reminded of our vibrant community, the rich resources we have within the Taos Institute and all the many connections and colleagues around the globe.

I find myself filled with extra energy and excitement just knowing that I belong to an international and diverse community. And when I say “belong”, to me this means the many ways that we can all be involved in activities and learning within the broader Taos Institute community.

Last Spring we finished our 7th cohort for this online course that introduces participants to *Social Construction – Theory and Practice*. For six weeks we engage in conversation exploring insights on weekly topics, combining our learning with the daily practices/research of the participants. The most recent cohort was comprised of 9 participants from seven different countries. Every week they had the chance to meet with a different learning partner, share the outcomes of their conversation on the online platform and interact during the weekly live meetings, thereby co-creating a rich space for knowledge development and relationship building.

Facilitating this course gives me the opportunity to meet with global conversational partners, addressing a variety of issues from different perspectives. It fills me with energy to connect more with our Taos family and to continuously search for people around the world who are making positive changing through relational, collaborative, dialogic and appreciative practices.

After every course is completed, the participants find their own ways to continue with their conversations, especially those doing their PhD research. They also organize themselves to attend together other Taos workshops, conferences and meetings so that they might expand the conversation.

Our [Taos Online Community Space](#) – a Ning website - is also a great place for such rich encounters to occur and I would like to call your the attention to the unique opportunities offered through this platform. There are more than one thousand members and ten different groups hosting different topics. We are a global community and technology can help us get connected and continue to co-create something beautiful.

I gain a lot from this “magical” community. Being surrounded by people working with projects all over the world feeds not just my professional life with insights to innovate in class and in my projects but also my multicultural being. I’m constantly being shaped and reshaped by these encounters. The immersion within the different cultures helps me to understand my own values in specific contexts, which in turn increases my cultural knowledge and awareness about others. The Taos Institute community constantly reminds me of the diversity of this world and the possibilities out there. I hope you also will join in the dialogues in various ways to engage with this broader community.

I close by letting you know that I will be facilitating this online course – [Social Construction: Premises and Promises](#) – again this Fall beginning the week of Sept 6th. We would love to have you participate. For more information visit:

www.taosinstitute.net/social-construction-premises-and-practices