

The Year Ahead: Wonderment and Consequence

Kenneth Gergen, President, Board of Directors

The October conference was surely a highpoint in one of the most productive years of the Taos Institute yet. It was a year with new books streaming from Taos Institute Publications, new enrollees and graduates from the PhD program, an array of workshops, burgeoning Associates, and more. And yet, I can scarcely detect anyone who views the coming year as “more of the same.” Rather, what truly excites me about the TI network is the continuous sense of wonderment. What could we create; what might now be possible; how could we make a further contribution to the world in which we live? I like to think this sense of wonderment is fostered by social constructionist thought itself. For the constructionist, new worlds are as close as the next conversation.

But if we shift from these giddy moments of creation to matters of consequence, what images now appear on the horizon? One matter of immanent concern is whether we should become a membership organization. Many have asked about ways to join the Institute more fully, and membership may be the best route. Closely connected is the possibility of joining like-minded organizations to publish a journal featuring constructionist ideas, research and practice. This possibility is related, in turn, to an initiative in the making: a website archive of theses and dissertations that treat issues and practices in social construction. Personally, I would also like to see an enrichment in thinking about the process of dialogue and the efficacy of narrative. Coupled with such theoretical development, I would welcome an expansion in featured practices. I hope we can explore together new, collaborative practices in mediation, education, and health care. This can be a very exciting year indeed.
