



THE TAOS INSTITUTE

# Taos Institute News

Creating Promising Futures through Social Construction

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## January 2011 An Exciting Year of Taos Institute Activities

A message from Kenneth Gergen, President of the Taos Institute

In spite of economics and politics, it is easy to look appreciatively at the past year of Taos Institute activities. Collaboration with Taos Associates in Mexico yielded our first ever bi-lingual conference, Collaborative and Dialogic Practices in Therapy and Social Change, in Cancun, Mexico. This multi-workshop event was capped by dinner on the beach, complete with Mariachi band. Latin American developments were extended in a collaborative effort with Associate Dora Schnitman, yielding a Spanish speaking Network for Productive Dialogue ([www.dialogosproductivos.net](http://www.dialogosproductivos.net)). These developments blended nicely with our English/Spanish journal, The International Journal of Collaborative Practices (<http://collaborative-practices.com>). Also abroad, we joined McMann Berg and Mindspace Press in launching *Relationel Praxis*, a Danish on-line journal ([www.relationelpraksis.dk](http://www.relationelpraksis.dk)). Three new books were published, Maurits Kwee's *New Horizons in Buddhist Psychology*, Madelyn Blair's *Riding the Current: How to Deal with the Daily Deluge of Data*, and John Shotter's *Social Construction on the Edge*. The PhD program continues to thrive, with a greater number of applicants than ever before, and a spate of new graduates.

And with all this wind in our sails, we look forward to the coming year. The five-day cruise conference, Play with Purpose, is in the offing, and we will join the Danish consulting firm, Ramboll/Attractor, in putting on a summer institute in Copenhagen (<http://www.attractor.dk/english/summer%20institute>). In collaboration with the Houston/Galveston Institute, and with the participation of Institutes in Europe and Latin America, we will also launch an international certificate program on collaborative practices. We continue to work with Danish and Dutch groups in forming an MA program in Relational Leadership, with further programs on the drawing board in Mexico and Colombia. At times, we are also breathless...

In concluding, it is most important to acknowledge that virtually all these endeavors have been born through voluntary efforts. Amazing what can be accomplished by dedicated people working together!

Ken Gergen

**"To eliminate all those whose values are not identical to one's own would leave but a single voice and an empty silence."**

— Kenneth Gergen Relation Being, 2009