

Taos Institute Europe – Madrid, Spain Meeting

October, 2017



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Like children at the candy store, we did not resist the temptation to celebrate the first meeting of the Iberian TIE despite having to travel from the geographical corners of Spain. All of the TAOS associates from Spain and Portugal received an invitation to gather with the goal of fostering connections and knowing the constructionist projects and initiatives that are taking place in the region. We finally agreed to meet in Madrid on October 7, 2017. It was a bright, sunny day in which a few, but highly engaged and collaborative associates met.

The beautiful setting of Alicia Moreno's office was perfect to allow an array of topics to naturally emerge from our conversations, interests, and curiosities. Each of them was personally relevant to us, but the following are those that were most broadly discussed and shared:

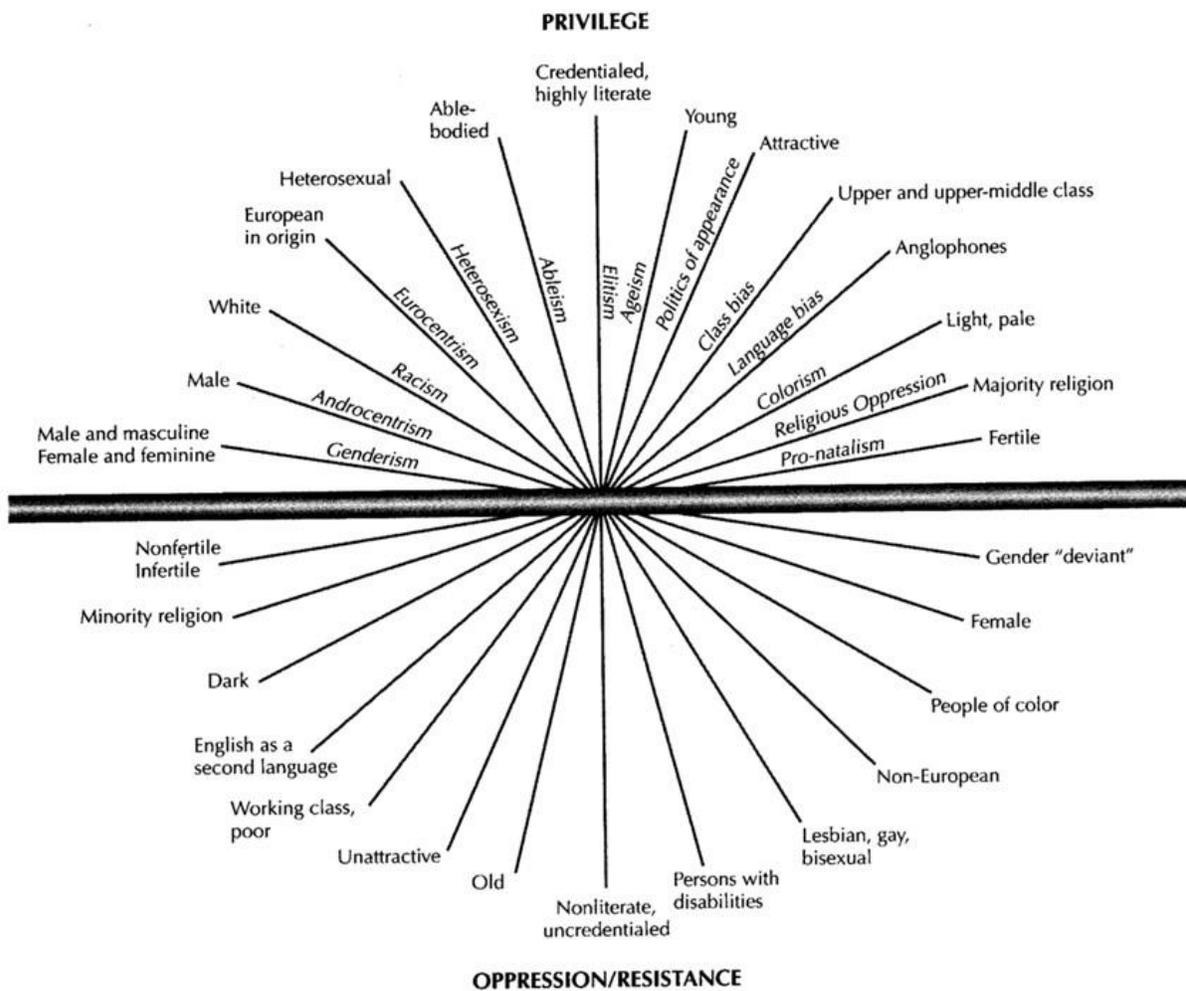
- ✚ We gathered to celebrate social constructionism's ability to embrace, communicate, and practice values that we deem essential in our lives and jobs, such as respect, collaboration, freedom & responsibility, complexity of viewpoints, reflexivity, and the importance of critically reflecting on interpretations and discourses especially to be able to relate with others;
- ✚ We are genuinely interested to form an active network to know each other's projects and to collaborate and learn from each other, despite our professional differences.
- ✚ We envision this constructionist network to have socially-useful applications and to offer opportunities to grow, play together, and gain perspective on our daily challenges.
- ✚ We realized that much discussion is needed to critically reflect on themes such as embodiment, daily applications of social construction, coherence between practice and discourse, relational *mindfulness*, the limits of constructionism, and its use in professional trainings and education.

After talking at length about the past of TIE in the Iberian Peninsula and our last constructive meeting in Madrid in 2016, when María Muñoz Grandes was chairing the TIE board, we focused on what we envisioned as the main challenges for the future of TIE in this region. More specifically, we talked about increasing the visibility and active presence of constructionism in training centers, professional associations, and universities. To achieve this goal, it would be instrumental to:

- a) develop collaborations between these institutions and the TAOS Institute, globally or locally through its “branches,” such as TIE and the Iberian TIE;
- b) create professional networks to inform each other about activities, events, and projects led by TAOS associated in Spain and Portugal;
- c) suggest collaborations among Iberian TIE members;
- d) have regular meetings of the Iberian TIE. On this regard, we decided to have in-person annual meetings and online meetings every 3 months, with the goal of keeping in touch with each other and develop new idea. These meetings will be open to any TAOS associate in Europe.

As the group that met in Madrid was small, we shared a strong wish to keep growing enthusiastically through our passion for constructionism. We invite any colleague who wishes to join us to contact Garbiñe Delgado Raack (email: solashari@gmail.com). ¡Hasta pronto!

- Marco Gemignani, Miriam Subirana, Alicia Moreno and Garbiñe Delgado Raack



Relational Being

Beyond Self and Community

KENNETH J. GERGEN

OXFORD

La terapia como construcción social

Sheila McNamee
Kenneth J. Gergen