

Brief Encounters with the Taos Institute

October 2019

What a blast I had this summer!



By Monica Sesma, Taos Institute Board Member

I had the most fabulous experience June 26-29, 2019 at the ICCP Congress in Brno, Czech Republic. The gathering and event completely exceeded my expectations! Co-Sponsored by the Taos Institute and the Houston Galveston Institute, organized by the ICCP (International Certificate in Collaborative-Dialogic Practices) Board, Program Directors and Narativ group, the ICCP congress welcomed about 200 participants from 32 countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

United Kingdom, and United States of America.

What I enjoyed most was the warm, friendly, collaborative, supportive, and inspiring atmosphere. I saw the collaborative spirit and ideas embodied and enacted before, during, and after the congress. I thought about how this powerful philosophical stance that Harlene Anderson, the ICCP board and program directors, faculty, students, and colleagues have shared for so many years has been creating the stimulating, creative, and generative community. I witnessed friendships and strong bonds, collaborations and co-creations, and originality and novelty. It felt like a big loving and caring family. I keep reflecting on what helped to create this unique and magical experience, and of course it was the extraordinary members of this community!



I was amazed by the workshops and presentations. Social construction oriented and collaborative-dialogic practitioners shared their wisdom and ideas on therapy, education, research, organizations, government, and art. I was inspired by the ideas on individual, couples, family, and community therapeutic work. I was moved by the power that collaborative ideas can have in the classrooms. I had fun experiencing

and seeing collaborative ideas in body movement activities and playfulness. From addiction recovery to peace-making and high conflict, I witnessed how the ideas from Harlene Anderson, Ken Gergen, Mary Gergen, and Sheila McNamee have influenced so many remarkable colleagues.

I believe the local host, the Narativ group (Pavel, Terka, Petra, Zuzana Premysl, Tereza, Barbora, and many others) did an astounding job finding the perfect location for this congress and organizing tremendously fun local activities, bringing in the local Moravian food and music for our enjoyment and making us feel at home.

Sheila McNamee and Leticia Rodriguez composed an incredible program, it was so inspirational and diverse. It was hard to select which workshops to attend since all the presentations were exceptional and engaging. It was thrilling to see Harlene Anderson and all the program directors so happy. My eyes teared up with

contentment when Saliha Bava received the John Shotter Award for bringing his ideas into practice. Sylvia London did a fantastic job organizing the translations and coordinating the translation teams which made IT possible for this congress to be multilingual in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese.

...and now, I cannot wait for the 2021 ICCP Congress in Cancun, Mexico! I already saved the June 23-26 dates and I invite you to stay tuned for all the details as they develop.

For more information about this 2019 Congress presentations, please visit our website:
<https://www.collaborative-dialogic-practices.net/program-schedule>

