

WINTER 1999

THE TAOS INSTITUTE NEWS

Dedicated to the creative development of social constructionist practices.

This year promises to be one of the most lively and challenging in the history of the Institute. Inspiration is drawn chiefly from the wondrous unfoldings of 1998 — including a generative collaboration with the **Institute for Creative Change** in Phoenix, Arizona in offering the November conference, **Change Practices: Constructing the Future through Relational Inquiry**. Workshops in Appreciative Inquiry, collaboration with the United Religions, and emerging publications have also generated waves of enthusiasm for the potentials of wedding constructionist ideas to professional practices. Most important, however, has been the expanding web of relationships — cutting across professional communities, erasing boundaries of cultural separation. It is from these relations that vitality and creativity springs, and it is in hopes of sustaining, expanding, and enriching these relationships that the contents of this newsletter are dedicated.

Ken Gergen, for the Taos Institute

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY:

A Constructive Process for Organization
and Social Change
with David Cooperrider and Diana Whitney
May 10-14, 1999, in Taos, New Mexico

David and Diana guide participants — consultants and leaders of change — through an exploration of the principles and practices of Appreciative Inquiry. The workshop is a hands on experience of Appreciative Inquiry. It prepares participants to guide clients in creating interview protocols, conducting interviews, working with Appreciative data and stories, and crafting provocative propositions and organization design principles. It provides an understanding of the difference between Appreciative Inquiry and deficit based approaches to change, and a direct experience with the power of positive change methodologies. Throughout the workshop, David and Diana share inspirational stories from their work with corporations, communities and global organizations.

For registration information call Dawn at 1-888-999-TAOS or email coopdole@modex.com

The Fall AI workshop is scheduled for
Nov. 1-5, 1999.

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION AND RELATIONAL PRACTICES

An international conference co-sponsored by
The Taos Institute and
The University of New Hampshire
September 16-19, 1999
Durham, New Hampshire

Visit the conference website at:
www.unh.edu/taos

A broad array of scholars and practitioners will gather for a second landmark conference dedicated to social constructionist inquiry. We will provide a forum for the joint exploration of current developments in social constructionist thought and practice. The conference theme places emphasis on the relational practices that create and transform cultural life. Dynamic presentations by leading voices, symposia, roundtable discussions, social activities, and a casual setting create a venue for three days of engaging inquiry and exploration. Throughout the conference, emphasis will be on bringing social constructionist theory and practice into mutually enriching dialogue. This conference will be instructive for anyone interested in exploring the potentials of relational theory and practice. Visit the conference website for registration information or call the University Conference Office at 603-862-1900.

The Taos Institute

Spring Conference in Collaboration with the
Houston Galveston

Institute:

APRIL 8-10, 1999

In Taos,
New Mexico at
the Sagebrush Inn

The Spirit of Social Construction: Spirituality in Organizations, Therapy, and Societal Practices

Relations among persons, persons and world, world and cosmos, cosmos and....Social constructionist thought begins with the way in which we construct worlds together, but as the implications expand, so does our consciousness of a dimension beyond discourse, a profundity that we often try to capture with the concept of spirit. The kinds of worlds we construct together - indeed our very capacity to coordinate our lives - may be intimately linked to a spiritual consciousness. This conference, through theoretical, practical and experiential means, explores the intersection between world construction and spirituality - where and how they are related, how a constructionist consciousness of spirit can inform and inspire our practices.

Guest Presenters will include:

Rev. Fred Burnham, Trinity Church in N.Y.C.
Editor of POSTMODERN THEOLOGY, CHRISTIAN FAITH IN A PLURALISTIC WORLD.

Dr. James Day, Center for the Psychology of Religion, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. Author of articles on narrative and moral development.

Carleton Dallery, Ph.D. MSW, and Harvard AM in Theological studies, therapist and Buddhist practitioner.

Rev. Charles Gibbs, Executive Director of The United Religions Initiative.

Thursday, April 8, 1999

5:00-6:00 pm Registration
6:00-8:00 pm Welcome and
Conference Introduction

Friday, April 9, 1999

- ♦ DIMENSIONS OF DISCOVERY
- ♦ SPIRITUALITY AND
CO-CREATING WORLDS
- ♦ PROBING POWERS

Saturday, April 10, 1999

- ♦ DESIGNING SPIRITUALLY
SENSITIVE PRACTICES
- ♦ RELATIONSHIP AS DESTINY
- ♦ SATURDAY EVENING DINNER AND
SOUTHWESTERN DANCE

CEUs available

With the participation from the Taos Institute Founders:

Harlene Anderson, David Cooperrider,
Kenneth Gergen, Mary Gergen, Sheila
McNamee, Suresh Srivastva, and Diana
Whitney.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS by Founders and Associates:

LESSONS FROM THE FIELD: Applying Appreciative Inquiry

Edited by Sue Hammond and Cathy Royal. This new book contains case studies with rich detail on how the authors applied AI theory to their clients' needs. To order call 1-888-316-9544 or fax 972-403-0065. Website: www.thinbook.com

Anderson, H. (1997) CONVERSATION, LANGUAGE, AND POSSIBILITIES: A POSTMODERN APPROACH TO THERAPY. New York: Basic Books. ISBN # 0-465-03805. Order through Westview Press 1-800-386-5656 fax 1-303-449-3356.

Badshah, A., McNamee, S., and Seiling, J. (1998) The City Community: Building Bridges to Sustainability. In H.C. Dandekar (Ed.) CITY, SPACE, AND GLOBALIZATION: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Press.

Cooperrider, D.L. and Whitney, D. (1999) Appreciative Inquiry: A Positive Revolution in Change. In P. Holman and T. Devane (Eds.) THE CHANGE HANDBOOK: GROUP METHODS FOR SHAPING THE FUTURE. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc. To order call: 1-800-929-2929

Gergen, K.J. (1998) Constructionist dialogues and the vicissitudes of the political. In I. Velody (Ed.) THE POLITICS OF SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION. London: Sage Publications.

Gergen, K.J. (1998) Constructionism and realism:

How are we to go on? In I. Parker (Ed.) SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION, DISCOURSE AND REALISM. London: Sage Publications.

Gergen, M.M. and Davis, S. (eds.) (1997) TOWARD A NEW PSYCHOLOGY OF GENDER. New York: Routledge.

McNamee, S. and Gergen, K.J. (1998). RELATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY: RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DIALOGUE. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications. Order through Amazon.com

McNamee, S. (1997). Marrying Postmodernism with Cognitive Psychotherapy: A Response to Lyddon and Weill. THE JOURNAL OF COGNITIVE PSYCHOTHERAPY, 11, 99-103.

McNamee, S. (1997). The politics of pain and the pain of politics. HUMAN SYSTEMS, 8 (3-4), 311-328.

Miller, J.K. and Gergen, K.J. (1998) Life on the line: the therapeutic potentials of computer mediated conversation. JOURNAL OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, 24, 189-202.

Whitney, D. and Cooperrider, D.L. (Summer 1998) The Appreciative Inquiry Summit: Overview and Applications. EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS TODAY, pp. 17-28.

Trosten-Bloom, A. and Whitney, D. (1999) Appreciative Inquiry: The Path to Positive Change. In M. K. Key (Ed.) MANAGING CHANGE IN HEALTH CARE. Burr Ridge, IL: McGrawHill.

COMING SOON: Watch our website for publication dates. www.serve.com/taos/

"Appreciative Inquiry at Work: An Encyclopedia of Positive Questions to Bring Out the Best in Your Organization." A wonderful collection of 50 sample appreciative inquiry questions for use by individuals, teams and organizations. By Diana Whitney and David Cooperrider.

"Spirituality at Work: Positive Questions for Enhancing the Vitality of Your Workplace." A collection of appreciative inquiry questions for discovering and enhancing the joy of human spirit at work. By Diana Whitney and Amanda Trosten-Bloom.

"Appreciative Inquiry in Strategic Planning: Positive Questions for Creating Your Organization's Future." A collection of appreciative inquiry questions to guide strategic dialogue and planning. By Diana Whitney and David Cooperrider.