

# THE TAOS INSTITUTE

TAOS CIVIC CENTER

APRIL 10-14 Taos, New Mexico

## Pro/Fusions of Practice:

Social Construction  
in Action



IN COLLABORATION  
WITH:

- THE HOUSTON GALVESTON  
INSTITUTE
- WEATHERHEAD SCHOOL  
OF MANAGEMENT  
CASE WESTERN RESERVE
- NTL INSTITUTE OF  
APPLIED BEHAVIORAL  
SCIENCE



# Pro/Fusions of Practice:

## Social Construction in Action



*Meanings are made through  
the practices they inspire...*

### SCHEDULE OF MAJOR EVENTS

April 10: Wednesday evening – Registration Reception\*\*  
Holiday Inn Don Fernando de Taos\*

April 11–14: Presentations, Discussions & Workshops  
Taos Civic Center

Thursday: Registration, Welcome & Sessions

Theme: **Pro/Fusions of Practical Theory:  
Theoretical Contributions to Practice**

Evening Reception – Local Museum\*\*

Friday: Morning Session

Theme: **Pro/Fusions in Practice  
Multiple Forms of Application**

Exploring the Taos environs\*\*

Evening Session

Theme: **Pro/Fusions in Social Life**

Saturday: All-day sessions

Theme: **Continuing Pro/Fusions in Practice**

Evening: Gala Dinner/dance\*\*

Sunday: Sunshine Brunch\*\*\*

12:00 Celebration & partings

\* The hotel (1005 Paseo del Pueblo Sur) is located on  
Highway 68 as you enter Taos from Santa Fe.

\*\* Open to guests

\*\*\* Sunday Brunch is optional, but very nice!



## **PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS & PANELS**

### **FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT KNOW US:**

The Taos Institute is a pueblo, or community, of scholars and practitioners who have joined together to explore, develop and extend social constructionist ideas in a variety of settings. Founded five years ago, the Institute has hosted several meetings and conferences, and been involved in diverse consultancy relationships. Taos is the home for many of our activities because we deeply appreciate its enchanting beauty and hospitable people. Our conferences are noted for their sensory focus—great dialogue, food, art, music, vistas, sports, hikes, rituals, and dance.

Pro/Fusions of Social Constructionist Practice is the theme for the third spring conference hosted by the Taos institute. This is an opportunity to explore ways of integrating social constructionist ideas into a variety of fields, but especially in organization development, therapy, counseling, education, social activism, and spiritual practices. In the spirit of a learning community, participants are invited to join with Taos Institute speakers and special guests in leading sessions, contributing to panel discussions or guiding experiential activities. We hope for a rich sharing of practices related to social constructionist themes such as: Appreciative inquiry, narrative therapy, transformative dialogues, the politics of practice, revisioning leadership, relational responsibility, spirituality in relationships, discourse and conflict, and postmodern dimensions of practice.

\*Proposal forms will be sent to all registrants who request one. We intend to integrate into the agenda all program proposals relevant to the themes of the conference.

### **THE TAOS CONTRIBUTORS/COORDINATORS ARE:**

**Sheila McNamee**, Associate Professor and Chair of Communication at the University of New Hampshire, writes and lectures on research

**Harlene Anderson**, a founder and director of the Houston Galveston Institute, has authored several articles introducing social construc-



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**Sheila McNamee**, Associate Professor and Chair of Communication at the University of New Hampshire, writes and lectures on research innovations, meanings in organizational life, and social construction in the therapeutic setting. She is editor of **Therapy as Social Construction**, with Ken Gergen.

**Mary Gergen**, Associate Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies at Penn State University, writes and lectures extensively on narrative psychology, feminist theory and methods, and organizational change. She is the editor of **Feminist Thought and the Structure of Knowledge**, and **Toward a New Psychology of Women: A Reader**, with Sara Davis.

**Kenneth Gergen**, Professor of Psychology at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, is internationally known for his seminal contributions to social constructionist theory and practice. His most recent books are: **The Saturated Self**, which treats the effects of postmodernism on personal lives, and **Realities & Relationships**, an examination of constructionist theory and relational being. He is an active consultant and well-known lecturer throughout the world.

**Diana Whitney**, President of Whitney Consulting, has pioneered social constructionist approaches to organization development in her work with corporations. She consults internationally with private and public sector organizations and specializes in creating innovative, high performance organization cultures. She writes and lectures on postmodern challenges facing leadership and on spirituality as an emerging business agenda.

**Harlene Anderson**, a founder and director of the Houston Galveston Institute, has authored several articles introducing social constructionist methods to the therapy world, and is co-author of **Language Systems and Therapy**. Dr. Anderson enjoys an international reputation for creative contributions to the marriage and family therapy field.

**Suresh Srivastva**, Professor of Organizational Behavior, Case Western Reserve, is a leading thinker in the area of relational constructions in organizations, and created an acclaimed series of edited volumes, including **Executive Power**, **Executive Integrity**, and **Appreciative Leadership and Management**. He is also an active consultant both in the United States and internationally.

**David Cooperrider**, Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior, Case Western Reserve, writes and lectures extensively on appreciative inquiry, generative metaphor, and constructionist practices in organizational development. He consults extensively in the U.S. and abroad, and specializes in international voluntary organizations. Currently he is involved in a massive training effort for NGO managers from all parts of the globe.

Among the special guests with us at this meeting are **Peggy Penn**, an internationally known family therapist, presenter, and poet, and her research partner at the Ackerman Institute in New York City, **Marilyn Frankfurt**, who is also a prominent writer, speaker and family therapist. They co-direct the writing in therapy projects at Ackerman, and will be demonstrating some of their work at the conference.

## TAOS • NEW MEXICO

TAOS, NEW MEXICO—Legendary for its Native American and Spanish heritage, its artistic and literary resources, and its incomparable natural surroundings—offers an ideal setting in which to work and play. Conferees who wish to ski will appreciate the excellent skiing resorts conveniently located in the mountain areas surrounding Taos.





## PRO/FUSIONS OF PRACTICE: SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION IN ACTION

Registration April 10-14, 1996

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MORE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX

**Check if you are interested in participating on the program.**

☐ **Please send me a form for proposing agenda items.**

### Registration Costs:

(Includes meetings, refreshment breaks, museum buffet-reception, Saturday night dinner-dance; Continuing education certificate for 18 credits available)

Postmarked by March 1, 1996 .....\$375 ☐

Postmarked later .....\$425 ☐

Special fee for full-time students .....\$175 ☐

(with proof of status)

Guest fee for all social events .....\$95 ☐

Sunday brunch (\$15 per person, extra) .....\$15 ☐ or \$30 ☐

Checks are payable to The Taos Institute

MC ☐ or Visa ☐ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

MC/Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this registration form with payment to:

The Taos Institute, P.O. Box 4628, Camina de la Placita, Taos, NM 87571

  
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### Taos Institute Conference Information:

**HOTEL:** The Holiday Inn Don Fernando de Taos will host the conferees. Please make reservations directly at (1-800-759-2736). Special conference rates of \$57 per room plus taxes. You may also seek information for your trip through the Taos Chamber of Commerce (1-800-732-8267).

**AIR TRAVEL:** Travelers can fly to Albuquerque, and either rent a car or take a shuttle bus (Shuttle #'s: Pride of Taos, 505-758-8340 or Faust's 505-738-8267).

**WEATHER:** Pleasant days and cool "warm sweater" nights in town. Bring casual clothes, and two-steppin' shoes for dancing (optional). Ski season open.

**REFUNDS:** 80% refund for cancellations until March 1; 50% thereafter.

For More Information: Fax (505)751-1233; Telephone (505)751-1232.