

**The First International Symposium on Relational Research
The First Taos Europe Summit
12-13 September 2014, Prague, Czech Republic**

DETAILED PROGRAM

Symposium, Friday 12 September

The emerging post-modern paradigms in social research are provoking changes in the way knowledge is understood and produced in research. The focus shifts from the discovery of a pre-existing truth or singular reality to the process of constructing knowledge in diverse contexts. Postmodern strategies recognize the dynamic and constructed nature of reality while encouraging attention to the interpersonal relationships that ultimately shape and define our experience. In this dialogical approach orientation, openness, multiplicity, appreciation and engagement are invited in research. As a consequence, a democratic view on what is possible in research is emerging and connecting more with daily practice in organizations and society. Critical analysis, reflexive deliberation, co-operative inquiry, performative, and action research – among others - stem from this relational epistemology. The following topics are the core of the symposium:

- ✓ What are relationally engaged forms of research?
- ✓ What are the epistemological, methodological and ethical implications of a relational research approach?
- ✓ To what extent are the boundaries between the scientific inquiry and the everyday search for understanding of lived experience blurring?
- ✓ What is a role of power in relational research?

The symposium aims to discuss diverse epistemological strategies located in a relational and collaborative view of research and related methodological and ethical implications.

8:30 - 9:30 Registration/refreshments

9:30 - 10:00 Opening

10:00 - 12:00 **KEY NOTES: THE CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**

SHEILA MCNAMEE: *Transforming Inquiry: Research as Social Construction*

KENNETH GERGEN: *Emerging Developments in Constructionist Inquiry*

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12:00 - 13:30 Lunch / **POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

SARA VICTORIA ALVARADO and MARIA CAMILA OSPINA

Comprehend and Transform Practices and Meanings of Children and Young People Living in the Context of the Colombian Armed Conflict

KRISTINA BRAJOVIC CAR

Reconstruction of Autonomy in Transactional analysis: From classical transactional analysis to a social constructionist perspective on autonomy in partnership

JOSEP SEGUI DOLZ

Evocation and Relational and Collaborative Research

ANNA PERLMUTTER

From Structural Interventions to Relational Transformations: The generative innovation of nonprofit capacity building

ROMANA PLCHOVÁ

How do People Develop in Psychotherapy Training, Clinical Treatment and Everyday Life? The Bio-Psycho-Socio-Spiritual and Reflexive Capacity Models of Development

JAN ROUBAL

Therapists' In-session Experiences with Depressive Clients: A grounded theory

PALOMA TORRES-PALMA

Counter Narratives to the Pathological Dominant Discourse Regarding the War Experience in Puerto Rican Soldiers Who Have Participated in the Recent Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

13:30 - 15:00 **ROUND TABLE: VARIETIES OF PRACTICES – RELATIONAL RESEARCH IN THE DIVERSE PROFESSIONAL FIELDS AND CONTEXT**

LEADING SPEAKER: JACOB STORCH

Relational Research in the Context of Organization Development

An insider perspective of a consultancy community will explore the emerging process of becoming research consultants in the context of organization development.

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KRISTIN BODIFORD

Relational Research in the Context of Social Justice and Peace Building

Relational research recognizes our interconnectedness as a resource and imperative for building more just and peaceful communities. It strengthens a sense of inclusion and mutuality, where people co-create the type of change that is most meaningful and impactful for their lives and their communities.

PALOMA TORRES-DAVILA

Relational Research in the Context of Healthcare

The "counter stories" webpage was created as an initiative to respond to the need of challenging dominant narratives in psychology (theories, therapies, and diagnosis and pharmacology, amongst others). It is a relational space and on-going conversation among practitioners, scholars and patients and it aims at generate new possibilities of re-thinking and re-imagining the therapeutic practice, research, and the psychological discipline overall.

JAN ROUBAL

Relational Research in the Context of Therapy

The therapists' experiences with depressed patients can bring up an emotional constrains. These slowly destroy the work enjoyment and engagement of the therapist in the therapeutic session and in a sneaky and inconspicuous way disintegrate the therapeutic relationship. In the same time, this experience may also represent an important source of knowledge about depression and its role in the therapeutic relationship.

PAVEL NEPUSTIL

Relational Research in the Context of Mental Health

Making use of the concept of relational being (Gergen, 2009) a relational research will be presented showing the process of renouncing methamphetamine without professional intervention. The research explores the life stories of people who renounced methamphetamine without formal treatment. The analysis (re)signifies the understanding of using and quitting methamphetamine as an embodied action done in collaboration with others.

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break

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15:30 - 17:30 **PARALLEL WORKSHOPS**

WORKSHOP I by OTTAR NESS

How to co-research? Relational Research in Community Mental Health Care

This will be an interactive workshop focusing on the how's to develop and do co-research with services users, family members and agencies in community mental health field. Will begin with some theoretical considerations in relation to relational theories, and then the participants will be invited into a practice of co-research.

WORKSHOP II by KRISTIN BODIFORD

Designing Research: Engaging in dialogue about ways of "being" in research that generates new possibilities

Thinking about research as a transformative daily practice, where we are all researchers, amplifies possibilities for positive change. In this workshop we will engage in dialogue and explore the following principles as resources for designing research that bridges research and practice:

1. Designing research as relational and collaborative
2. Designing research as useful and generative
3. Designing research as organic and dynamic
4. Designing research as engaging complexity and multiplicity

WORKSHOP II by CELIANE CAMARGO-BORGES, LENKA FORMÁNKOVÁ

What Makes a "Good" Relational Research?

Validity and Ethics in the Context of the Relational Research Paradigm

When adopting a relational research approach there is a shift bringing new alternative assumptions to the notion of validity and quality in which research can be assessed. In this workshop we aim to discuss validity and ethics of research inquiry in relation to the conceptions of knowledge as construction. The participants are invited to share their research experience and co-create together the new understandings of research ethic and validity in the context of the relational research theory.

17:30 - 18:00 Closing

19:00 - 22:00 Dinner

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TIE Summit, Saturday 13th September

The Taos Institute Europe (TIE) is a new endeavor of the TAOS Institute and has the purpose to explore, develop and disseminate relational and social constructionist ideas and practices. The idea is to develop a community that represents its participants, envisioning together who we are, how we work and who we want to become. Through conferences, workshops, publications, educational training courses and web-based offerings we can enhance and promote creative, appreciative and collaborative processes in all aspects of society throughout Europe. The Taos Institute Europe brings the opportunity to expand the TAOS community and to co-create new spaces that are context-sensitive.

The first part of the day will be dedicated to the history of TAOS Institute and TIE, and the importance of the constructionist ideas for our contemporary society. In the second part of the day, working groups will be set holding different topics, generating conversations about new possibilities of creating and strengthening our community and working together. A final part of the day will be dedicated to a collection of ideas that can lead the group to some commitments and maybe some plans, in the development of a strong TAOS community in Europe.

8:30 - 9:30 Registration/refreshments

9:30 - 10:00 Opening by **KEN GERGEN**, **SHEILA MCNAMEE** and **JAKOB NORLEM**

10:00 - 12:00 **DIALOGUES: CREATING A COMMON CONTEXT**

KENNETH GERGEN: *The TAOS History*

JAKOB NORLEM: *The TIE History*

SHEILA MCNAMEE: *Interfaces TAOS-TIE*

OTTAR NESS: *What Shall We Become?*

12:00 – 12:30 Interaction with the audience

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:30 **GROUP WORK: CREATING OUR COMMUNITY**

Facilitator: JAKOB NORLEM

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 **THE SUMMIT: HOW SHALL WE WORK TOGETHER?**

17:30 - 18:00 Closing

19:00 - 22:00 Prague tour/social program/dinner