

Equality and Systemic Health



In the last newsletter I quoted Bert Hellinger's words about equality and health.

As the coronavirus pandemic refuses to go away I offer a further reflection and challenge to us all about something else that refuses to go away - inequality and racism.

Systemic thinking is a way to make sense of the relatedness of everything around us. In its broadest application, it is a way of thinking that gives practitioners the tools to observe the connectedness of people, things and ideas; everything is connected to everything else.

In 2001 US Sociologist Joe Feagin wrote „*Systemic racism includes the complex array of anti-black practices, the unjustly gained political economic powers of whites, the continuing economic and other resource inequalities along racial lines and the white racist ideologies and attitudes created to maintain and rationalise white privilege and power*“.

Systemic here means that the core racist realities are manifested in all aspects of society.

During the coronavirus pandemic this has been further exposed in the US, the UK and other European countries where there has been a high proportion of deaths of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. This coupled with recent highly publicised examples of racial injustice and exposure of the legacy of colonialism has sparked worldwide protests demanding ongoing systemic change.

How are we as systemic constellators to respond? I invite you to join one of our July monthly members meetings to discuss the theme **“Equality and Systemic Health”** (see MMM dates top right).

July Members Meetings

The dates this month are

- Monday 27. July („Eastern“)
- Wednesday 29. July („Western“)
- Thursday 30. July (Spanish and French).

Please see the reminder email MMM July 2020 which will be sent out for more details and times.

Paul Stoney

Chair

Around the World

Most of the international intensives that were planned face to face this year were cancelled due to COVID-19.

The 4th Annual West Coast Constellations Intensive (US) in June made the decision to go online (see Leslie's report above).

Also the Dutch informed us that IOCCTI (below) will also now take place online.

IOCCTI (Niederlande) 18-23.10.2020

<https://ioccti.com/>

American Systemic Constellation (NASC)

11-15.11.2020

<https://www.nasconnect.org/2020-conference.html>

ISCA Gathering 14-18.04.2021

St. Miguel de Allende, Mexico

<https://isca2021.com/Mexico/>



Report on the 4th Annual West Coast Constellations Intensive Falling Apart to Come Together – Identity in a Time of Pandemic



So many constellation event organizers are facing the same problem: What do we do in the pandemic? Cancel? Cross our fingers and hope for the best?

Last March, faced with this question, I'd already organized three successful intensives, and had put hundreds of hours into planning our fourth. It took me a while to accept that it would not

take place residentially in Northern California, USA.

When I did, I chose to go forward with a few principles in mind:

- We would retain the theme the faculty had discerned back in September. It was more relevant than ever, and we wanted it to center our explorations.
- We would retain our amazing faculty: Suzi Tucker, Jane Peterson and myself. We had become friends and creative partners, and we wanted to complete what we'd started.
- We would retain much of the original event, and not “re-create the wheel,” because we simply didn't have the energy to create a whole new event.
- However, we would also try to work to our new platform's strengths. We knew that if we tried to superimpose a residential event to an online context, we'd be disappointed.
- Finally, we wanted this to be a real “West Coast Intensive,” something we could recognize as our special expression.

In the end, we gathered for three days with 55 people, probably a little larger than our original event would have been, and definitely more international. It was structured like most Intensives, with a whole group gathering with a faculty presentation each “morning” (time of day depended on where you were Zooming from); experiential peer groups doing work with faculty each “afternoon”; and then workshops from participants each “evening.”

My chief concern was: will people “hang in” for three full days? Will they get too tired or even bored? The feedback was just the opposite – we created an engaging program that kept people interested. It touched them personally and excited their imaginations.

From just one participant: *“Constellation work has been an embodied work. So it's pleasantly surprising that we made it online with such high quality of teaching, demonstration and learning/healing experiences. Our ancestors are pleased and proud. Bow to all faculty, staff, and participants! We are opening a new page in Constellations work; maybe a new way of enhancing connection among souls internationally.”*

Our goal is to return to a residential event next year, but having done this and gotten such positive feedback, we are seriously considering adding online elements. There is much to think about. And, it's time to rest for the team, for a bit! In the meantime, find a fuller report here:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1102955078006&ca=fbce305e-83eb-410d-9ebd-bcf8817dae4>

Leslie Nipps

ISCA Gathering Program

Our Gathering program shows the vast variety of constellation approaches in the context of belonging.

You can download the program here

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/327280714684213>

<https://isca2021.com/Mexico/schedule/>