

Co-Creating Learning for the Future *and a* Future for Co-Creating Learning



In the planning committee for the Systemic Gathering 2011 we have had two major objectives in mind for this year's event: to enable the co-creation of learning to inspire our future systemic practice and to enable the co-creation of a future where we can go on co-creating systemic learning.

Inspired by John Shotter's contribution in the discussions of the last day of last year's event, we have taken the liberty of borrowing John's phrasing when we say that we aim to create 'an arena for collaborative learning' and that we have 'systemic faith' that the people who come will be the right people and whatever happens, it will be meaningful and useful and create new insights for everybody involved and opportunities to think of new ways to develop our practice in the future.

Thus, we have created a flexible programme with an invitation to the experienced and skilful practitioners who will be the participants to contribute in the co-creating of the event as an Open Space with a few brief presentations.

Dates: 26th – 28th June

Venue: Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

A warm welcome and wishes for a great gathering 2011

Hanne, Kicki and Peter

Programme

Sunday June 26 10am-6pm	Monday June 27 9am - 6pm	Tuesday June 28 9am – 4pm
Checking in Participant's expectations Dialogues for learning Co-creation of final programme Making learning journal groups <i>+ coffee-tea</i>	Today's practice Brief Presentations Open space dialogues* <i>+ coffee-tea</i>	Co-creating future practice Open space* and plenary discussion <i>+ coffee-tea</i>
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
Keynote: John Shotter <i>+ coffee-tea</i> Reflections in the learning journal groups	Today's practice Brief Presentations Open space dialogues* <i>+ coffee-tea</i> Reflections in the learning journal groups	Co-creating the near future Handing over the baton to the planning committee for next year's event <i>+ coffee-tea</i> Final networking Checking out
<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	

**Preliminary themes proposed for open space: Conversations which spark spontaneous and scintillating change, Facilitating group process - working dynamically with a group's process, Jaakko Seikkula's Open Dialogue Approach, and more to come.*

Conference fee

All three days: 75 GBP

One day: 30 GBP per day

Dinners and lunches are not included in the fee. When booking please state if you want to take part in common lunches and dinners. There are also plans for a dinner on Saturday evening before we start.

Accommodation

Participants are to book their own accommodation.

Registration and payment

To register, send an e-mail to summer2011@systemicgathering.org with the following information: first name, last name, organization, participation: full or selected days (if so what days) and whether you plan to join the group lunches and dinners (so we can reserve tables).

IMPORTANT: you will receive a reply e-mail with a confirmation within five working days after registering. This message will also include payment instructions.

Last day to register: May 26, 2011. Early registrations are appreciated.

Keynote speaker John Shotter



CREATING RELATIONAL OR DIALOGIC ARENAS FOR COLLABORATIVE LEARNING:

THE ROLE OF DYNAMIC STABILITIES WITHIN THE CONTINUAL FLOW OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US ALL

John Shotter

A while ago, Tom Andersen (no date) gave me a piece of his writing in which he said: “*What we come to form, and thereafter understand (both the formed and the forming), emerge from us being in language in conversations in movements in relationships in culture in nature (we do not have language etc ‘in us’). The Being ‘in’ these various ins can best be understood by letting ‘the feeling that comes’ (by being in these various ins) create its own metaphors, and let those metaphors be part of the language one searches through in order to find a meaning.*” In this, Tom’s thinking was, we might say, comprehensively ‘ecological’ – rather than having life and language *in* us, as he saw it, we have our lives and language *within* our living relations to a languaged flow of *intra*-activity occurring in our surroundings. As has now become quite clear to us (see, for instance, Ball, 2009), all moving matter, whether fluid or made up of particles, whether dead or alive, continually creates pattern and form. What in the past we have thought of as already existing thing-like entities, fixed in their nature for all time (and nameable as such), we are now beginning to see as *dynamic stabilities*, dependent for their nature upon their embedding within the larger, unending flow of activity occurring in their surroundings. The world has become a much more turbulent place. We now need to explore what our thinking must be like if it has to take place in a ‘fluid space’, a space in which there are no fixed and finished ‘things’ in terms of which to conduct it. To do this, we have, I think, to start again, and to reject many of our well-established, taken-for-granted assumptions thought to be of great importance to us – like the clear separation between what is ‘subjective’ and what ‘objective’, and the idea following from it that the ‘basic building blocks’ of our activities already exist and await our discovery of them – and to install ourselves, *now*, at this moment, in the ‘flow of experience’ currently at work in us, a flow that has not yet been ‘worked over’, and to distinguish *unique features within it* to which we can give only *metaphoric* expression. I will explore these issues in my talk with the gathering.

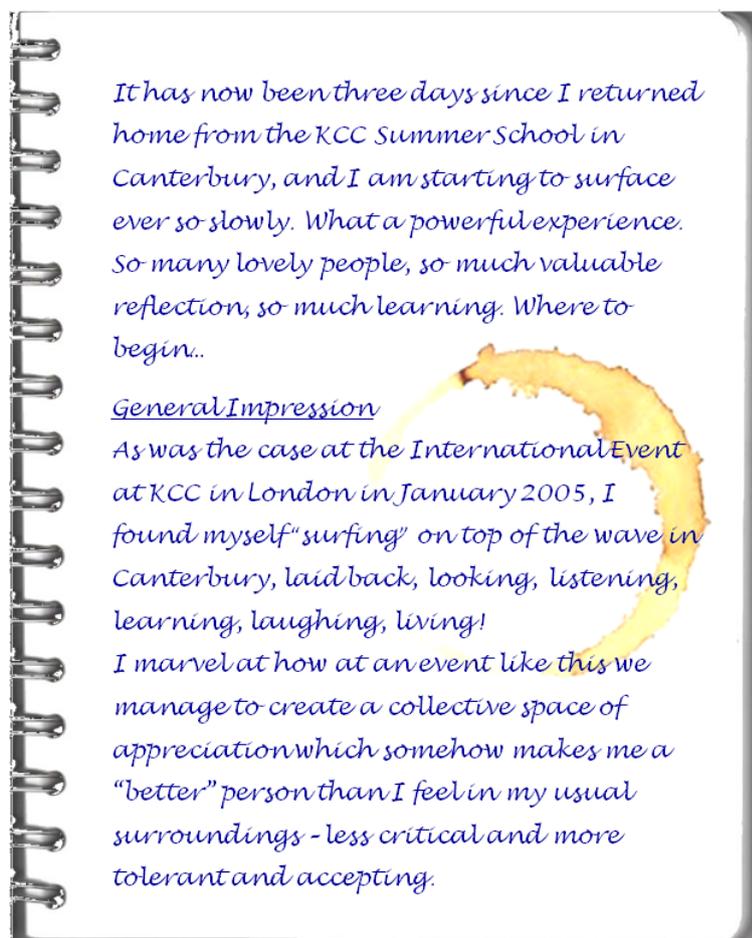
Reference:

Ball, P. (2009) *Flow – Nature’s Patterns: a Tapestry in Three Parts*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Inspiration

Hanne Buhl, member of the Systemic Gathering 2011 Planning Committee, writes:

I had the privilege of doing KCC's MSc in Systemic Leadership and Organisation some years ago, and I just revisited my 1st year Learning Portfolio with the notes that I had jotted down after my very first KCC Summer School in 2005 – they start like this:



Since then, I have attended Summer School every year, including last year's 'post-KCC' Systemic Gathering event, and every year I have returned home feeling like a better person, wiser and happier, revitalized, and full of inspiration for the work year to come.

This is why I volunteered to be a part of the planning committee for this year's event. I would like this wonderful event to continue into the future. Obviously, it will have to find new formats, because with KCC gone there is no longer a central hub in the web, but there is a web, a wide international network of strong professional and personal relationships that I, and my fellow planning committee members, would like to be able to maintain and sustain in the future, although KCC is no longer there to provide the context for this.

Thus, the event that we are inviting you to participate in is a collaborative networking event where we shall speak 'future talk' (Peter Lang taught me that expression) and let our stories of our present professional practices inspire and develop our future work just as our dreams and visions for the future will inspire our work together in the present.

I look forward to once again be *looking, listening, learning, laughing, living* with you all for three interesting and inspiring days in London at the end of June.

Welcome!