

4th Annual International Conference on
"Engaging The Other"
The Power of Compassion

An international, multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary conference examining concepts of "The OTHER" from a universal, cross-cultural perspective to promote wider public dialogue about concepts of "Us and Them"

November 12-15, 2009



San Francisco, California

Keynote by Huston Smith

Sponsored by

Common Bond Institute

National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation

International Humanistic Psychology Association

Supported by **Institute of Imaginal Studies**

Endorsed by a growing list of over 100 organizations and universities internationally

www.cbiworld.org

Registration is Open to All

PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO:

- ◆ **Raise the level, depth, and breadth of public dialogue and awareness on core issues.** The conference examines dimensions and dynamics of "The OTHER" on individual and group levels, and consider how enemy identity is formed, perpetuated, and manipulated, including fear-based belief systems, negative stereotypes, projection, prejudice, polarization, and scapegoating. Concepts are explored through social, cultural, psychological, political, spiritual, philosophical, economic, ecological, and anthropological perspectives.
- ◆ **Identify and compile fundamental questions, dilemmas, and implications** for further deep inquiry and examination in an expanding public dialogue, and to recognize and challenge embedded negative belief systems that promote dehumanizing, adversarial perceptions of the "The Other."
- ◆ **Tap our shared wisdom, compassion, and responsibility as a community - from the local to the global - in developing practical applications.** Participants are encouraged to develop and share practical recommendations, strategies. This includes networking and action planning sessions for applying results to the current state of local and world relationships to promote increased understanding, sensitivity, and compassion as a means of countering and neutralizing hostility, particularly inter-group hostility.

"If there is any culprit, then I would propose it is fear and ignorance defined as evil. While the task of overcoming evil at every turn can be daunting for mere humans, there is great hope for finding practical solutions for overcoming fear and ignorance."

FORMAT AND CONTENT:

A 4 day program of:

- ◆ 3 Keynote addresses, ◆ 3 Topical plenary roundtables, ◆ 25 Concurrent workshops and roundtables, ◆ Daily facilitated dialogue break-out groups to engage concepts and explore practical applications, ◆ Interactive all-conference experiences, ◆ Video addresses, ◆ Resource and Networking Hub, ◆ Tibetan Sand Mandala Ritual, ◆ Evening performances, social-cultural events, and community activities, ◆ Exhibits and displays, ◆ Rich networking and action planning, ◆ Multi-cultural community.

An outstanding international gathering of more than 70 presenters

Huston Smith, Michael Lerner, Maggie Herzig, Fred Luskin, Maha ElGenaidi, Sally Mahe, Joseph McCormick, Corinne McLaughlin, Michael Ostrolenk, Joan Blades, Amanda Hydro, Aftab Omer, Geshe Gendun Gyatso, Tashi Wangdu, Susan Partnow, David Hartsough, Sal Nunez, Kathy Geller, Kirk Schneider, James Hernandez, Stanley Krippner, Mahvash Hassan, Sharif Abdullah, Benina Gould, Skip Robinson, Ilene Serlin, Steve Olweean, Sandy Heierbacher, Imad Hamad, Philip Hellmich, Robert Fersh, Len Traubman, Libby Traubman, Osprey Orielle Lake, Danny Shandor, Meganwind Eoyang, Michael Wolfe, Daniel Tutt, Sarah Talcott, Linda Blong, Cate Creede, Jan Elliot, Kathy Armijo Etre, Tamyra Freeman, Lourdes Morales, Jeff Leinaweaver, Ahmad Hijazi, John Glaser, Carol Glaser, Alvaro Cedeno, Huda Abu Arqoub, Aaron Hahn, Dave Belden, Marti Roach, Andrew Greene Jr, Sahar Driver, Mutomba M'Panya, Zara Zimbardo, Devi Gursahaney, Chip Baggett, Hina Pendle, Claudia Miller, Lisa Montana, Gabriella Yates, Tash Terry, Elena Higgins, Vijali Hamilton, Kalsang Lhundup, Jampa Tenzin, Karma Thupten, Karma Lodoe, Phurbu Dolma, Tsering Yangchen, Sonam Topgyal

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW UP

- ◆ Formulate findings and produce **published results** (articles, research papers, conference reports, and an edited volume), **recorded proceedings and interviews, media and art images**, and a proposed **documentary film** geared toward both the global professional and lay public to increase awareness, expand public dialogue, and support the creation of training curriculum.
- ◆ Create and promote a **working network of activists** advancing the mission of the conference to explore practical collaborations addressing the elements of polarization and enmity, and to nurture the seeds of mutual belonging and compassion.
- ◆ **Linking ETO program to like-missioned international conferences**, as well as seeding local dialogue groups, to expand the diversity of representation, build on each event's processes, and promote a wider public dialogue.
- ◆ In collaboration with our international network of cooperating organizations, planned development of an **"Engaging The Other" curriculum** for application with schools and universities, community organizations, religious groups, political groups, government agencies, and the general public to increase public awareness, sensitivity, understanding, inclusiveness, and appreciation for diversity.

DIVERSE REPRESENTATION AND COMMUNITY:

In keeping with core purposes, the conference is an international, multidisciplinary, multicultural event, bringing together key presenters and participants from various cultures and perspectives. It is also intended to co-create an intentional learning community to explore conference themes and build a common ground of reference essential to engaging and integrating formal learning.

LOGISTICS:

- Dates:** November 12-15, 2009 (Thursday evening opening through Sunday afternoon closing)
Location: San Francisco (San Mateo), California – San Mateo Marriott Hotel
Contact: Steve Olweean, Conference Coordinator
CEU: Continuing Education Units available

FURTHER LINKS: This conference series is integrated with an **edited book project** on the same topic, – a compilation addressing the concept of The Other through contributed chapters by authors from various cultural perspectives around the world. It is also programmatically linked to other international conferences to build on the theme and further expand an inclusive, diverse global dialogue, including the **Annual International Conference on Conflict Resolution (ICR)** held for the last 16 years.

"An important, timely dialogue... everyone needs to be part of"

Common Bond Institute