

Reflexivity needed: How shall we all live together in a community? or Let's imagine diversity, inclusion and trust in the practice of a neighborhood = Living Together in Action

transdisciplinary panel discussion for the ICP 2024; Bohumila Baštecká et al., version April 30, 2024, with May 19 addendum

“How shall we all live together?” Canadian John W. Berry put this question in the title of his keynote lecture at the XVI. European Congress of Psychology, Moscow, 2019. We specify the question: How shall we all live together in the neighborhood while having diverse experience, interests and concerns? **First of all we need reflect our “neighborhood” personal/social/professional responsibility to reflect our privileged positions in our privileged professions while striving to change the lives of people who are in less privileged situations.**

General introduction (context) of the debate: The ICP 2024 will take place in the Czech Republic, small country with appr. 10 millions of inhabitants, where many sustainable development goals are fulfilled: safe welfare state with parliamentary democracy and with The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms included in the Constitution, European social model, universal and highly functional health care system and tuition-free university education, as examples. In spite of all these things, the 2023 innovation project of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs pointed out several “social time bombs”, including “growing feelings of uncertainty and lowering solidarity”. Social “bubbles” are used to explain both non-cooperating societal segments and non-cooperating inhabitants. On the contrary, we know that powerful task can put people together, unite them – there are numerous examples of solidarity during disasters. Therefore we strive to change discourse, not reality while following the aims of living together in trust, solidarity and gratitude.

Questions:

1. Please, introduce yourself and your professional position. Do you think you can contribute personally and **professionally** to trustful relationships in your personal and **professional** neighborhood? If yes, how? (e. g. example of project) If not, why not?
2. Let us imagine we are part of minority (name your “minoritiness”). And reflect: What do I need as a “minority person” to feel safe and welcome in my neighborhood?
3. Let us imagine we have an opponent, the person who is totally different (everybody probably knows the situation “we do not understand each other at all”). Reflect: Can I imagine a situation we will need each other because we have the same interest/concern? If yes, what situation?
4. Let us imagine a person who is “excluded”. Reflect: Who is it for me? Do I know him/her personally? Can I do anything personally and/or professionally and include him/her on partnership basis?

Conclusion: We will reflect the outcomes, contexts and processes of our debate. To get hope that small local steps can contribute to our living together based on trust.

Addendum, May 19, 2024

The whole panel discussion is built according to the principles of community collaboration (including community psychology). These are reflexivity, contextuality, intersubjectivity, positionality, intersectionality.

Psychology for the Future: Together in Hope is an excellent slogan for a global world. Contexts for living together though are built in local and regional conditions. The result is so called glocalization (think globally, act locally). That is why our topic How shall we all live together in a community? needs to be discussed in a local context – with local values, resources, strengths, needs, strategies in mind. Otherwise it lacks contextuality etc.

This panel discussion is built to support hope and manageable responsibility. We know today that responsibility for the fate of the whole world is linked to mental disturbances. But we can support personal responsibility for neighborhood.

So: to the small space of panel discussion we can bring real local ideas for sharing neighborhood responsibility in specific context of the Czech Republic. It can inspire the global thinking of the audience. Thus it creates two benefits: the presentation of the CZ which hosts the ICP and the inspirations for global community of (community) psychologists.

BB, May 19, 2024

And something interesting for the glocal future in the end: „Peter Kellner and I were big fans of the global world. And it crumbled," says Jiří Šmejč, his long-time collaborator and successor as CEO, about the changes that have taken place at PPF since Kellner's death three years ago." (May 14, 2024)

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