This Taos Institute invites you to join in an online special event:

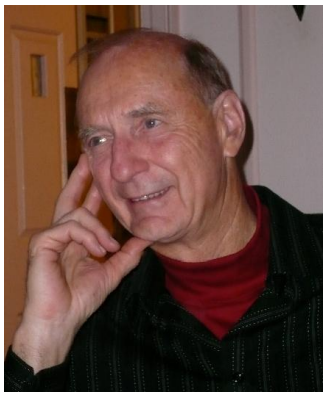
A Week in Dialogue with Author Ken Gergen

March 16 - 20, 2015

Join us for a week-long online dialogue with Kenneth J. Gergen on his award winning article:

From Mirroring to World-Making: Research as Future Forming
Kenneth J. Gergen
Swarthmore College
The Taos Institute

Winner of the 2014 essay competition, Independent Social Research Foundation, London, UK
In press: Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour



The "science wars" of recent decades have largely subsided, giving way to what might be viewed as a condition of reflective pragmatism. However, the prevailing metaphor underlying most research across the social sciences remains that of the "mirror." That is, even while conscious of its biases, researchers continue the attempt to reflect, explore, illuminate, or describe aspects of individual or social life. After considering some of the shortcomings of the prevailing practices, I offer an alternative to the mirror metaphor, one that defines the researcher in terms of world-making. By this I mean an orientation to inquiry in which the major attempt is not to assay the world for what it is, but to actively shape the contours of the future. A future forming orientation is especially invited by the increasingly rapid fluctuations in social life, and represents an alternative to the prevailing tradition and its unclear consequences for society. Shifting from a view of knowledge as propositional, to one of knowledge as praxis - or practical "knowing how" - I discuss research in a future forming direction, including critical inquiry, the creation of new practices, and collaborative action. Attention is also given to the role of theory, and to a relational ethic of research.

All the details.....

Dates: Online conversation will take place from Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20th.

Live Webinar with Ken Gergen: Friday, March 20th at 12:00 noon US Eastern Daylight Time/NY time.

How to participate and what to do:

1. Read the article - www.taosinstitute.net/Websites/taos/images/ResourcesManuscripts/Mirroring_to_World-Making_-_Ken_Gergen.pdf

2. Join the site - http://taoslearning.ning.com/
3. Go to the conversation page - http://taoslearning.ning.com/conversations/a-week-with-the-author-ken-gergen
4. Post questions and comments for Ken Gergen and the Group participating – Mar. 16-20th.
5. Ken will be checking in and contributing to the conversation every day this week to respond to comments and questions.
6. Finally, join us for the webinar on Friday presented by Ken Gergen where he will talk about the dialogue from the week, share insights, answer further questions and celebrate our journey together from the week. We have a limited number of seats for the webinar. Those who register first will have priority to enter the webinar. Once the webinar gets full, no more attendees will be able to join.
7. Register for the webinar here: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6398125597169819394

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