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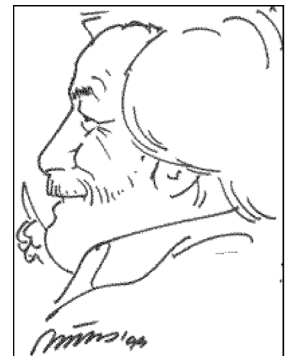
Notes from the Field

Otto Laske asks...

Jeannie Carlisle Volckmann and Russ Volckmann



Partly in response to the positive reception of the paper he presented at the Integral Theory Conference this year, Otto Laske held a teleconference to begin a conversation about how we can create more collaboration among the various camps concerned with adult development. Otto's central question was, "What is the potential for collaboration between the Inter Developmental Institute Methodology (IDM) and the Integral Theory communities?"



The teleconference attracted a group of about 50 participants, although only a handful had the opportunity to contribute actively to the conversation. Wilber's focus on the Upper Left Quadrant in AQAL through meditation, which seems to have ignored the scope of Integral Transformative Practice (Murphy and Leonard) and Integral Development Practice (Wilber—Integral Institute) occupied a portion of the introduction (See the interview with Ken Wilber in the current issue of *Integral Leadership Review* where he touches on this) but soon the conversation returned to the fundamental issue of collaboration.

Otto recommended that we address practical issues such as how can we introduce a broader set of teachings and how we can teach in order to promote models and methods, dialectical thinking, etc., and the development of the cognitive line. In addition, Otto urged us to think about our *own* thinking while at the same time being pragmatic. "Let's begin with ourselves. I want to know how you see what could be done, what would be interesting to do in programs of teaching that are broader than the socio-emotional tradition. What would that look like in integral and IDM?" Otto suggested that those of us pursuing learning and application related to adult development are in a minority and need to join forces. He believes we need to bring our commonalities and differences to promote research and practice.

Russ pointed out that there is a lot to learn from collaborative efforts with a transdisciplinary approach *a la* the series of articles written by Sue McGregor and him for *Integral Leadership Review*. In their investigation Sue and Russ have discovered that participants in research programs using a transdisciplinary approach are learning a lot about the challenges of collaboration across boundaries. One thing that we have noticed is that worthwhile collaborative efforts are focused on addressing significant challenges that are important

to *all* participants and that successful solutions *transcend the interests of any one of them*. In other words, the collaborators must be stakeholders in issues of sustainability, ecology, survival, shifting the culture of corporate business, fostering inter-government collaboration in addressing issues of famine, economic oppression, etc. Otherwise the question, “Collaboration for what?” is an expression of alienation rather than the beginning of vibrant alliance for creative and innovative problem solving.

There is little doubt that there are opportunities for research and learning that building collaborative relationships between the IDM and the Integral Theory communities would support. Although no conclusions were reached in this initial conversation about collaboration, Otto plans to continue to unpack ideas about growing collaboration between IDM and the Integral Theory communities with a series of webinars beginning in November. This promises to be a useful means for us to think about ways not only to survey what collaboration might offer our communities, but begin an in-depth exploration of the other important question the notion raises, “Why collaborate?”

On November 11 the webinar will feature a dialogue between Otto Laske and Russ Volckmann on “Dialogic, Dialectic, and Adult Development” at <http://interdevelopmentals.org/resources-teleseminars-free.php>.

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