

PHILOSOPHY & PRACTICE OF SELF ORGANISING EVENTS

- RICHARD IRWIN



onlineevents
Learning Together Online

Resource Guide

About Richard Irwin

I am a Counsellor, Supervisor, Trainer and Group Facilitator.

I qualified in 1999 with an Advanced Diploma in Person Centred Counselling. I have continued to develop both professionally and personally over the last twenty years.

Most recently I was working with the Wellbeing Service in Norfolk as a Counsellor within IAPT, adding the qualification “Counselling for Depression” to my portfolio. I am currently working with the Mental Health Charity Mind in various capacities including Group Clinical Supervisor for various teams.

Previously I worked in the field of Substance Misuse in Cambridgeshire eventually managing a service in Fenland. I had twelve years of experience of delivering Counselling individually and with groups, as well as delivering training and education to service users and professionals.

I am currently in private practice as a Counsellor and Supervisor and in the process of developing and expanding this service.



About Richard Irwin (ctd)

I am a registered member of the BACP, I am a member of ADPCA, a member of BAPCA and a signatory to the ADPCA UK.

I have a keen interest in Group work and Encounter groups. September 2017 saw the first “Natural in Norfolk” event combining encountering people in a community with being in a natural environment “weather included free of charge”. The creation of this event was to take Encounter into a natural setting. Historically humans have been gathering together for thousands of years in many places throughout the world. In the present gathering together to involve the ecology and environment of today, outside of four walls, and in the fresh air. Being part of the planet. September 2019 will see the second.

I continue to be involved in the Person Centred Approach as someone who actively recognises the possibilities for human development and for all to actualise to their full potential.



Event Details

ADPCA UK is an organisation set up to organise conference events. We prioritise the philosophy of a community self-organising conference, where we the organisers aim to put all practicalities in place (meal times, rooms booked etc) to enable the participants to use the time and space however they choose.

We value the way of organising represented by ADPCA .The new organisation ADPCA UK exists solely to organise such events and the organisers for each event rotate among interested individuals to avoid any notion of leadership or control.

ADPCA has existed as an organisation since the 1980's based in the US and has organised a conference each year. The main annual conference including the AGM of the organisation took place in Nottingham UK in 2014. The vast majority of ADPCA conferences are held in the US.

I have been kindly invited by Online Events to shamelessly promote the Conference Event at Devonshire Hall in Leeds, and encourage the maximum amount of interest and attendance of all people interested in the Person Centred Approach. I intend to discuss with John the nature of a self-organising event, the theory and philosophy behind this and my personal experience of previous events.



The Event will not only be a chance to Encounter, that precious element of bringing people together gathering in community, but also provides a space for those who wish to provide workshops or to attend them, or both. In my experience, these events have enabled the meeting of others with interest and involvement in the Person Centred Approach. It has been a rich vein of learning and a vibrant space to connect and communicate.

The question what does “self-organising mean?” is one that I will be discussing and hopefully responding to. ADPCA, in essence, promotes equality amongst its membership and everyone attending an event. Decisions are made in the event of all things. Practicalities are taken care of. Power is shared. The community is involved and evolves. All the previous Conferences I have attended have been such and they worked.

Rogers in reference to self-organising spoke of the way a human beings immune system works. Individual cells are sent to a particular area, they organise around the area, they work together on the concern, organising themselves to work on the same theme. This is part of how our organism functions and the process is primed and ready to continue again and again. Meeting at events such as Leeds is a space for individuals to organise, work together on concerns and themes, a coming together, a cohesiveness of intention and endeavour.



**Association for the Development of the
Person Centred Approach UK**

EARLY BIRD ENDS 10th MARCH



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Online Resource

My Way of Facilitating a Group

Carl R. Rogers, Ph. D.
Centre for Studies of the Person
La Jolla, California

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