

Roots VII Conference

Gestalt and Social Activism: Roots & Branches

Dates **April 7-10, 2016**
 Begins Thursday, 1pm
 Ends Sunday, 1pm

Fee **\$550 USD/Appr. 500 Euro**
 GISC Members: \$500
 (accommodations and meals not included*)

CE hours **20**

Co-Chairs **Seán Gaffney, PhD, and Joseph Melnick, PhD**

Location **Mati, Greece (Aquamarina Hotel)**
 ***Please contact the hotel directly to make arrangements for your accommodations.**



Gestalt practitioners, whether therapists, coaches, consultants or educators, have long had a deep and shared commitment to changing the world we live in.

This commitment to social activism has deep roots, beginning with Fritz and Laura Perls in Berlin. Even before the Perlses arrived in New York, such people as Paul Goodman and Elliot Shapiro were already acknowledged as influential social activists. Both Goodman and Shapiro were members of the original training group which became the founding members of The New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy. They were joined there later by such people as George Dennison (First Street School) and Patrick Kelley (New York Street Gangs) and many others, amongst them active supporters of the LGBT community up to the present.

As the Gestalt approach spread throughout the world, impacting the environment became a fundamental, though usually underacknowledged value wherever Gestalt institutes were founded and Gestalt practitioners lived and practiced. For example, Paul Goodman was a leader amongst those protesting the war in Vietnam, and his book *Growing Up Absurd* influenced a whole generation of social activists. Our *Children Are Dying*, Net Hentoff's account of the work of Eliot Shapiro, a trade union activist and superintendent in the New York school system, is as much an account of social activism as it is about education.

Deeply embedded in their work is the belief that, rather than changing individuals in order to change society, working with change within society will support and maintain change in individuals.

At this conference we hope to honor this commitment by sharing and discussing our work. We invite you to join like-minded Gestalt practitioners in sharing our thoughts, practices and projects to influence the world in which we live and work, and which our children and grandchildren will inherit.

Among the topics presented will be "Identity House: A Gestalt Experiment Reexamined," "Embodied Support for Those Engaged with Social Change and Social Activism," "the Experiment of the Trojan Guild," and more, presented by Burt Lazarin, Trevor Bentley, Rosie Burrows, Eugenio Molini, Seán Gaffney, Joseph Melnick, and others. Please visit the GISC website for a complete listing of presenters and topics.

This will be the seventh Roots Conference. Beginning in Paris in 2003 with "The European Roots of Gestalt Therapy," and followed by conferences in Antwerp, Rome, Budapest, Stockholm, and, most recently, Belfast in 2014, these conferences have provided an opportunity to focus on Gestalt therapy theory and its roots, development, and rich diversity of its application.

Format

Roots has developed a specific format: all presentations are in plenary and followed by small group work to process the content, and then a plenary report-back session. Our aim is that all participants and presenters be fully involved in all aspects of the conference. Our hope is to generate collective knowledge. In addition, our intention is to encourage all presenters to develop their presentations as journal articles, including the comments and inputs from the plenary sessions.



Registration Form

Name: _____ Male: Female:

Company Name: _____ Position: _____

Preferred Mailing Address - Work / Home : _____

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Current Profession (please check all that apply):

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I am a GISC Member: I would like to join GISC: \$125/year

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Cancellation Policy: Refunds are available up to 21 days prior to a program, less a \$35 administration fee. When cancellation is made with a notice of 20 days or less, tuition will not be refunded, but may be applied to a future program within the next calendar year.

Mail or fax along with your payment to:
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