

Good Conversations In Living Theory Research For Enhancing Self And The World

15 July 2019

To conduct a dialogue requires first of all that the partners do not talk at cross purposes. Hence it necessarily has the structure of question and answer. The first condition of the art of conversation is ensuring that the other person is with us. ... To conduct a conversation means to allow oneself to be conducted by the subject matter to which the partners in the dialogue are oriented. It requires that one does not try to argue the other person down but that one really considers the weight of the other's opinion. Hence it is an art of testing. But the art of testing is the art of questioning. For we have seen that to question means to lay open, to place in the open. As against the fixity of opinions, questioning makes the object and all the possibilities fluid. A person skilled in the 'art' of questioning is a person who can prevent questions being suppressed by the dominant opinion. A person who possesses this art will himself search for everything in favour of an opinion. Dialectic consists not in trying to discover the weakness of what is said, but in bringing out its real strength. It is not the art of arguing (which can make a strong case out of a weak one) but in the art of thinking (which can strengthen objections by referring to the subject matter). (Gadamer, 1975, 1989 pp. 367)

Gadamer, H. G. (1975) *Truth and Method*, London; Sheed and Ward.

In the context of Living Theory research for enhancing self and the world, good conversations are conversations that include the sharing of stories that include the values that an individual uses to give meaning and purpose to their lives. They include the sharing of the individuals' explanations of their educational influences in their own learning, in the learning of others and in the learning of the social formations that influence practice and understanding. These explanations are what are known as 'living-educational-theories' (Whitehead, 1989).

Such conversations are taking place in the Living Theory groups represented in the living-posters below. You could create and contribute your living poster and encourage others to do the same by:

- Creating and uploading a 2-3minute video-clip to YouTube of you communicating the essentials of: your context, interests, research passions, practice and values as the explanatory principles and living standards of judgment to which you hold yourself accountable in your practice.
- Creating an attractive A4 poster including text and images, and the url to your YouTube video, which provides brief details of your: context; interests; the values that motivate you and give your life meaning and purpose; research passions; details

of a few of your key publications; the url to your website if you have one and your contact details.

- Sending us two files of your living poster i) as a PDF and ii) in whatever programme you have used to create it e.g. WORD, Pages, PowerPoint. Please use 'insert' (not copy and paste) and use low resolution images otherwise your file becomes huge!
- Give us 1-4 keywords that summarise the essence of what you are about and send, together with your living-poster, to jack@livingtheory.org .
(<https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/jack/livingposterletterA.pdf>)

You can access the following conversational spaces in Living Theory research for enhancing self and the world with:

- 1) The Living Theory Poster Homepage
- 2) Conversation Café
- 3) Educational Journal of Living Theories
- 4) SKYPE Living Theory research support group
- 5) **Living values improving practice co-operatively**

See <http://www.spanglefish.com/Livingvaluesimprovingpracticecooperatively/>

6) The Living Theory Facebook group

See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/425250191585772/about/>

7) The Living Theory Wiki

See http://ejolts-wiki.mattrink.co.uk/index.php/Main_Page

1) Living Theory Poster Homepage

<https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/posters/homepage020617.pdf>

Living Theory researchers and networks developing educational knowledge, theory, practice and opportunities that contribute to the flourishing of humanity.

You can access some individual living-posters directly and others from the group/network pages. Dip in to find practitioner-researchers to share thoughts and values-based research with.

HOW to CREATE and SHARE your LIVING-POSTER...

Access from <http://www.actionresearch.net/>
contact jack@actionresearch.net to add your living-poster

2) Conversation Cafe

<https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/posters/concafe250518.pdf>

**Living-posters
homepage**



Jack Whitehead
Academic & practitioner
educational research



Robyn Pound
Alongside-ness, health
visiting provision



William House
Community action,
holistic medicine



Chris Jones
Empowering leadership,
inclusion



Nigel Hamson
Authentic leadership, school
practice



Marie Hustable
Passion-led learning



Andrew Heron
Socially engaged art



Shelagh Hettrick
Scarred identities,
marginalised communities



Joao Fico
Children with sensory
impairment



Deborah Jane Lova,
justice, lifelong
learning



Surrinder
Sandham-Raing
Carer, health visiting,
CPR



Lynn Spurrell
Coaching, change
management



Sonia Hutchison
Sustainable leadership



Kate Kemp
Listening, loving,
laughing, living



Rachel Burgess
wellbeing
into elderhood

CONVERSATION CAFE



The Conversation Cafe research group has been meeting early in the morning weekly for many years at venues in and around Bath, UK. Members have joined, left and returned as their personal and work circumstances have changed. Whoever has been part of these conversations have helped to create a consistently vibrant, convivial, and energising space for sharing and supporting our individual and collective efforts to contribute to the flourishing of humanity by researching our practice to improve it and offer valid accounts of our explanations of our educational influence in our own learning, the learning of others and the learning of the social formations we are part of (our living-educational-theories)

Members of the Conversation

Cafe research group, some of whom you can see above, share a common passion to contribute to the flourishing of humanity through researching our practice to improve it, making public valid accounts of our living-theories and spreading knowledge of the transformational and life-affirming and life-enhancing possibilities Living Theory research offers.

3) Educational Journal of Living Theories

<https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/posters/ejolts250518.pdf>



EJOLTS focuses on making public living-theories of practitioner-researchers. Living-theories are the values-based 'explanations of practitioner-researchers for their educational influences in their own learning, the learning of others and the learning of social formations' (Whitehead, 1989.) The values at the heart of Living Educational Theory research are the life-enhancing values that give meaning and purpose to the lives of individuals and groups and contribute to the flourishing of humanity.

Meet some members by visiting their living-posters on this page and more by visiting <http://ejolts.net>. Our community is continually growing. We hope you might feel inspired to join us.



Jack Whitehead
Academic, practitioner
educational research



Moira Laidlaw
Emancipating learners



Branko Bognar
Teacher education,
creativity



Pip Bruce Ferguson
Staff development



Jackie Delong
Practitioner-researcher



Mairin Glenn
Education Consultant



Marie Huxtable
Passion-led learning
educational researcher



Swaroop Rawal
Teacher education,
drama



Caitriona McDonagh
Teacher Education



Peter Mellett
Permaculture,
regenerative
development



Robyn Pound
Alongsideness



Je Kan Adler Collins
Nursing, caring



Mark Potts
Living Global Citizenship



Sonia Hutchison
Sustainable leadership



Bruce Damons
Community
development



Joy Mounter
Teacher educator,
educational researcher



Arianna Briganti
Sustainable development



Jerry Allender
Academic, educator,
music



Liz Wolvaardt & Pieter du Toit
Values-based supervision



Jocelyn Romero Demitbag
Steiner Licensing and
Accreditation



Stephen Bigger
Teacher-educator
Academic



Sadruddin Qutshi
Educator & educational
researcher



Brian Jennings
Teacher educator,
educational
researcher



Liz Campbell
Teacher,
educational
researcher



Neema Parekh
Teacher, educational
researcher



Jacqui Scholes-Rhodes
Facilitating learning
journeys



Jerome Cumedes
Educational researcher



Neil Roland
Educational
researcher



Judy McBride
Educational
researcher



Signe Gitterud
Teacher education,
community development



Brian Williamson
Educator, educational
researcher, maths
education



Jane Spiro
Teacher education, creative writing

4) SKYPE Living Theory Research support group

<https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/posters/skypegp250518.pdf>

**Living-posters
homepage**



[Arianna Briganti](#)
[Sustainable development](#)



[Robyn Pound](#)
[Alongsideness](#)



[Jack Whitehead](#)
[Academic, practitioner](#)
[educational research](#)



[Marie Huxtable](#)
[Passion-led learning](#)



[Pip Bruce Ferguson](#)
[Staff development](#)



[Jackie Delong](#)
[Practitioner-researcher](#)



[Sonia Hutchison](#)
[Sustainable leadership](#)



[Per Jensen](#)
[Growth mindset, teacher](#)
[training](#)



[Surrinder](#)
[Sandham-Bains](#)
[Caring, health visiting](#)
[CPD](#)



[Jason Hocknell-Nickels](#)
[Educational researcher](#)



[Sarah Haddow](#)
[Dance, embodied](#)
[knowing](#)



[Liz Campbell](#)
[Teacher, educational](#)
[researcher](#)



[Joy Mounter](#)
[Teacher](#)
[educator,](#)
[educational](#)
[researcher](#)



[Paula Shore](#)
[Headteacher,](#)
[educational](#)
[researcher](#)



[Bruce Damons](#)
[Community](#)
[development](#)



[Judy McBride](#)
[Arts-based](#)
[methods,](#)
[enquiring together](#)



[Geitzza Rebolledo](#)
[Educational](#)
[researcher](#)

Members of the SKYPE
Living Theory research support
groups, are based in various countries,
cultures and fields of practice. As well as
Living Theory research we each have a variety
of commitments and interests. What we have in
common is a commitment to doing what we
can to contribute to the flourishing of humanity
and spreading the educational influence of
Living Theory research as a social
movement.



[Swaroop Rawal](#)
[Teacher education,](#)
[drama](#)



[Sadruddin Qutoshi](#)
[Educator & educational](#)
[researcher](#)



[Moira Laidlaw](#)
[Emancipating learners](#)



[Caitriona McDonagh](#)
[Teacher Education](#)

SKYPE Living Theory research support group

There are two groups, one for post-doc researchers and the other for pre-doc researchers. We share our research and provide a safe, critical, supportive context to help each other researching educational practice to improve it and create valid accounts of living-educational-theories. The Skype meetings are weekly and last between 30 and 60 minutes.

For more information contact jack@actionresearch.net and visit <http://www.actionresearch.net>

5) Living values improving practice co-operatively

See <http://www.spanglefish.com/Livingvaluesimprovingpracticecooperatively/>

6) The Living Theory Facebook group

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7) The Living Theory Wiki

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