

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL WORK (GPTSW)

14 November 2006

Dear Colleague,

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University of Vermont

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Website: www.gptsw.net

You have been recommended to participate in the ***Transforming Social Work Practice, Education & Inquiry (TSW)*** conference to be held from 7 to 10 June 2007 in Järvenpää Finland. The conference (or “gathering” as we prefer to call it) is sponsored by the Global Partnership for Transformative Social Work, an international group of scholars and practitioners interested in global dialogue on transformative inquiry, practice, and pedagogy for the purpose of creating a more humane, tolerant and peaceful world. Drawing on social constructionist and related dialogues, we seek ways to enrich relationships that will enable the generation of new and sustainable futures (for more details see our website: www.gptsw.net.)

TSW gatherings have been held annually since 2000 in the U.S. We are excited to offer this opportunity in another part of the world.

The general focus of the TSW gatherings is to explore the possibilities of social construction and related “postmodern” perspectives for transforming social work. Our primary means for this exploration is dialogue - spirited discussion and the sharing of ideas within a context of safety, relational knowing and respect. Unlike traditional conferences, all participants actively contribute to the gathering, from providing input on topics for small group discussion to reflecting together on the nature of the experience. As this is not a teaching conference, we assume that participants will have some experience (formal or informal) in postmodern/social constructionist studies or practices.

[Kallio-Kuninkala](#), an education centre, is the setting for our gathering. The Centre is part of a community developed in the spirit of Finnish nationalism during the late 1890s (in order to achieve independence from Russia) as the leading artist community. Located on Lake Tuusula, about 37 kilometers from Helsinki, [Kallio-Kuninkala](#) provides a peaceful setting that we hope will inspire reflection, creative thinking and connection. Lodging and food, at modest prices, also are provided at the Center.

The highly interactive nature of the gatherings and the physical capacity of the setting limit the number of participants to around 40.

In order to determine the number of people interested in participating, we ask that you copy one of the three statements below and return it to us via email **no later than 11 December** (please make sure that you are replying to us and not the entire mailing list). If we do not hear from you by the above date, we will assume that you cannot attend this year.

Once we have collected the above information, we will contact those interested in participating. For your information, we estimate the fee for the gathering to be around 270 euros. This fee includes lodging and meals.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Stanley Witkin
Director, GPTSW
Professor
University of Vermont

Mirja Satka
TSW Finland Planning Committee
Professor
University of Helsinki

Please add your name, copy the appropriate statement below and paste it into a return email to Stanley Witkin <switkin@uvm.edu> and [Mirja Satka <satka@mappi.helsinki.fi>](mailto:satka@mappi.helsinki.fi)

Name:

I am interested in participating in the *Transforming Social Work Practice, Education & Inquiry* (TSW) gathering to be held from 7 to 10 June 2007 in Järvenpää Finland.

I will not be able to attend this year's meeting, but keep me informed of future activities.

I will not be able to attend this year's meeting. Please remove me from your mailing list.