

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of *InterAction*, the journal of SF in organisations. This journal will cover recent developments and research by publishing peer reviewed articles. Members of the editorial team or the editorial advisory board will ensure a high standard and comment on submitted articles in a process that is a learning experience for all involved. Links to other interactional, emergent and post-structural approaches will be explored. Each edition will feature a case study on the application of SF in organisations.

InterAction is published by SFCT, the Association for the Quality Development of Solution Focused Consulting and Training (www.asfct.org). It will be published bi annually in May and November and is distributed to the members of SFCT and subscribing libraries. In her editorial, Kirsten Dierolf argues for the need for such an association at this time and outlines its tasks and benefits for potential members.

In this issue you will find three peer reviewed articles, an exciting case study, a classic paper by Steve de Shazer, an interview with Gale Miller and three book reviews. The three papers and the case study were originally written for the SOL conference in Bruges in 2007 and were updated for this publication. Thanks to the permission of the authors and the kind support of the Bruges conference team, especially Louis Cauffman and Anton Stellamans, these articles can now be enjoyed by a wider public.

In her article Carey Glass links SF work in organisations to the most recent findings in positive psychology, namely the broaden-and-build theory of Barbara Frederickson. She examines the idea that SF provides interactions that alter what goes on inside our heads to, in turn, catalyse more useful interactions between us. SF, seen in light of Fredrickson's

research might operate as a methodology for bringing positive emotions and broadened thinking into the workplace.

Fredrike Bannink gives an overview of SF mediation in “SF Conflict Management in Organisations”. She provides a short history of SF and other approaches to mediation and describes the concrete steps to be taken in an SF mediation process. She argues that SF conversations to resolve conflict are positive and shorter, thereby ensuring that solution focused conflict management is also cost-effective.

“The Grammar of Neuroscience” by Mark McKergow and Kirsten Dierolf provides a philosophical reflection on what the recent findings of neuroscience which support SF practice can be taken to say. They urge caution on interpreting these findings as direct ‘neurological proof’ for the efficacy of SF work. Linking back to the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein, Dierolf and McKergow explore what can be said about mind, brain and language in an unmuddled form.

In the “Classic Paper” from 1997 “Some Thoughts on Language Use in Therapy”, Steve de Shazer describes some of the muddles and mazes language can lead therapists (and presumably consultants) into. The same language is used for very different relations. For example, “he is a male” looks very similar to “he is a schizophrenic” and while the steady state of “being male” (in almost all cases) can be assumed safely, this is not the case for the second sentence and actually reduces hope and prospect of a “cure”.

Paul Z Jackson and Colin Coombs describe a very interesting case of SF work in organisations in “Making It Happen With Your Team”. The design and delivery of a team building event for the Art Handling Team at the Tate Gallery in London can be followed in descriptions, quotes and even pictures from the event.

Mark McKergow interviewed Gale Miller about his time “behind the mirror behind the mirror at BFTC”. Gale talks about the formative years of BFTC and the history of SF in the early years. He vividly describes his experience and talks about the people involved – not only Insoo Kim Berg and Steve de Shazer, but also many others. Gale also observed the

changes in SF therapy over time and gives his opinion on where SF is now and to what extent it is fulfilling its potential.

There are also three book reviews; “Positivity” by Barbara Fredrickson, reviewed by Mark McKergow, “The Art of Possibility” by Rosamund and Benjamin Zander, reviewed by Tricia Lustig and “Intelligence and How to Get It: Why Schools and Cultures Count” by Richard Nisbitt, reviewed by Coert Visser. The reviews give a concise summary of the books in question and link them to SF thought and practice.

The editorial team sincerely hopes that this journal will be enjoyable to its readers and that it will inspire interesting discussions and contributions to further issues.

Mark McKergow
Kirsten Dierolf
Anton Stellamans
Carey Glass