

The Group Training Course on Intellectual Disabilities
JICA Net Program
Running Order

**Title : Networking people and the social construction of knowledge:
“a tool in times of shortage”**

Objective: To learn from activities of ex-participant

Date and time:

8:30-10:00, June 15, 2007(Brazil)

20:30-22:00, July 15, 2007(Japan)

Connecting
JICA Tokyo International Center
JICA Brazil
JICA San Paulo

Presenters and Participants

Presenter (Brazil)

Mr. Annibal Coelho De Amorim (English)

Technical Coordinator, EDUCATEUR, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Coordinator of "The National Memory Project at The National Humanization Policy",
Ministry of Health, Brazil

Participants (Japan)

8 participants from 8 countries (name list is attached)

Dr.Masataka Ohta, Director, Institute for Development of Mind and Behavior

Ms. Chiyoko Numata, the Course Leader, JLDD

Ms. Mina Kato, the Program coordinator, JLDD

Observer (Japan)

Mr. Koichi Toya, the JICA Program Officer

Ms. Kazuko Koyama, the JICE coordinator,

Mr. Paulo Ichikawa, JICA Brazil Office, NGO-JICA Japan Desk coordinator

Time Schedule shown in Tokyo

June 15th

Time	Description	Site	Technical Arrangement	Document
20:30 (8:30)	Opening and introduction by Ms.Chiyoko Numata. Self introduction by participants, coordinators and observers in Japan. Self introduction by Mr. Annibal Coelho De Amorim. <i>(10 min.)</i>			
20:40 (8:40)	Ms.Chiyoko Numata invites Mr.Annibal to make presentation. Mr. Annibal makes presentation <i>(25 min.)</i>		PowerPoint to be shown from Brazil	
21:05 (9:05)	Q&A session begins, moderated by Ms. Chiyoko Numata. <i>(10 min.)</i>			
21:15 (9:15)	Mr. Annibal makes presentation <i>(25 min.)</i>		PowerPoint to be shown from Brazil	
21:40 (9:40)	Q&A session <i>(20 min.)</i>			
22:00 (10:00)	Wrap Up			



History Background

- Personal and professional introduction – where I was brought up and where do I stand now
- Institutional practices – in Brazil and abroad
- Getting started in the social constructionist movement in modern psychology – Bancroft and meeting Kenneth J. Gergen in USA
- Coming back to Brazil – The Community Center, JICA Training Group, new projects, Master Thesis and Educateur's Institute is founded

Raising our first questions

- Why social constructionism of knowledge and networking people are so important these days ?

As we experience times of extreme individualism, and as we know that the world is also under economic globalization, we think important tools are necessary to cope with the “side effects” of this globalization as we know it ...

- Then the use of “stock of knowledge” available and the “social human capital” became tools !

1. Where these we call social construction and networking came from ?

- Many theorists have approached these issues, but among them we can pinpoint Berger & Luckman through the book “The social construction of Reality – A Treatise in Sociology of Knowledge”
- Also the articles and books of Kenneth J. Gergen have helped me grasp the main concept of social construction, as well as how Gergen understands knowledge could operate in our societies

∴ 2. Where, these we call social construction and networking, came from?

- On the other hand, authors such as Pierre Levy and Bruno Latour have worked on various issues concerning the concept of networking and its consequences in the field of psychology, sociology and cybernetics (among so many others fields)
- The application of social constructionism and networking people became a target and a tool for us working in the field of rehabilitation and special education

∴ 1. What are these we called social construction and networking ?

- The Social Construction Concept – to have that understood we have to take into account how do we inter relate the social construction of reality and the social constructionist theory in modern psychology ...
- We intend to answer that in the next slide

2. The relationship of Social Construction of Reality and the Social Constructionist theory?

If we take into account that:

1. through language we build “immense edifices of symbolic representations” and this process continuously implicates us in generating collective knowledge;
2. “knowledge is not something people possess somewhere in their heads, but rather, something people do together. Languages are essentially shared activities”, as Kenneth Gergen, an eminent scholar, states ... Then we may...
... realize the “social fabric” in which we all “weave and are woven” is constituted of these representations, most of them words which carry implicit hierarchies of deficit (disabled, disability, handicapped, etc)

∴ 2. What are these we called social construction and networking?

- The Concept of Networking – using Latour’s words a network is “...an open map, not homogeneous with which we can make any kind of connections.” (1994)
- In this concept subject (we) and the object (network itself) are not extremes, “we” are opportunities
- At this point, before coming back to the network concept, let me remind you the meaning of the word CRISIS in chinese (Risks + Opportunities)
- In my words: networking is what we’re doing now, connecting with each other using technology

: Bringing together the concepts of networking and social construction

- To clarify my point (“we are networking”) I want to emphasize that Latour’s points out that network is about of “transforming something together”. In other words, “knowledge is not something we have in our heads, but something we do together” (slide)
- So, we would be networking if we ALL would be transforming “my presentation” into “a group presentation” ... Then, what stands out is the action, what we do together. If I only inform you and WE don’t transform it, it is not networking as I think

Speaking of some “actions” in my work

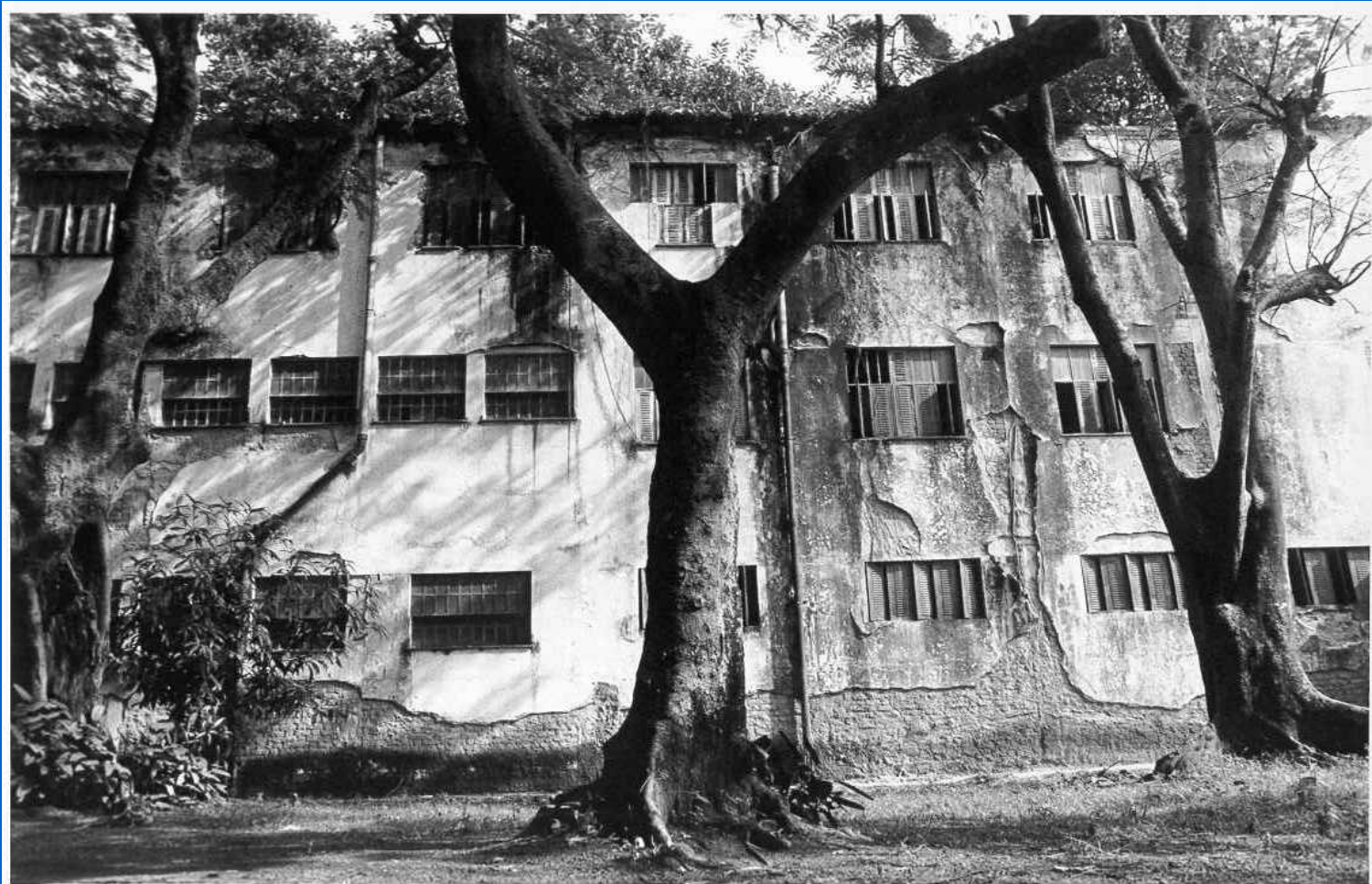
- In the 80’s, as psychiatric reforms took place at The Pedro II Psychiatric Center, many hospital buildings were considered not “useful” any more
- So, in June 30th, 1992, as a result of a hospital’s networking, I have started The Mental Health Community Center Project
- The Center was located within an old Hospital Unit, which was reformed through a series of community gatherings.
- Then we used “networking and social construction” to shatter myths of mental illness and disabilities in RIO

Goals

- To help deconstruct mental illness' myths in a broad community.
- To favor social control in the mental health field
 - To value psychiatric public service with an anti-asylum profile
- To help built a network of projects against social exclusion



Roots of Psychiatry



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The Arts' Workshop

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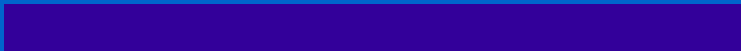
The Sports' Activities - Capoeira

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• **Some pictures from the past**
Roots of Psychiatric

Roots of Psychiatry



The Third Age Club



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The Barber's Shop

The Social Colaborators

The 'Passargada' Shelter

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Let's Party with the Community

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**Lock up rooms were now
pictures of the past**

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Let's put some color in Psychiatry

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Wellcome to The Mental Health Community Center Program



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: **Good news – Psychiatry Center
open doors to community !**

Some alternative Projects

- Fighting illiteracy: “To read the World”
- Socius Project – Leisure Club
- “Koisadoido” Theater Company
- Volunteers Program
- Job Qualification
- Educational Courses for adults
- Revolution FM – “The Radio which is crazy about you” – Networking health through the radio
- Common Sense University
- Cultural Events - “Crazy a lot”

Partners' Projects

- Arts and School Club / The Rio Education Secretary
- Cemasi Gonzaguinha – a shelter for street kids / S.M.D.S.
- DRT – documents for working / Min. do Trabalho.
- The Allan Kardec Group – studying spiritualism doctrine
- The Humanistic Movement – The Computer School
- Camarista Meier Citizen Association – Environmental projects
- The Atalaia Scouts Group
- The Alcoholic Anonymous Group
- The Johrei Center
- The Network of People living with SIDA and HIV
- Reiki and Cromotherapy Projects
- The Hope Project for HIV positive kids
- Revolução FM – a partnership with INDECS

Organizations supporting The Mental Health C. Center

- ASHOKA – Innovators for the Public
- VERY SPECIAL ARTS / Brasil
- International Network against Social Exclusion
- The UNIDA Network / The UNI Projects
- The Popular Health Educators
- CDI / Democracy in Digital World

Some more action: here comes “Doc Crazy” and the Revolution FM Radio

- We had just started to use “social construction and networking” to transform our working reality
- Using a partnership with a NGO which mission was to make communication available to society, REVOLUTION FM Radio station became real ...
“The radio which is crazy about you”, we said
- Prizes were given, but the best scenario was our patients were not hospitalized any more, rather they were producers working with “Doc Crazy”

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• **Good news – Revolution FM is
on the air !**



An award for our efforts



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The Health is going Crazy

But we wanted some more actions...

- After so many years working in the field and exposed to the knowledge of families of persons with developmental disabilities it was time to start new dreams ...
- Four years ago I put together a training program to qualify human resources in the field of rehabilitation and special education
- EDUCATEUR, a brazilian NGO, located in RIO, was born on the top of questions asked by parents: What is going to happen with our children when we are not around any more?
- New “social constructions and networking” are arising

Introducing EDUCATEUR



- New actions: Research (such as the one we did with JICA and JLDD) and projects such Bakery Inclusive Training Program
- Please, visit our new website www.educateur.org.br

Final Remarks

- In times of shortage we can use social construction and networking of people to face social problems in our countries (For instance: giving people chance of taking risks & opportunities in their hands when crisis occur)
- Social construction and networking as a tool in times of shortage should consider the organized civil society as real partner, and help strengthen community control of consumers to overcome contemporary individualism, changing what is “given” into something “acquired”, “shared”, *colectively socially constructed* !
- EDUCATEUR thank’s for this opportunity of socially constructing and networking with you!