

A collection of video conversations with practitioners, researchers and trainers/educators

Purpose/Goals

As I wrote The Guide to Reflective Practice in Conflict Resolution, I imagined including the voices and perspectives of others. I wanted more depth and detail than quotations could provide. I wanted to include the perspectives, experiences and wisdom of others who think about and work with similar ideas to those I was writing about and, most importantly, to do so in their own voices. I considered conducting interviews and producing transcripts in an appendix. Given my writing schedule, this was impractical. Also, transcribed interviews don't have the immediacy and vitality I pictured.

I set aside the idea until the book was published. Now, I want to produce a series of video conversations broadly oriented to ideas related to reflective practice including topics such as learning from experience, applying theory to practice, the value of research, etc. The conversations will not involve a discussion of my book. They will focus on and emphasize each interviewee's practice, teaching, writing or research. Below are three examples of possible topic areas.

I make the case that practitioners should care about the implications of research studies. I described several studies and pointed to findings and conclusions that could affect the day-to-day work of practitioners. Because many of them are unfamiliar with research terms and methodologies, these papers may read like a foreign language. To me, it would be exciting and inspiring to hear from the researchers themselves, describing their studies, explaining their implications for practitioners and for the development of theory.

I describe programs in Wisconsin and Virginia that were created to improve the quality of practice. The Wisconsin approach utilizes a self-directed "Self-Assessment Tool." In Virginia a pilot project by two professional organizations led to the implementation of a mandatory mediation mentoring program. I am fascinated by the opportunity to hear from the visionaries who helped initiate these programs and to learn about their impact on the quality of practice.

I use practice examples throughout the book, nearly all are my own. I want to hear from others who share my enthusiasm for the process of learning through and from experience. It's not just their stories, though I'm sure they are compelling and instructive; what I want to ask is how resourceful practitioners decide what to do, what shapes their decisions and influences their choices—in other words, how theory influences intervention strategies and techniques.

Project

My plan is to produce series of video-recorded conversations, beginning with 6-10 during 2019. I have an extensive "wish list" of possible interviewees and hope to add many more as I have time and energy, and as I can persuade them to participate.

Michael Lang—Video Project

I envision these conversations to be informal, relaxed, unrehearsed, and unstructured, though built around one or more agreed on topics. I don't plan to work through a list of preset questions. Ideally, each conversation will naturally take its own form and tone.

I also plan to add my own videos on topics related to Reflective Practice.