



From Cultural Pluralism to Societal MeshWORKS

A Spiral Dynamics Perspective on Fundamentalism in the Dutch Context

28 January 2005

Antropia, Driebergen, The Netherlands

13.30-18.00 (plus buffet)



Forms of Islamic extremism with growing incidents of violence and intolerance are seriously challenging the more egalitarian values as expressed in a number of European societies, including the Netherlands. Many who historically supported various forms of diversity and pluralism are feeling betrayed. Some are calling for a stop to non-Western immigration to avoid further emergence of and support for non-democratic, malignant cultural "cells" that represent major threats to social order, a full expression of human rights, historic traditions, and a way of life that has taken centuries to develop.

New cultural splits are widening at both local and national levels. These divides could well intensify as "us vs. them" boundaries become rigid; "tit for tat" actions provoke revenge and pay backs, and bombs and brutal murders replace painted slogans and slurs on school buildings and places of worship. This is all happening within the atmosphere of a war in the Middle East and prospects of Turkey joining the European Union as a bridge for Islam into the heart of Europe.



This is a serious problem, one that will require fresh thinking regarding human nature, and new insights into the forces that create mindless stigmas and stereotypes. History is resplendent with examples of how humans can begin to see in others the face of the enemy, and threats to their own safety and security. All elements of society are interwoven into this fabric of hate and violence; all must be involved in finding solutions.

Spiral Dynamics represents ways of (1) understanding the deepest level nature of the conflict; and (2) how leadership -- political, religious, educational, economic, social, legal-law enforcement -- can mesh their efforts to deal with both short term surface level manifestations and more long term developmental initiatives. Many of the concepts that will be described in this presentation were formed during decades of work in South Africa on the transformation out of apartheid.



In addition to the application of Spiral dynamics concepts into the MeshWORKS technology, Don Beck will introduce the Assimilation/Contrast Effect (ACE), a powerful framework that describes how ego involvement in issues polarises populations, causing the center-middle to disappear and moderates to come under attack from their more radical end points on the same spectrum. ACE illustrates how societies can assist moderates to overcome extremist threats that stem from holy wars.



Dr Don Beck is the world's foremost authority on Spiral Dynamics Integral (SDi). He was a close colleague of Dr Clare Graves out of whose original research SDi grew. He put this approach to the test with great success in the transition period in South Africa, working together with Nelson Mandela, President de Klerk and Chief Buthelezi. Since then he has been busy teaching and applying SDi in many different contexts all over the world – most recently advising the Mexican government on the future of their country.

Costs:

60 euros Students: 50 euros
(including BTW, coffee, tea, drinks and warm buffet afterwards)

Location:

Antropia, Hoofdstraat 8, 3972LA Driebergen,
<http://www.antropia.nl/congres/algemeen/route/index.html>

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This event is co-organized by:

Center for Human Emergence	www.humanemergence.org
ELAN (Evolutionary Leadership Action Network)	www.evolutionary-leadership.com
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