



## A consultant's journey

### Building resources in complex situations

**A 6-day intensive personal and professional development workshop to stimulate your senses and imagination.**

In our work as coaches and consultants we are often invited into new and unfamiliar places where people may seem to talk different languages and possess unfamiliar customs and practices. In many ways, this can be likened to being a stranger in a new land with all the feelings of bewilderment and excitement borne of unfamiliarity and newness.

What is it that we, as 'strangers', bring to a new environment? What qualities and resources do we draw upon as we seek to understand this new place and to establish new relationships with people in a way that will lead to productive outcomes? What is there in the experience of being a 'stranger' that helps us find something unique in the familiar, to appreciate the qualities of difference, and to remain fully present as we seek to navigate this journey successfully?

In this 6-day workshop, Wick van de Vaart and Mark Lough are inviting you to engage your spirit of curiosity in a shared-learning experience designed to appreciate more fully what you offer as a practitioner and to explore what can enrich your capacity to work creatively and effectively, even in the midst of complexity and uncertainty.



Source: Cooperrider et al.

### Why are we offering this?

This workshop has come from a shared enthusiasm for new developments in the field and from a wish to explore the similarities and differences of our individual professional backgrounds. In different ways, both Mark and Wick share a long-held commitment to practitioner development and see this workshop as an exciting opportunity to engage in real-time learning and growth with colleagues. We trust that the developing conversations support new possibilities in which we deepen our capacity for engagement with others and can grow in confidence and creativity.

### Who?

This extended workshop is designed for a wide-range of practitioners who are involved in supporting others to be productive and to flourish; coaches, consultants, facilitators, therapists and managers are invited to attend.

## How?

The workshop will be made up of different experiential activities which will take place in group settings enriched by opportunities for co-coaching and individual reflection. In the time that we spend together we invite you to explore a range of themes and processes that we trust will facilitate a deeper experience of spontaneity and creativity in pursuit of personal and professional effectiveness.

Themes and activities will include:

- Creative reflection and creative action
- Our physical selves as guide
- Intuition and complexity
- The role of metaphor in our lives
- Wit, intuition and play
- Developing curious and compassionate engagement

## What kind of questions might you unravel in this workshop?

- How can I challenge and surprise myself as a practitioner?
- How can I embody my strengths more fully?
- How can I develop presence and impact?
- How do I work in the zone of proximal development?
- How can I influence the ways my clients engage in their work in organisations?
- How can I resource myself to remain flexible in responding in a complex environment?
- How can I express my courage and wisdom when I need it most?

We invite you to bring your spirit of adventure and curiosity for a week of exploration, shared learning, fun and growth.

## Practical Information.

- This workshop will take place between August 15<sup>th</sup>, 17.00 and August 20<sup>nd</sup>, 2016
- in les Chabannes, a small town on the river Maronne in South France.
- The event will begin on the morning of Monday 15 August and will end with a canoe trip followed by a dinner on the following Saturday.
- The cost to attend the workshop is euro 1295 per person, plus 21% VAT; this will include the programme fee, all lunches and snacks, the canoe trip, and three dinners. Participants will be free to make their own dinner arrangements on the remaining evenings.

Travelling to les Chabannes (19400 Hauteffage) can be done either by car, plane or train to Brive-la Gaillarde and arrangements can be made to pick you up on request. Participants can stay either on a nearby campsite or in a hotel in Argental or Saint-Privat, approximately 10 kilometres from our training facilities. Please let us know in advance if you wish us to book a hotel room for you.

There is a limited number of 10 places on this programme so we encourage you to book early to ensure that you are one of them!

Interested? Send an email to:  
[instituut@instituutvoorinterventiekunde.nl](mailto:instituut@instituutvoorinterventiekunde.nl)



## Information about Mark.

Mark is a practicing psychotherapist and organisational development consultant working in Aberdeen, Scotland and he has a particular interest in leadership and team development. Mark has run an independent practice since 1997 and has worked with people from many different sectors ranging from health and social care and education to a range of companies within the oil and gas sector. Since those early beginnings, Mark has worked mainly within the UK but he has also enjoyed working internationally with cross-cultural leadership groups in the Middle-East and Russia.

Mark was first introduced to appreciative and strengths-based approaches in 2008 and, 4 years later, had the good fortune to meet Wick at an AI workshop in London. The conversations that ensued gave rise to a new and stimulating involvement with the Instituut voor Interventiekunde in Amsterdam and, in many ways, this workshop is a result of their collaboration. Mark continues to be stimulated by the challenges of synthesising his work as a therapist with his role as a consultant and his continuing interest is in developing relational perspectives as they relate to the different elements of his work.



## Information about Wick.

In 2008, Wick van der Vaart walked into the wrong room, which turned out to be one of the most valuable “accidents” in his life. In that year, he went to Bethel, Maine, to do an NTL (National Training Laboratory) Course on Organizational Development. Due to a lack of participants, the course was cancelled, and Wick walked into a colloquy on Appreciative Inquiry. Wick was impressed by the stories of the other participants, got to like most of them, and decided to do the certificate track on AI. Since then Wick combines good old fashioned classical interventionism with the appreciative approach.

Wick is also one of the teachers on Appreciative Inquiry of NTL nowadays. He teaches group dynamics, organizational development, and Appreciative Inquiry, and works as a coach, trainer, and/or consultant in many organizations. Wick is the founder of the Instituut voor Interventiekunde and loves to work with self-willed “students” who are eager to make their own future in their own way.

