Widen your perspectives with Philosophical Dialog

A symposium for the practice & application of Philosophical Dialog

March 17th – 18th, 2019
University of Toyama, Gofuku Campus

What is "philosophical Dialog"?
Philosophical Dialog is a way of thinking more deeply via questioning, speaking, listening, thinking, and re-questioning. The aim of this process is to nurture your capacity to view life from different perspectives. It has received a lot of attention as an educational technique that fosters personal and mutual understanding while developing creativity and cooperative problem solving skills in this globalized world. It has been adopted in many schools and in various fields throughout society.

Lectures and Workshops
Various lectures and workshops about Philosophical Dialog will be presented by three invited guests, all of whom have practiced and researched this technique in fields such as foreign language education, medicine, and social work. Poster sessions will also take place.

For more information
pd2019@las.u-toyama.ac.jp
www.las.u-toyama.ac.jp/event/pd2019

Nakaoka Narifumi
Formerly a professor at Osaka University, he is now the Representative Director of Philosophical Counseling Onco. He has practiced Philosophical Dialog in fields such as education, medicine, and nursing. His books (in Japanese) include Trial and Maturity: Philosophy of Self-modification and Habermas: Communicative Action.

Denis Pieret
A trainer and coordinator at PhiloCité, an association working to spread philosophy in public spaces. He is also a Lecturer in philosophic practice at the University of Liege. He has published widely in the field, including Les frontières de la mondialisation: Gestion des flux migratoires en régime neoliberal, a book on political philosophy.

Nathalie Frieden
Formerly a professor at the University of Fribourg, she has taught the didactics of philosophy in Nepal, Mozambique, and the USA. Currently a member of the UNESCO Chair on the practice of philosophy with children. Also co-organizes UNESCO’s New Philosophical Practices, an annual public meeting that promotes philosophy.
**What can be done with philosophical dialog?**

**Education**

The French documentary "Just a Beginning" (Ce n’est qu’un début, 2010) demonstrates how children and their parents can learn and grow through Philosophical Dialog in a kindergarten setting. In fact, this technique is useful in all levels of education and beyond as a means of lifelong learning because it nurtures the ability to reason and widens perspectives.

**Medical care and welfare**

When suffering from illness or other reasons, it is common to rethink the meaning of life in order to make sense of the pain and find a way through it. Philosophical Dialogue creates opportunities for patients, their families, and healthcare professionals to reflect upon, discuss, and approach suffering with new perspectives. As a result, it can be adopted as an effective tool for medical care and welfare.

**Business and society**

During busy work-filled lives, there are few opportunities to objectively think about the meaning of work and the roles it plays in life, both on personal and societal levels. However, when the significance of work can be grasped within a broader perspective, it becomes easier to approach work-life more productively. As a result, Philosophical Dialogue is being adopted in many business settings as an effective tool for employee training.

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**Symposium program**

**Sunday, March 17th**

10:00 ~ 10:20 Opening ceremony
10:20 ~ 12:10 Plenary talks 1 & 2
   1. Denis Pieret: Looking back—Ten years of experimentation of philosophy in society. Influences, goals, and outcomes
   2. Nakaoka Narifumi: Possibilities of Philosophical Dialog—In medical settings and societal co-creation
12:10 ~ 13:20 Lunch & poster presentations
13:20 ~ 14:10 Plenary talk 3
   3. Nathalie Frieden: How Philosophical Dialog changed the way of teaching—An example: The didactics of language teaching
14:20 ~ 15:00 General discussion
15:10 ~ 16:30 Workshop: Practice of Philosophical Dialog 1
   Facilitators: Denis Pieret, Nathalie Frieden, Nakaoka Narifumi, and Matsumura Kohei
16:45 ~ 17:20 General discussion
17:20 ~ 17:30 Closing remarks
   Ichida Fukiko (Advisor to the president, Chair of the Gender Equality Promotion Office, University of Toyama)

**Monday, March 18th**

10:00 ~ 11:30 Workshop: Practice of Philosophical Dialog 2
   Facilitators: Denis Pieret, Nathalie Frieden, Nakaoka Narifumi, and Matsumura Kohei
11:30 ~ 12:00 General discussion