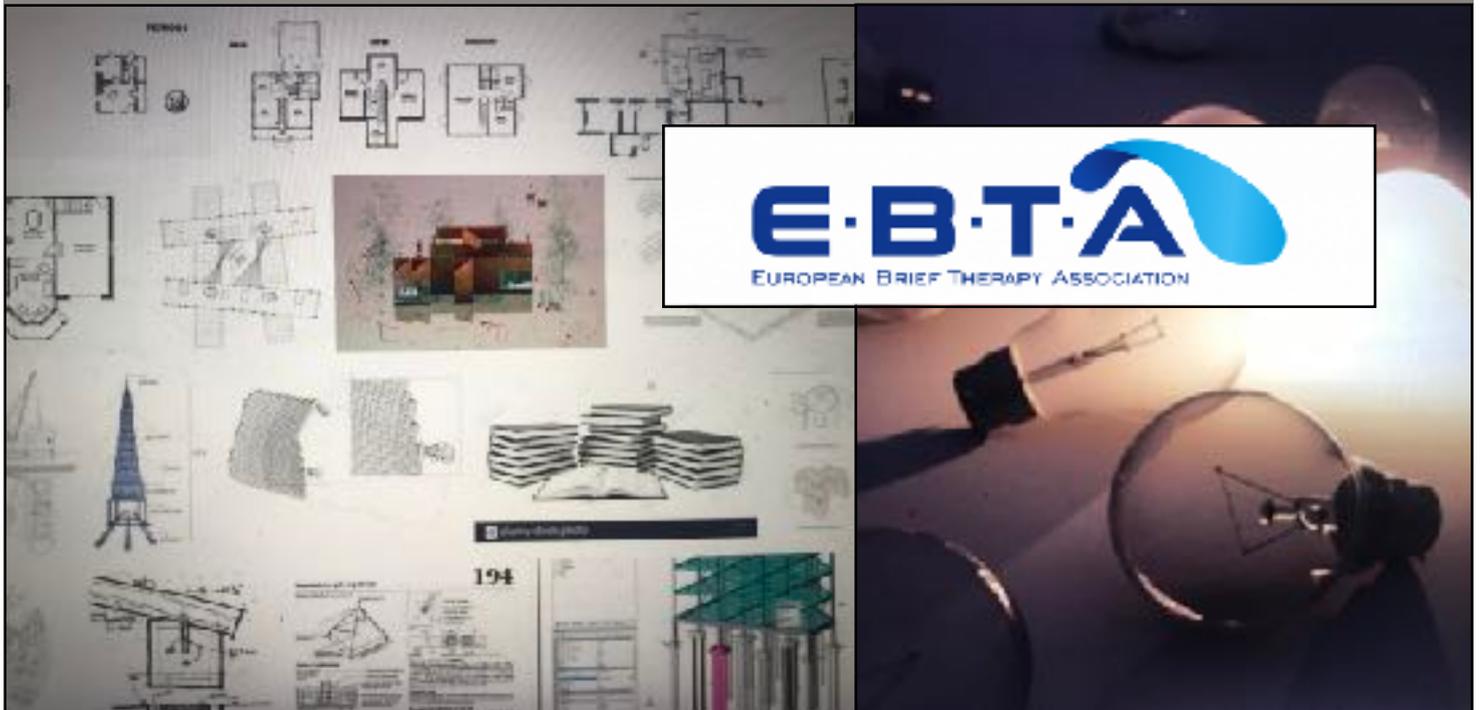


E.B.T.A Summer Camp 2019

“The philosophical underpinnings of solution focused practice”
Four days of exploration, conversation, laughter and learning,
connecting theory, philosophy & solution focused practice



EBTA Summer Camp 2019

As there is a long and reemerging debate at conferences or on the SF-Listserv on whether there is or can be a theory or a Theory or any kind of hypotheses in SF we would like connect the EBTA 2019 Summer Camp to see how philosophical understanding does inform our practical doing. We believe that a better understanding of the implicit philosophy of SF doing will help to get our concepts clear and support a dialogue with other approaches and academic disciplines.

We think this camp will be beneficial for you because it is an immersive experience in the solution focused approach and the co-creation of it's theoretical reflection in conversation. People who will also enjoy the fun, relaxed cultural outings and expeditions.

The hosting team:

- ▶ Matthias Schwab, member of EBTA Theory Group
- ▶ Naomi Whitehead, member of EBTA International Task Group
- ▶ Ferdinand Wolf, former member of EBTA Board
- ▶ Michael K. Hjerth, member of EBTA Board
- ▶ Nick Drury, SF practitioner with the down-under extra
- ▶ Michael Gerten, Philosopher, University of Bamberg
- ▶ Mark McKergow, International SF Author

When: 16 July 2019 - 20 July 2019

Where: Kleinbuchfeld, near Bamberg, Germany

How to apply: If you would like to attend email Matthias Schwab (leben@leerstelle.org) and Naomi Whitehead (whiteheadnaomi@gmail.com) by 20th March 2019 stating what interests you about participating, a brief description of your SF experience so far & a proposal stating how you will use the experience to inspire the development of SF locally, nationally or internationally for greater social & economic equality. There is no fee so the only cost is your travel and a contribution to food and drink.

And here is some feedback from a few of our hosts on their reasons for agreeing to co-host ...

Mark McKergow:

The importance of grappling with the philosophical questions around SF - what does it tell us about "mental illness" and mental health, what presuppositions of conventional psychology are challenged by the success of SF, how does it connect to new developments in the field of enactive cognition and so on .

The importance of developing the 'younger generation' and not just old guys like me grumbling between ourselves. The chance to discuss these questions in a relatively relaxed context.

Michael Gerten: My wife Christine is a systemic therapist and consultant. I learned to know the Solution Focused Therapy through their training in "Lösungsorientierter Kurzzeittherapie". As a philosopher, I am particularly interested in the theoretical foundations. These I see in a specific understanding of person and interpersonality underlying every interpersonal relationship. It is the successful interpersonal relationships that make us free, and the failures that burden us and can even make us sick in the long run. Philosophically, this leads to a theoretical logic and practical ethics of interpersonal recognition. I would be happy to discuss this with the participants. I promise that the architecture of our old farm near Bamberg will create a good atmosphere for the Summer camp.

Nick Drury: I have a deep interest in Wittgenstein and his influences on SFBT. I have cultivated this interest over the past 20 years, due to having the good fortune of finding an online class who were studying Wittgenstein's 'Philosophical Investigations' in the 1990s. More recently my interest has moved into Radical Enactivism, which is the expression that a group of Wittgenstein scholars have taken in cognitive science - especially since the turn of this century. This is the idea that as we have more (motor) nerves going to the senses than (sensory) nerves coming from the senses, we can be likened to a blind man using his cane to stay in tune with the world. This can be contrasted with the now outdated Cartesian picture of mind as an internal centre (the brain, or a homunculus in the head) which is processing information before taking action. The new picture of the mind I call the 'relational mind', and the radical enactivists note that most of the time our cognition is without content as we feel out or sense what an aspect of the world looks like from this perspective or that. I have returned to university this year to do a PhD with the thesis 'The relational mind and the crisis in mental health' - as I believe the current crisis in mental health services worldwide (and the ecological crisis also) is due to us operating with the old Cartesian model of mind and have yet to embrace the relational mind.

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