

## Integral Practitioner in Praxis [An International Event]



The world has never been as complex as it is at this moment — at times both mind boggling and emotionally overwhelming. And as we confront the major problems of our day, things only seem to become more complex. Extreme religious fundamentalism, environmental degradation, failing education systems, existential alienation, and volatile financial markets - never have there been so many disciplines and worldviews to consider and address. But without a way of linking, leveraging, correlating, and aligning these perspectives, their contribution to the problems we face are largely lost or compromised. We are now part of a global community and we need a framework - global in vision yet anchored in the concerns of our daily lives - capable of holding the variety of valid perspectives that have something to offer our individual efforts and collective solution building.

### Context of the gathering:

South Africa is an extraordinary country rich in natural resources and cultural diversity. While demand globally for commodities lasts, South Africa continues to enjoy positive economic growth and comparative stability. However we know this situation is unsustainable and falls short of addressing current and pressing socio/economic obligations including the Millennium Development Goals.

A key factor in engaging positively with these challenges as a development community rests significantly on our skilfulness to communicate and act effectively within cultures of contradictory worldviews living often in close proximity. It is also linked to our capacity for developing and implementing a vision of community sustainability within a context of historic inequality, environmental deterioration and economic constraint.

Focusing our attention on the knowhow (both the software and hardware) required to satisfy the fundamental needs of a young growing majority, will leverage greater human potential and adaptive creatively as we face the multiplicity of challenges inherent in the state of play in the world today.

The integral framework is currently most successful in understanding and mapping the deeper connections between multiple worldviews, individual perspectives and development methodologies. At this meeting we will engage and explore how integral theory is applied in practice, its value in navigating the messiness of human affairs and the discomfort that change demands of us in an uncertain world.

For many years now we have seen programmes offering theory and theoretical discussions on integral practice. Most of these have dealt with the internal development of the practitioner and although this is very important it is time to move on. It is important for us now to look at the way, in 'real' situations of praxis a practitioner would use this theory and possibly years of individual development/practice, to provide further insight and tools for the complex situations found in international development.

### Gathering

The gathering is four and a half days of intensive engagement with real projects at various "life" stages. It is intended that a number (3 or 4) participants' projects be used as the focus of enquiry, so that learning is both immediately useful and contextually relevant. Moreover, the development challenges and opportunities of the course setting, integrally informed Tlholego Eco-Village in the Rustenburg region (a particularly challenging yet beautiful area of South Africa) will provide a context as the 'on-the-ground' case study.

The first day will deal primarily with Integral theory, the following three days with real projects, and the final morning will focus on building practitioner networks of collaboration and support, enabled through short presentations (4 minutes) by interested participants on a current or planned project.

A more detailed programme will be developed in response to participants' needs, interests and projects.

The gathering as a whole is important if you:

- work in development and are looking for a more comprehensive methodology to make greater sense of the complexity of the field.
- want to share experiences and issues with other integral practitioners.
- 'get' the theory and find it difficult to apply/use, or if you want to understand the theory more deeply through practical application.

### Venue

The gathering will be held at the Tlholego Eco-village in the North West Province South Africa. Located about 2 hours drive west of Johannesburg.

All activities and all meals will be at Tlholego.

For accommodation there are a number of options at:

- Tlholego comfortable 'backpackers' style – 2 to 4 person rooms @R200 pp,pn,
- Tlholego camping @ R70 pp,pn
- nearby safari lodges at a range of price levels @ R500 – R750 pp,pn.

### Costs

- For the 4+ days inclusive of meals and materials SAR 4,500
- (These costs exclude accommodation and transport.)

## Participants

The gathering will be limited to maximum of 35 people (there are a few scholarships available so please only ask for further information if really needed)

Participation in the gathering will be by application or invitation – with two thirds of the places being offered to SA and regional nationals.

## Faculty

The gathering is being organised by Rucore Sustainability Foundation/Tlholego Ecovillage, and integralMENTORS together with the Integral International Development Centre [Integral Without Borders] and Meshfield.

The faculty is drawn from Directors of the above organisations. See below.

## Dates

The gathering will take place over a four and half day period as follows:

- 28 May 2012 – Overview of Integral Theory
- 29 - 31 May 2012 - Main Gathering
- 01 June 2012 – Network/projects and closing

## Sponsors:

### The Rucore Sustainability Foundation and Tlholego Ecovillage



Rucore was established in 1991 as a social enterprise focusing on ecologically integrated strategies for rural development. Rucore works with global networks, foundations and social entrepreneurs to deliver quality services directly to communities and supports long-term investment and mentorship programmes. Rucore provides strategic services and incentives to corporations and individuals committed to building their social and sustainability value chain.

The **Tlholego Ecovillage** and Learning Centre is situated on 150ha of land, located 16 km west of Rustenburg. The Rucore Sustainability Foundation established the Centre in 1990 as a practical way of learning about sustainability and sustainable development in post Apartheid South Africa.



The Tlholego village is one of South Africa's pioneer centres for permaculture education, natural building and eco-village development. Founded in 1990, Tlholego consists of a residential village, training centre and is a developing demonstration site. It is currently applying innovative strategies towards land reform and enterprise driven rural livelihoods based on, education, social equity and sustainable farming.

## integralMENTORS



IntegralMENTORS was established in 2008 to complement the work being carried out by **Integral International Development Centre**. It was felt that there needed to be a programme that worked with practitioners having extensive field experience in the design and implementation of programmes/projects.

integralMENTORS initially carried out a series of master classes during the period 2008 to 2010 and now works more closely with individuals and small groups on specific issues. See Facebook for unfolding information. ([www.facebook.com/integralMENTORS](http://www.facebook.com/integralMENTORS)).

### Integral International Development Centre (Integral Without Borders)



IIDC was established in 2005 as a learning centre within the then Integral University. It has since grown into a more global network of practitioners (IWB) working in international and community development.

*Objectives:* To consult and mentor practitioners who are seeking an integrative way forward with their work in global

development.

To provide resources to support practitioners working at the innovative edge of international development praxis; to provide AQAL training 'resources', tools, articles and papers supporting the further enactment of integral development and praxis.

To ignite and sustain a 'community of practice' where practitioners can find a community and a discourse that truly 'meets' and receives them, and with whom they can develop their ideas.

We provide support for the advancement of an integral approach in global development, assisting practitioners and organizations with resources, mentoring, consulting, training and networking opportunities.

See [www.integralwithoutborders.org](http://www.integralwithoutborders.org) for more detail.

## Partners

iSchaik Development Associates

Meshfield - <http://www.meshfield.com/>

## Programme

A detail programme will be available in March for those interested in attending.

## Registration and Information:

For registration and further details contact Stephne Fain email [stephnefain@gmail.com](mailto:stephnefain@gmail.com) or tel: +27-72-118 7357

## Faculty Biographies:

### From the Rucore Sustainability Foundation [hosts of the gathering]

#### Paul Cohen:



Paul is an innovator in the area of African sustainable communities. He has many years experience in the practical implementation of sustainability thinking within a rural development environment. As executive director of the Rucore Sustainability Foundation, his work has focused on restoring whole ecosystems and building sustainable communities at the household, village and regional scale. In 1997 Paul was awarded an Ashoka fellowship ([www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org)) for addressing South Africa's housing and settlement crisis through creating self-reliant family dwellings that contribute to the sustainability of rural villages. Paul has a BSc in mechanical engineering and MPhil in sustainable development. His current work is focussed on the application of integral methodology to the design and development of local economic systems and sustainable communities in an African and global context.

Paul is a member of Integral Without Borders, the Living Tao Foundation (USA) and is a student of Tai Ji.

#### Stephne Fain:



Stephne has been directly involved in rural development since 1994. She is both the Finance and Programme Director for the Rucore Sustainability Foundation and enjoys the diversity of life experience that her projects offer. She currently lives with her family at one of their rural projects, Tlholego Eco-village and Learning Centre in the Northwest Province of South Africa. With a BA in Psychology and Social Sciences, her main interest is to improve the quality of rural livelihoods. Stephne strives to introduce diverse innovative educational themes, events, and social activities that encourage new possibilities to emerge.

As a practitioner of Psycho-Somatic therapy for over 20 years, her interest is to inspire consciousness as an essential ingredient for living more sustainably. Her approach to her work both on an individual and collective level is strongly influenced by Integral Psychology.

Stephne is a member of the Body/Mind Institute and Integral Without Borders.

#### Ngaka Ben Mosiane



Ben is a university lecturer. He has spent much of his working life teaching geography at institutions of higher learning. He is also passionate about local community work, which for him is another site of acquiring (and hopefully imparting) knowledge. His research and teaching interests centre around cities and the extent to which they can provide ordinary people with social, political, and economic opportunities for constructing livelihoods (notwithstanding the obstacles that such aspects of city life can provide).

Ben is a member of Integral Without Borders.

### From Meshfield

#### Anna Cowen:



Anna is an architect, urbanist, facilitator and educator with a passion for social change. She is co-founder of Meshfield, a consultancy|action-research lab delivering innovation for sustainability. Her current work explores resilience and agility at multiple scales across both urban and rural systems and the design and facilitation of collaborative, cross-sectoral processes addressing complex sustainability challenges.

Anna has twenty years experience and interest in sustainable design, strategy and development. She works with corporate and private clients, government, NGO and CBO's, advocating a regenerative, whole systems approach to the design and production of the built environment. As an

educator and facilitator, she designs and facilitates sustainability-centred, interactive processes, workshops and courses for communities, universities, corporate clients, fellow professionals and government, integrating her active and ongoing research interests in contemporary ecological, social and cultural theory; in particular around activating leverage points for societal transformation.

She has been actively working with and applying Integral theory since 2003. She was a presenter at the Integral Without Borders Seminar in Istanbul (2008), a panelist at the Integral Theory Conference in California (2010) and an article about one of her projects exploring the application of Integral theory in rural development in South Africa was accepted for publication in the Journal for Integral Theory and Practice (Sept 2010). Anna is a member of Integral Without Borders.

#### John Ziniades



In the last 20 years, John has co-founded 5 companies in the high-tech, Internet and mobile telecommunications space, one of which (EC-Hold Ltd) he nurtured from start-up to listing on the JSE (Johannesburg Stock Exchange) in November 1998. His many years of experience as an entrepreneur coupled with leading large and complex teams enable him to support and mentor the emergence of a new class of South African entrepreneur – one that couples sound business practice with an environmental and social conscience. He is passionate about the role that business and technology can play in social transformation, particularly through innovating for financial, environmental and social sustainability.

He supports organisations of many forms to innovate by applying agile organisational methodologies (such as Holacracy) and lean start-up practices (such as business model innovation, customer development and rapid-feedback prototyping).

He has been applying Integral theory to his life and work since 2002 and recently completed the Certificate in Integral Theory offered by the Integral Institute and JFK University. He has both attended and been on faculty of a number of Integral Business and Leadership events. He is an experienced facilitator, enabling the complex, contradictory and challenging conversations that are vital to the growth of global sustainability.

John is a member of Integral without Borders and an electrical engineer by training.

[International]

### From integralMENTORS

#### Barbara van Schaik:



Barbara is a Principal Associate/owner of iSchaik Development Associates and the author of 'The Nature of Life: the Tibetan way with Health and Healing'. An Integral overview of a traditional health system. (In press - to be published in 2012).

She has worked as an advisor to a number of NGOs including Ideas International in Bangladesh.

She studied Tibetan Medicine in Bhutan, Nepal and at Men Zee Khang, Dharamsala, India. She also has qualified in Chinese herbal medicine. AS a Director of integralMENTORS She is currently working with Integral Wellbeing and Integral Mentoring.

Her initial training was in design and she still works in this field when opportunities arise.

### From integralMENTORS and Integral Without Borders

#### Paul J van Schaik:



Paul is a Director of Integral International Development Centre (Integral Without Borders) and integralMENTORS. He is a founding member of the Integral Institute and a Principal Associate/owner of iSchaik Development Associates.

Paul has worked in international development since the mid 1970s. In 1995, he set up iSchaik Development Associates with his partner to broaden their approach to include the use of the AQAL Integral framework to areas such as education, health, infrastructure, transformation, community development and monitoring and evaluation.

iSchaik Development Associates has been working with mainstream aid organizations and NGOs to bring an integrally informed approach to programme development and implementation, either directly or through the training of operational staff. iSDA have extensive experience of working in Asia and Africa.

He has consulted for DFID, Danida, European Commission, KfW/GTZ, Sida, UNICEF and the World Bank. In Africa he has lived and worked in Egypt, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Africa and consulted in Ethiopia, Ghana & Zanzibar. In Asia he has lived and worked in Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan & Nepal and has consulted in Cambodia, India, Pakistan & Vietnam. He has also worked in Australia and the United Kingdom.

He co hosted Integral International Development Centre/Integral without Borders gatherings in Perpignan, France in 2006 and in Istanbul, Turkey in 2008 and 2010.

Paul is current working as an international advisor and consultant as well as an Integral mentor. He is also a registered architect [UK].

### Integral Without Borders/Integral International Development Center

Depending on availability some of the other Directors of Integral International Development Centre [IWB] may also join the gathering. (see [www.integralwithoutborders.org](http://www.integralwithoutborders.org))

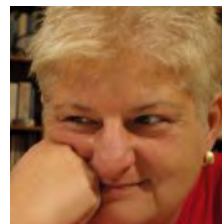
#### Gail Hochachka:



As mentor, consultant, and facilitator, Gail works both one-to-one and with groups to help provide clarity on situations in the field. She brings keen observation, skilful means in communicating to different worldviews, and an ability to unite theory with practice in useful ways. Her experience working in global development in Latin America and Africa, as well as her involvement in integral projects in Nigeria, Peru, and El Salvador, provide examples and practical frameworks that support learning.

Gail is also an integralMENTORS augMentor.

#### Emine Kiray:



As consultant, with her strong background in economics, Emine reviews, assesses and gives feedback on the broader social contexts: the national terrain, the social center of gravity, dominant modes of discourse, and the existing links to global social structures and culture. Awareness of these broader structures and dynamics illuminate the likely paths of social change, improving the design and effectiveness of any organization or project.

Emine was also on the President's council of the Integral Institute

#### Mike Simpson:



As a powerful storyteller, practitioner, mentor and consultant with 25 years experience in social change work, first as an award-winning documentary film maker and then as Director of the non-profit organization One Sky, Michael's embodied depth of Integral practice inspires a room and can bring on board even the most resistant people in an audience. His life work is a testament to how much an Integral approach is needed. One Sky's current projects are addressing some of the world's intractable problems with an integral approach.