

LCLI BRIEFING #6

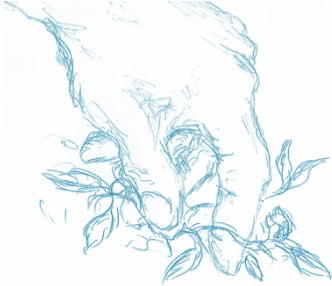


ILLUSTRATION BY TEGO COCHRANE, FROM THE

- **TWO NEW FELLOWS**
- **GENERAL NEWS**
- **FIRST IDEAS FOR FELLOWS' PROJECTS**
- **PUBLICATION NEWS**

Our last LCLI Briefing was in May and things have not been standing still—and you may have wondered about that. To be sure, there are new items on our website but not as much as we really hope. Here some additional information that is not necessarily suited to online media but will interest you as a Fellow.

The Fellows group is still expanding. Here we introduce two new LCLI Fellows who have not been featured yet, Joy Anderson and Jerry Winslow. We are delighted to have them as part of this fellowship.

The LCLI Fellows group now numbers 36. Here's the list for your easy noting:

Sunny Anand, Joy Anderson, Heidi Christensen, Jim Cochrane, Teresa Cutts, Doug Easterling, Geni Eng, Sharon Engebretson, Joyce Essien, Gary Gunderson, Ellen Idler, Evance Kalula, Horst Kleinschmidt, Paul Laurienti, Leslie London, Andy McCarroll, Doug McGaughey, Malusi Mmpulwana, Jeremy Moseley, Masana Ndinga-Kanga, Bret Nicks, Jill Olivier, Ken Pargament, Tom Peterson, Larry Pray, Doug Reeler, Steve Scoggin, Mohamed Seedat, Fred Smith, Craig Stewart, Anna Tharyan, Rachel Sinha Marlese von Broembsen, Francis Wilson, Jerry Winslow, and Heather Wood Ion.

THE LCLI INITIATIVE

@ <http://www.leading-causes.com>

WHAT'S ON OUR WEBSITE?

The Leading Causes of Life Initiative website menus playfully reflect something of the ethos we hold dear – a moving, nomadic web of people who are not afraid of complexity and risk but who find it meaningful to stay in touch. We think of the image of a Bedouin tent: ready to move, open on all sides, held up by a few well-founded but flexible supports. Our home page is our virtual 'Tent', and here you will also find the LCLI Manifesto. 'Our Journey' has info on the LCLI, its core group, and Fellows. "Waystations" is where we capture some of our meetings, 'Drumbeats' is our blog, and 'Backpack' is where we will put resources.

Updates are not frequent, as we do not have the means for that, but they do occur. Keep in touch!

OUR TWO LCLI FELLOWS



Joy Anderson

President and Founder of Criterion Institute and with a PhD in History from New York University, Joy is highly experienced in thinking about how to shift complex systems, particularly finance, and widely and delightfully connected in this regard. She is also visiting faculty at Wesleyan University and a fellow at Christian Theological Seminary.

Her particular areas of specialization and research interests include finance, investing, the systems that manage our economies, church structures, connections between theology and economic relationships, and gender analysis. With wide-ranging professional experience, she both founded and has run Criterion for the last 13 years, as well as founding a venture fund which is one of the leaders in impact investing, leading a movement around investing with a gender lens, and a campaign to have 1000 churches invest in microbusinesses in their communities as a way for them to engage in theological reflection about their economic relationships. With a 'cool family' and a heady life, Joy wants people to believe that they can change the systems of the economy.



Gerald Winslow

Jerry' is Vice President for Mission and Culture for Loma Linda University Health, and Director of the University's Institute for Health Policy and Leadership. With a first degree from Walla University, a Masters (Andrews University), and a doctorate (Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley), he has been a visiting scholar at Cambridge University, University of Virginia, and the University of Tübingen, Germany. Specializing in ethics,

especially biomedical ethics, with a focus on social ethics and public policy, he has published *Triage and Justice* (University of California Press), *Facing Limits* (edited with James Walters; Westview Press) and many articles in academic journals. Jerry has given lectures and seminars in North America, Australia, Europe, Russia, Africa, and Asia, is a member of the public California Technology Assessment Forum (evaluating new health care technologies), and has been a consultant in biomedical ethics for major health care systems in the USA and internationally. His current passion is in connecting healthcare systems to community organizations to form creative partnerships for more effective community health development, including new forms of collaboration between health systems and communities of faith. Otherwise, he may be found in his woodshop or garden, or playing with his two grandsons.

All Fellows inevitably inhabit other networks. Over time we wish to make those networks visible and help grow the human connections that contribute to enhanced life and flourishing for all.

NEWS ON FUNDING & THE FUTURE

You will recall that we have for some time been developing a funding proposal to submit to the Templeton Foundation. This included a meeting with Foundation personnel in Philadelphia, and the calling together in February of the LCLI Advisory Group (AG) to help us examine what we were proposing. The recommendations of the AG have altered our way of approaching the matter and for the moment we are not proceeding with a proposal to Templeton (who are in any event in the midst of rethinking their operations following on the recent death of Jack Templeton). Instead we now plan to focus on building upon the AG's recommendations.

Of their two major recommendations from the AG meeting, the most important is that we **focus not on what others are or might be doing but on the LCLI Fellows themselves** – a powerful group with congruent interests in its own right. You will see this recommendation already reflected in some of what is shared below.

The second key counsel is to **focus on what our advisors see as distinctive about the LCLI – the 'meta-dimensions' (as we have called them) that drive the '5 causes'**: an "embrace of complexity," an affirmation of the extraordinary capacities of human "creative freedom/spirit" and the "moral responsibility" that the use of this freedom calls forth.

EVENTS IN CAPE TOWN, OCTOBER

Several LCLI-related events take place in the last two weeks of October that are worth commenting upon.



LCLI FELLOWS LOCAL MEETING

With Gary Gunderson, Teresa Cutts and Doug McGaughey in Cape Town, we have planned a one-day workshop (Monday, Oct 26) with local LCLI Fellows that will follow up on the Advisory Group's recommendations. One is that we create opportunities for all Fellows to think more deeply about the key distinctive that marks the LCLI, viz. our meta-dimensional focus on why and wherefore ('spirit/creative freedom', 'embracing complexity', and a 'moral vision'), and how to take them forward.

We will also use the workshop to pick up on the AG's recommendation that we focus on what Fellows are doing and can do together rather than on a broad call to others. [See separate items on existing ideas for potential Fellows projects.] We hope, too, circumstances and funds allowing, to hold a similar follow-up next year with 'Northern' Fellows, perhaps in Tübingen, where meeting space is available.

DAN CHRISTIE WORKSHOP

The idea of 'spiritual capacity' (SC), linked to LCL, is a key element in the SCRATCHMAPS research programme on 'interpersonal violence' to which some LCLI Fellows have contributed over the last couple of years. As the research produces publications, so too reviewers have raised critical questions about the idea. Among them is Dan Christie, an internationally renowned scholar and activist in the field of peace psychology (Ohio

State) and lead editor with LCLI Fellow Mohamed Seedat of a new volume on peace psychology, which includes a chapter on SCRATCHMAPS that highlights the notion of 'spiritual capacity'.

Dan has posed key questions about the 'empirical mapping' that could show how to work with the idea of spiritual capacity – how to 'use' it in practice? With this question in mind, and Dan in South Africa briefly to work with Mohamed, we and our SCRATCHMAPS partners (Violence, Injury and Peace Research Unit, University of South Africa, and SA Medical Research Council) at the MRC headquarters in Cape Town, are holding a full-day workshop to deepen our understanding of 'spiritual capacity' in relation to the 'leading causes of life'.

HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT DIRECTORATE: RETHINKING HEALTHCARE IN THE PROVINCE

Following an earlier meeting this year with the leadership of the HIA (Western Cape Department of Health), which advises the Province on policy and monitors outcomes, we will now meet with them again to pursue the question of whether the LCL lens has long-term value in helping define and restructure health care in the Province to link more meaningfully and systematically with local communities. The context is a policy decision by Provincial government to focus on reshaping health care in the direction of 'wellness'.

Senior HIA leaders will be present for an extended 2-hour session where Gary Gunderson and Teresa Cutts will reflect on how LCL thinking has transformed policy and practice in Memphis and in North Carolina. Doug McGaughey will also be there to help handle questions about our meta-dimensional foundations, and so too will Jill Olivier (IRHAP) and Lucy Gilson (UCT, international leader in health systems research), both closely linked with us, as well as a doctoral student exploring the use of the LCL lens in population health activities.

CAPE TOWN (CONTINUED) ...

DOUG MCGAUGHEY SEMINARS

Taking advantage of his time in Cape Town, LCLI Fellow Doug McGaughey will be giving two seminars on his work on Kant (inter alia), which informs aspects of our LCL thinking too. One, a two-hour marathon, will be in the Dept of Philosophy at the University of Cape Town on 'Kant and racism', this in a context where recent events have made institutional transformation in a racialized context not only a priority but something that has even gained international attention (as a result of what is known as the Rhodes Must Fall movement). The second seminar, at the University of Stellenbosch with participation from the University of the Western Cape, will be an even longer 2½ hours, on Kant, freedom and law, issues of direct relevance to the nature of South Africa's new post-Apartheid Constitution.



Inside Taizé

OTHER NEWS

NORWEGIAN VISIT

Invited by the Norwegian faith-based development agency, Digni, to outline and explain the 'leading causes of life' lens and its potential value for rethinking development practice, Jim Cochrane spent three days in Oslo in August. This included a 2-hour seminar session at Digni with participants from other organizations, and a response from a NORAD official (Norwegian Development Aid), followed by more intimate discussions with Jörm Lemvik, Digni's director, and other Digni staff.

On the 2nd day a 3-hour seminar was held at the Diakonhjemmet University College, with many local academics and practitioners, again followed by a meeting with Diakonhjemmet leadership.

Jörm Lemvik in particular has since shown strong interest in what the LCLI is doing. He has a personal concern for rethinking leadership in relation to a relatively moribund situation in development fields at the moment and this may well be a key contact point in the future (see next page on potential Fellows' projects).

TAIZÉ

A long-imagined double-workshop on "*Leading Sources of Life - When Performers, Activists and Thinkers Work Together for Life*" for the 100th Anniversary celebrations of the Taizé Community in France took place in the week of Aug 9-14, with Masana Ndinga-Kanga, her spouse Shingai and their 2-month old daughter Elikia, Gary Gunderson, Teresa Cutts and Jim Cochrane present.

Besides the value of the time together, numerous potentially valuable connections were made. The workshops were attended by about 120 people and, thanks to Masana and Shingai (who studies African dance), included movement, a bit of drama, dance, and the interactive sharing. Feedback from many was good with some evident impact on some people influential in their own environments.

Taizé as a 'generative node' for young people of the world with some passion and commitment is impressive. You will find a lively and rich 'report' on this on Gary's blog, worth a look! - <http://garygunderson.net/2015/08/20/connectiv-e-tissue/>.

FELLOWS' PROJECTS: THOUGHTS ON THE WAY ...

We mentioned above that the LCLI Fellows workshop in Cape Town will start up a discussion on three potential Fellows' projects – with the idea that we find about what Fellows really want to do that also helps them in their own work, link those with related interests, and seek support for specific activities that will help take the whole Initiative forward. We want to encourage all our Fellows to think along similar lines into the future. To give you some sense of what some have already begun to suggest – the reason they are on the agenda in Cape Town – here some brief notes.



Background photo by Jasper Doest – Vision Explorers Issue 13

- LEADERSHIP FOR LIVING SYSTEMS

Following on input from LCLI Fellows Doug Reeler and Craig Stewart who believe that rethinking transformative leadership of 'living systems' is crucial both for the NGO world and more generally at this time, and given a long-standing strong interest from Gary Gunderson as well (not to mention other Fellows), we want to determine how we might take this forward. It's worth noting, too, that Jørn Lemvik, Director of Digni (a faith-based development agency channeling mainly NORAD funds), whom Jim Cochrane met in Oslo recently, has also expressed strong personal interest in the theme of leadership for living systems.

Because an initiative from LCLI in this direction may now be a real possibility, driven by Fellows with whomever else seems right, we wish see if we can put in place a fitting plan, one that helps Fellows do what they are already doing. Included is the possibility of engaging with those responsible for the Barefoot Guide series (one of whom is Doug Reeler), with the idea is of extending the project more widely (the BFG is increasingly noticed in global social movement forums) to create an online (free to download) publication on this theme. If YOU are interested in this project as a potential participant, please let us know!

- 'LIFE OF INSTITUTIONS' REVISITED

The theme of our last Cape Town workshop now quite a long time ago keeps simmering. Many Fellows who want to think further about how to use the LCL lens in reimagining financial, governance and corporate institutional organization and development still keep signaling this interest. The time may be ripening to extend this theme and step up a gear on the issue. Not unrelated to the question of leadership and organization or human association (so it might combine with the first theme above), it could be asked: "What allows for the kind of institution that "opens up spaces that are often closed to allow for the allocation of resources in a way that edifies and supports life." Again, please let us know if this has personal relevance for you!

- 'FINANCE AND ECONOMY FOR LIFE'

By no means the first time this idea raises its head, several Fellows continue to think about how to pursue the complex issues of finance and economy in ways that are generative of life as we understand it. Masana Ndinga-Kanga, for example, recently wrote about the "exciting discussions taking place in South Africa about capitalism, inequality and change" following on the visit of Thomas Piketty, the French economist whose widely debated work has raised many questions anew. But, Masana notes, "he doesn't give much thought to the kinds of interventions that can be pursued that support and promote life." She would like to, and she is obviously not alone, as several of our Fellows are thinking and working in this direction. This provokes the question: Can we now actively help this along its way and if so, how?

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE (USA) PUBLICATION

Fellows Gary Gunderson and Teresa Cutts have for some time been in touch with the IOM in Washington and now Gary, with Teresa and Jim Cochrane, has written a substantive piece that has been reviewed and should come out from the IOM (part of the National Academy of Sciences: Medicine) soon after you see this. A significant step forward in putting forward ideas closely tied in to LCL, the Discussion Paper is titled *The Health of Complex Human Populations*. It is important enough to share something about it with the LCLI Fellows as a whole, so here is an abstract and brief outline:

Health care and public health are finding common—but conflicted—ground in population health. Current discussions in the two fields are collecting a large and growing set of tools, but with little clarity about which are appropriate for exactly what kind of work. And there is no clarity at all about how to actually manage the work in anything like the way either field manages their traditional activities with budgets, job descriptions and evaluation methods that distinguish between good and better, efficient, effective or not. The following article offers four linked domains of thought and practice that together constitute a bridge from where we are to where we want to be—healthier people and institutions—by using the idea of the leading causes of life as the supporting paradigm. The 25-page discussion paper contains:

- A brief outline of the convergence of public health, health quality, health business and the creative currents in civil society
- A sketch of an alternative integrative paradigm: leading causes of life
- An explanation for how this paradigm is pertinent to population health
- An exploration of work, built on the leading causes of life, that needs to be done and by whom
- A sketch of an appropriate financial accounting approach that might allow good management using this different model of population health.

It is also possible that this Discussion Paper will lead some time next year to the holding of an IOM Roundtable discussion with other experts on the issues it raises. We will keep you informed.



MORE ON RECENT LCLI-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Fellows (underlined below) are writing about aspects of ‘the leading causes of life’ and we share some of what is going on here, some published, some in process. Please let us know if you are writing something we can include!

In process:

- Cutts Teresa F, Gunderson Gary. *Stakeholder Health: Second Generation Learning*
[Driven by Teresa Cutts with contributions inter alia from LCLI Fellows Gary Gunderson, Heidi Christensen, Gerald Winslow, Tom Petersen, Steve Scoggin, Doug Easterling, Fred Smith, Jeremy Moseley and Jim Cochrane, this is a follow-up to the earlier volume by the Health Systems Learning Group (see <http://stakeholderhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/HSLG-V11.pdf>), now called Stakeholder Health, a national coalition of USA health systems that aims at to address the underlying causes of poor health in their communities by strategically shifting existing resources and partnering with diverse stakeholders.]
- Douglas McGaughey and Jim Cochrane, *Human Spirit and Spirituality – Foundations*
[Still in its first draft, this short monograph will offer a philosophical contribution to some of our key ideas. We are informing you of its existence at this still incomplete stage simply so that you know of this project and its close link to our concerns.]