



SUPPORTIVE CONTRIBUTION

I am delighted to see that the *Journal of Deafblind Studies on Communication* is being launched and I congratulate the editors on this magnificent achievement. The group of carers and researchers surrounding this new Journal are pioneers both in the study of theoretical perspectives and in communication practices. I came to know the members of the European Working Group on Communication and Congenital deafblindness in 2006, first visiting the school for children with congenital deafblindness in Poitiers run by Jacques and Mamie Souriau, and then taking part at conferences in Oslo, Leeds, and Paris and in workshops in Würzburg and Groningen. Having experienced a truly dialogical and imaginative perspective adopted by the carers and researchers of this group I have learned enormously from them about dialogicality. Among the most significant insights of this group is the conception of dialogue as a life-long 'hyper-dialogue' with its past, presence and future. Co-presence in communication means the dialogical co-presence which establishes togetherness: shared attention, communicative intentions, sustained experience of perspectives and a capacity of building and sharing tension. This outlook is also expressed in the terminology that is systematically used in the studies of deaf/blindness, e.g. 'co-construction', 'co-creating communication', 'co-production' 'co-presence', 'co-development' which indicate supreme dialogical concerns.

The devotion and methodical application of this perspective dramatically enriches and advances lives of people with congenital deaf/blindness; it also promises an excellent prospect for people with communication difficulties in general. Moreover, this work makes a vital theoretical contribution to the wide-ranging studies of communication.

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