

BIOGRAPHY

Surmounting the religious vocation his father destined him for at birth gave Graham Barnes the courage to reweave the fabric of his beliefs and to create his own self-description, to explore new ways of talking and of enriching the vocabularies of individuals, of families, and of groups, and to study psychosocial problems, social ethics and the epistemology proposed by cybernetics – all efforts seeking to reduce human cruelty and humiliation, and to alleviate suffering.

Unweaving the tapestry of his parental and cultural script, and coming to terms with the destiny it imposed, resulted in an antiauthoritarian outlook of human freedom and social justice. He set aside religious, ethnic and national identities, coming to accept himself as a gay individual first and as a citizen second.

The range of his interests in communication, epistemology and relationships goes from participant-observer of groups as voluntary associations that work to change public policy for the better, to psychosocial studies of racial attitudes and opinions, to studying harmful results of theory-centered psychotherapy, to monitoring the electrical / cognitive activity of the brain during the dialogue of clinical hypnosis. He continues to explore the nexus between the personal and the social and influences of specific ideas on shaping systems of varying degrees of complexity.

EXPERIENCE

His first major professional achievement was to found an organization to overcome problems of interpersonal and institutional racism and economic inequality. Deeply committed to the profession of psychotherapy, and concerned about its politics, he founded Southeast Institute in Chapel Hill, NC, a psychotherapy institute that was set to keep the social and the personal connected, describing social problems as personal problems and personal problems as social problems. Southeast was also the site of the first accredited graduate degree program in psychotherapy, an effort toward affirming the autonomy of psychotherapy as a profession.

Ten years of lecturing and leading seminars in Europe acclimated him to European life and culture. When he, a politically sensitive gay man, could not openly and freely pursue his civic and professional convictions, in the political climate of the Reagan era, he accepted an invitation to move to Sweden – a passion of his ever since his graduate studies with Scandinavian scholars. From Stockholm he continued to commute to Belgrade, and later to Zagreb, to teach his own combination of cybernetics with psychotherapy (conceiving of hypnosis as the communicative condition for psychotherapy), and to continue working to resolve racial and ethnic conflicts, resulting in the establishment of systemic psychotherapy institutes in Croatia and Slovenia and a foundation to elect a democratic government in Croatia. The foundation also created idealized designs and experimental scenarios for the country's future.

Barnes has studied with seminal cybernetic thinkers. He has given particular attention to Gregory Bateson's work, comparing it with the works of other cyberneticians, and to the thought of selected other relevant scholars, scientists and literary critics.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

He is a fellow of the American Society for Cybernetics and a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a life clinical member of the American Group Psychotherapy Association, a member of the Association for Psychological Science as well as other professional associations.

His biographical listings are in *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in Medicine and Health Care*, and *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*.