



Call for Papers

Inaugural Convening – January 8–10, 2007 – San Francisco

PRESENTING SPONSORS:

*Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley
World Affairs Council of Northern California*

Inspiration has always determined the direction and pace of progress for organizations and cultures. The central questions of the **Forum on Cross-Cultural Inspiration** are: Which qualities, competencies and perspectives are necessary to *capture the imaginations* of diverse people to bring them together in shared purpose? As the world shrinks and we become more obviously interconnected and interdependent, how will we really *engage* people with diverse religious and philosophical beliefs, cultural backgrounds and base mythologies? The Forum will explore answers to these questions for application in many spheres – religion, public policy, business, philanthropy, grassroots activism and more.

We invite contributions within or across the following four areas of inquiry:

Physiology: Are we hardwired as human beings to become inspired in similar ways to similar stimuli? What is the neurological component of inspiration?

Psychology: Are we inexorably moved as a species toward individuation and fulfillment of certain needs before others? Is inspiration only possible after other psychic needs are satisfied? How do the behaviorists and depth psychologists see this issue and what cultural factors differentiate our responses?

Mythology: What role do archetypal stories and symbols play in our ability to inspire or to be inspired? What unseen narratives dictate our

future? Are there universal icons and metaphors so fundamental that they transcend cultural differences? What is the process of myth-building and myth-changing?

Spirituality: Psychology pioneer Otto Rank and more recently philosopher Ken Wilber have written that mankind's cultural, religious and societal development has been spurred by our balanced needs to recognize both separateness and interconnectedness. What constants are there in the major spiritual paths that could provide the basis for an inspired population across the boundaries of religious belief, recognizing this apparent paradox?

Confirmed Speakers and Participants

View the latest list of participants at InspirationForum.org

- **Ruben Arminana**, Sonoma State University
- **Pip Coburn**, Coburn Ventures
- **Tina de Souza**, University of Sao Paulo
- **Mark Gerzon**, Global Leadership Network
- **Joan Halifax Roshi**, Upaya Zen Center
- **Josh Gibson, Richard Lannon and Thomas Lewis**, University of Calif., San Francisco
- **William Miller**, Global Dharma Center
- **Peter Reiling**, Aspen Institute
- **Theogene Rudasingwa**, Haas School of Business; former Rwandan ambassador to U.S., Brazil, Mexico and Argentina
- **Dennis Slattery**, Pacifica Graduate Institute
- **Roberto Suro**, Pew Hispanic Center
- **Richard Tarnas**, California Institute of Integral Studies
- **Jane Wales**, World Affairs Council of Northern California

Submissions Requirements

We invite proposals for papers addressing one or more of the areas of inquiry described above: physiology, psychology, mythology and spirituality as they relate to cross-cultural inspiration.

Interested participants must submit a title, 150-word abstract and one-page summary of your curriculum vitae by September 30, 2006 to submissions@inspirationforum.org. We welcome papers from a broad range of disciplines and academic focuses, including anthropology, sociology, religion, business, philanthropy, communications, biology, the physical sciences, and the humanities. We especially seek cross-disciplinary and research-based approaches to the issue of how people are inspired.

A committee will review abstracts and notify candidates of their status by October 15, 2006.

Authors whose papers are accepted will be invited to participate in the Forum and will receive a stipend to cover registration, travel, hotel and meal expenses.

Papers selected for inclusion must be received in an electronic format (preferably Microsoft Word) by December 1, 2006. Most papers accepted by the Forum will be between 5,000 and 10,000 words. Notes and references should appear at the end of the document. Charts and illustrations must be suitable for reproduction in grayscale (black-and-white).

Members of the review committee include: Terry Pearce and Philip Tetlock (Haas School of Business) and Clarke Rountree (University of Alabama, Huntsville).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Forum?

The Forum on Cross-Cultural Inspiration will bring critical thinkers together to:

- Investigate universal motifs on which new approaches to global leadership can be founded;
- Gather, share and synthesize new research and scholarship on cross-cultural engagement – specifically the qualities, characteristics, knowledge, skills, attitudes and perspectives required for leaders to inspire diverse or seemingly disparate peoples;
- Coordinate and advance the development of a body of knowledge about the principles and practices of cross-cultural inspiration; and
- Begin creation of a curriculum of experience and other learning that will provide emerging leaders with the capacities needed to bring more of the world together in shared purpose.

Longer term, the Forum will create ways to disseminate and promote its curriculum, educating and developing a generation of leaders who will be able to inspire and motivate diverse peoples from around the globe.

Who will attend the Forum?

The Forum's inaugural convening is by invitation only, with anticipated participation by 60 researchers, thought-leaders and practitioners from a broad range of disciplines.

How will the Forum be structured?

Each area of inquiry will be addressed in plenary session and small group discussion, exploring theory, research and practical application. The Forum will be fully recorded, and participants and sponsors will receive a white paper and other post-Forum materials.

Who is underwriting the Forum's inaugural convening?

The Pearce Family Fund, a special research fund created for Terry Pearce by David and Emily Pottruck, and a group of private individuals and institutions with an interest in global leadership issues are initial sponsors of the Forum's work. Terry Pearce is an adjunct professor at the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley, and a visiting lecturer at the London School of Business. His works include *Leading Out Loud: Inspiring Change Through Authentic Communication* and *Clicks and Mortar: Passion-Driven Growth in an Internet-Driven World* (with David S. Pottruck).

Will the Forum hold additional meetings?

A second meeting is planned for early 2008 in Europe and a third in Asia in 2009. Subsequent gatherings are to be determined.