



Learning Histories for Sustainable Societies

International conference,
 Groningen, the Netherlands,
 19-20 January 2017

In the complexities of today's world sustainable societies cannot exist without sustainable organizations. But how do we create sustainable organizations? This conference will address that question from the perspective of **learning histories**. Learning history is an internationally renowned method of **change management** and **action research**. This is the first conference that brings together the world's leading experts and practitioners in organizations from the US and Europe. In interaction with the audience they will discuss the use of historical narratives in organizations and the application of historical reflection to practical problems in organizations. The conference is of interest to researchers in the humanities and the social sciences, to policy makers and managers in (non)-profit organizations, and to researchers and practitioners in the field of **organizational learning**, **(hi)story-telling**, and **sustainable societies**.

Programme

Day 1

Date January 19, 2017

Time 9.30 - 17.30

Location Senaatszaal, Academy Building University of Groningen, Broerstraat 5, Groningen, the Netherlands

9.30 Walk in and registration

10.00 Opening by **Sibrand Poppema** (President, University of Groningen, the Netherlands)

Keynote Dr. **Rik Peters** (Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Groningen, the Netherlands): *"Learning histories, a short history of its theory and practice"*

Keynote Prof. Dr. **Hilary Bradbury** (Oregon Health & Science University, United States): *"Reweaving hearts and minds in inquiry for a more sustainable society: The learning history as a practice of Contemporary Action Research"*

12.30 Lunch break at *Land van Kokanje* (Oude Boteringestraat 9, Groningen)

14.00 Keynote Dr. **Art Kleiner** (Lecturer University of New York, Chief editor of Strategy and Business, writer, United States): *"Stories of management: The art and craft of developing meaningful stories from organizational concepts and events"*

Presentation **Christine Erlach** and **Karin Thier** (NARRATA Consult, Germany): *"(Hi)story telling in practice: How to work with narratives in knowledge management and cultural change in organizations"*

16.30 Drinks and networking at *Bruinszaal* (ground floor Academy building). Opening by **Stephan van Galen** (Secretary-General, University of Groningen, the Netherlands)

17.30 End of day 1

Day 2

Date January 20, 2017

Time 9.00 - 17.30

Location Senaatszaal, Academy Building University of Groningen, Broerstraat 5, Groningen, the Netherlands

9.00 Opening by **Sharon Smit** (Director Sustainable Society, University of Groningen, the Netherlands): *"How to create impact from science in society, barriers and enablers. Sharing preliminary results from the EU Horizon 2020 ACCOMPLISSH project"*

Keynote Prof. Dr. **George Roth** (Professor of Management at the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics Principal Research Associate, M.I.T. Sloan School of Management, Boston, United States): *"Learning from the past for a systemic change management in the future"*

Presentation Dr. **Thomas Kurz** (Lecturer at the University of Salzburg and Technology & Innovation Consultant at LOOP New Media, Austria): *"Balance in motion: Intercultural learning histories as a driving force for intercultural corporate development between China and Austria"*

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Keynote Dr. **Margaret Gearty** (Academic Director at Ashridge/Hult Business School and Founder of New Histories Ltd, United Kingdom): *"Whose learning is it anyway? Learning history practice in politicised spaces in Ethiopia and the UK"*

12.30 Lunch break at *Land van Kokanje* (Oude Boteringestraat 9, Groningen)

14.00 Presentation: **Homer Wagenaar** and **Rients Verschoor** (Research Master students, University of Groningen, the Netherlands) and **Marcel Seubring** (Advisor Monitoring and Information, City of Groningen, the Netherlands) - Research cooperation project City of Groningen & University of Groningen: *"The history of social policy in Groningen 1970-present: a learning history"*

Panel discussion with the audience: *"When Will We Learn?"*

15.45 Wrap up

16.00 Drinks and networking at *The Dog's Bollocks* (Oude Boteringestraat 17, Groningen)

17.30 End of programme

Day moderator is Prof. Dr. **Dirk Jan Wolffram** (Professor in the History of Governance and Politics in Modern Times, University of Groningen, the Netherlands)