

Communication Network

Anne Nafstad (Norway) and Marlene Daelman (Belgium) gave an overview of the activities of the Communication Network over past 25 years, in which they had the pleasure to collaborate from the start with Inger Rodbroe (Denmark), Jacques Souriau (France) and Ton Visser (Netherlands). Later on Marleen Janssen (Netherlands), Flemming Ask Larsen (Denmark) and Paul Hart (Scotland), have joined the Network. This theoretical overview appeared to be much appreciated by the audience, who didn't really know that the Communication Network had developed so many concepts in such a systematic way.

The second part of this session was organized around a collaborative video-analysis, that worked out well, even in such a big audience. The video discussed was a private one from the Institute KMPI Spermalie (Brugge, Belgium) which showed an interaction between Kevin, a deafblind young man and his partner Carla.

The video was chosen as an example of the Network's most recent focus - the Dialogical Self in a Dialogical Space. This analysis was meant as a model of the way the Network had been working during the past years, with its emphasis on empirical based theory. Using the video as an example, their empirical discussions have included: discovering the communicative expressions of people with congenital deafblindness; describing them, categorizing them; discussing their possible meaning and discussing how to relate to them in the role of the communication partner, etc.

In the near future, the Network will be publishing a new document on the basis of this presentation, using this video analysis and other examples to document and explain further their theoretical concepts as discussed briefly above. This is a project in collaboration with Nordens Välfärdscenter (NVC). This will be further discussed at planned meeting of the Network in February, 2014), at the University of Groningen. The Dbl Communication Network still has many plans, even after 25 years.

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