



Institute of General Semantics

founded in 1938 by Alfred Korzybski

« General Semantics Workshop: how to handle personality disorders? »

by Vanessa Biard-Schaeffer
from the Institute of General Semantics

Friday 9th of July (afternoon) 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday 10th of July (morning) 9:00 am – 12h30 am

City Hall of the 5th arrondissement of Paris

Room Soufflot

21 Place du Panthéon 75005 Paris

RER B Luxembourg (exit « Jardin du Luxembourg ») - Métro Line 10 : Cardinal Lemoine

Métro Line 7 : Place Monge - Parking 22, rue Soufflot 75 005 Paris



Number of participants limited to 9 + lecturer

Inscription by mail or fax :

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15 euros of fees for drinks and materials

General Semantics:

"When the premises of this new approach had been made, I unexpectedly discovered they were (...) the basis of a non-Aristotelian system whose modus operandi I called 'General Semantics' (...)

The mathematical theory of types made me aware of new kinds of linguistic confusions that so far, except for a few mathematicians, almost no one have paid attention to.

Awareness and analysis of these problems led me to the following discovery: the principles of different levels of abstraction, the multi-ordinal terms, the words over / under-defined, the second-order reactions -thinking about thinking, doubt of doubt, fear of being afraid, etc...- cortico-thalamic interaction, the circular nature of human knowledge, etc. ;

These factors can be considered as the generalization of the theory of mathematical types. **The degree to which we are 'conscious of abstracting', including what we said above among several elements, becomes a key issue in how we evaluate and therefore can affect how we 'perceive' to a large extent."**

Extract from the Role of Language in Perceptual Processes, Alfred Korzybski, 1966

Many were inspired by General Semantics: Gregory Bateson, Albert Ellis, Edward T. Hall, Paul Watzlawick, Boris Vian, Gaston Bachelard, etc. General Semantics has been and is used in communication studies, journalism, psychology, and in the army as well.

Personality Disorders:

Human behaviours can appear to us variable and diverse depending on individual settings and circumstances. Without neither generalizing too much nor trying to put a definitive label on behaviours, it seems useful to me to be able to discuss about distinctive patterns of repetitive behaviours which pose a problem to daily and human relationships.

Altogether, General Semantics -as it focus on observation, indexation, framework or reference, etc.- allow to better adapt ourselves to these behaviours and to spot in ourselves some push buttons -projection, introjections, etc.-

Vanessa Biard-Schaeffer, June 2010

Program:

Friday Afternoon: Introduction to General Semantics with exercises focused on map and territory relationship;

Saturday Morning: Personality disorders and psycho-linguistic approach to them -with necessary reminders-;