CALL FOR PAPERS

INSTITUTE OF GENERAL SEMANTICS

PRESENTS

THE TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON GENERAL SEMANTICS

Confronting the Challenges of
Conflicting World Views

Friday, Saturday, Sunday        October 31 - November 2, 2003
Las Vegas, Nevada

Co-sponsored by The International Society for General Semantics and
The New York Society for General Semantics
BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES
Since its establishment in 1938, the Institute of General Semantics has convened International Conferences to examine critical issues facing our society. This conference is no exception. With *Confronting the Challenges of Conflicting World Views*, we intend to examine the many interactions, sometimes violent and deadly, that take place when individuals and groups from markedly different linguistic, social and cultural environments come together. We will also welcome discussion on other topics consistent with our mission—the investigation and dissemination to the public of how an understanding of the ongoing interactions between our language, our behavior and our human nervous system can contribute fundamentally to our well-being.
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CONFERENCE THEMES

- **Beliefs, Belief Systems, and their Consequences:** What constitutes a “system of beliefs?” Do standards exist for evaluating different belief systems? Can holders of competing belief systems mutually co-exist and/or cooperate with modern science and technology for the benefit of humankind?

- **Interpersonal to Interplanetary Relationships:** How do our underlying world views affect our relationships with others and with our environment? How do individuals within one group get along with individuals of competing groups?

- **Actions for Changing and Adapting:** What programs or initiatives have you or your organization undertaken to meet the challenges posed by different belief systems? What actions for change do you recommend for individuals, organizations and/or governments within this environment of multiple and competing world views?

- **Time-binding and General Semantics:** What new theories, applications or insights have been formulated or developed? What ought we be doing so that future generations can build on our efforts—instead of having to repair the damage?

STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

We welcome preliminary inquiries. Papers should not exceed approximately 3000 words in length or about 10 - 12 double-spaced pages, plus an abstract of about 150 words. Plan for a standard presentation length of 20 minutes with a subsequent discussion period of 10 – 15 minutes. Papers should be submitted to the Conference Coordinator in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect, via email attachment or diskette, no later than March 31, 2003.

Prior to acceptance, each paper will be reviewed by the Conference Committee for clarity, relevance, originality and significance. Outstanding papers will be selected for publication in the General Semantics Bulletin or Etc.

70th Anniversary Essay Contest: To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the publication of Korzybski’s *Science and Sanity*, two expense-paid trips to the conference will be awarded. One prize will be awarded for the best student essay on: “The Relevance of General Semantics to a Student.” The other prize will be awarded for the best essay on: “A Comparative Evaluation of General Semantics and a Major ‘Self-Help‘ Work.” Please contact the Conference Coordinator for more information.

**Conference Coordinator** (for submissions and questions)
Steve Stockdale
P.O. Box 1565, Fort Worth, TX  76101-1565  USA
Phone: (972) 897-5620     Email: steve@dfwcgs.net

**Conference Chairperson**
Jeff Mordkowitz
Director, Institute of General Semantics
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www.general-semantics.org
IN THIS SEMINAR, you’ll acquire the training and tools needed to navigate the increasingly demanding challenges we face in our public and private lives. You’ll learn how to maximize the predictability of your maps to guide you toward a successful lifelong journey. Scheduled just prior to the Conference, this seminar will enable those less familiar with Korzybski’s system of general semantics to begin internalizing the methodology, as well as giving those with more experience a chance to sharpen their skills.

KEY BENEFITS

- Learn how our daily language influences the way we see the world
- Experience the ways our language, our behavior and our nervous systems mutually influence each other
- Begin to apply specific practical techniques
- Participate in daily practice of non-verbal awareness to enhance your ability to learn and to uproot old habits
- Experience music and dance as an educational method, reaching you in ways not available through traditional lecture formats

Contact the Institute for more information and reservations.

SOME HELPFUL DISTINCTIONS

*General semantics* sometimes gets confused with semantics, grammar or logic. The following should help clarify the distinctions:

**Grammar** deals with word-to-word relations and rules about how to put words together in sentences.

**Logic** deals with the relation of sentences or assertions to each other and with the validity of inferences.

**Semantics** deals with word to ‘fact’ and word to ‘meaning’ relations as well as ‘truth’ (sentence-to-fact relations).

**General Semantics** deals with the implications of the ongoing interactions between language, human behavior and the human nervous system.