



ROB

This year I stepped into the extended family of Beyond Boundaries and see my work in part connected to that dreaming. The opportunity to work in many venues and different countries has grown me and the work.

I was invited to Athens in 2010 and many times since to give seminars and introduce council. Greece is where I first discovered the practice. This has led to the collaboration and connections with the current SOAR project and a regular circle at the Shambala Centre, Athens. The practice is spreading further afield, last year through several council sessions for students and staff at Haraklion Polytechnic, Crete, plus support for a 1000-year project group to inspire social change instigated by the university lecturer and social activist who called me there.

My work in Turkey also resulted from co-organizing a training for Gigi Coyle in Greece and which was attended by a young Turkish woman. From the time of the riots in Gezi Park, she called me to visit- to give many free talks and several trainings in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir 2013-14. In 2014 I was able, thanks to BB in part, to travel there and offer a 5-day council community course.

A complex field with many learnings - an approach to community-building using council as a basis in developing relationships to ourselves as individuals and group, to the hosts and to the place. This course invited my two former council course organizers from Turkey to step into leadership roles and be a part of designing the program,

supporting the field, which consisted of diverse levels of experience, focus and backgrounds.

We covered many topics, yet there is a lot to do to share such work with people there. I hope to return there again next year to keep watering, seeding, and supporting what is called in.

GREECE

Ongoing work with SOAR, Karapanou 15th November - 1st December
I arrived with my partner on the 15th along with some of the young people, and we began to prepare in the visioning of what would come, laying the ground, building relationships. For these two weeks, council was used every day as a practice and necessary one-hour check-in, etc. allowing a slow introduction to the practice. Learning by doing.

In the first few days of forming, a wobbly field (around council) with Tameran elders also part of the group, brought the question as to whether council was in fact the preferred practice. Open to what would serve, give up the idea of council as what was wanted, it then got clearer that it was the lack of core-team clarity as to the guidelines, more than another practice coming in. As I left, the recognition of the importance around the core team function became much clearer to the group and I volunteered myself into it in service to the vision, having found in myself many gifts from the experience and having seen them unfolding in others. I plan to attend the core group meeting in April 2015.

I feel it clearly, as does Olivier from our conversations, that the project has every sign of succeeding and has a great importance for Aegina as an island, and Greece, or will do in the coming times. I shall be supportive as best I can though as yet unclear of my role and position, without attachment to the outcome, noticing the scale and speed that larger and more important projects require, as do trees. My intention will be to offer support, Skype as regularly as needed, be there on the ground at least twice during the year before the project commences, and then find a way to be there for the six months run of the School from November 2015.

2015 Projects include ongoing work with SOAR, developing a youth council project in Lisbon, Portugal, revisiting Turkey, UK, Belgium, Copenhagen and Greece in attendance to the fields there. I will also be deepening my practice and extending my skills with a Vision Fast guide training in August.