

Editorial

This special issue - which will also be continued next month - contains an assortment of views of and from a particular mode of personal growth: co-counselling.

An unusual characteristic of co-counselling, compared to many personal growth processes, is the widespread occurrence of co-counselling communities, i.e. national and international networks of co-counsellors. An aspect of this organisational dimension is its pluralism: there is the original, Seattle-based, Re-evaluation Counseling network; and there are also numerous independent co-counselling groups. Many of these are affiliated to Cocounselling International; others focus around some other concern, a womens group or a commune for instance. In addition there are many individuals using co-counselling methods without joining a co-counselling network.

These *Self and Society* issues are largely, though by no means entirely, written by people in co-counselling groups affiliated to Co-Counselling International. The three of us acting as guest editors all use co-counselling as a major tool in our own personal growth, teach co-counselling to others, and were once within the Re-evaluation Counseling communities.

We hope that amongst the wide variety of articles will be items of interest to many, both those with no first hand experience of co-counselling, and those who do or have engaged in the process themselves. An introductory article by Rose Evison describes the processes and assumptions of the method, comparing the various current flavours and variations. She attempts to make this account accessible to non co-counsellors, and to enable comparisons to be made with other personal change methods.

John Heron makes use of his extensive and long-time involvement with the method to illustrate an account of the development of co-counselling and also to present a trenchant critique of certain aspects of the evolving structure.

A lucid outline of certain social consequences and implications of co-counselling, as seen from the perspective and experience of the Re-evaluation Counseling Communities, is provided by Georgina Winkley. John Rowan, who has used co-counselling though is not currently linked to any co-counselling organisation, offers some interesting co-counselling and other approaches to personal and social change.

Putting this collection together has, for us, been continually stimulating: we wish you the same!

Rose Evison

John Heron

Richard Horobin