



On mental space psychology politics

Lucas Derks, Robert Hemelaar & René Koppelaar

Ever since the onset of the *Society for Mental Space Psychology* project, we repeatedly discussed its purpose, its goals, and also, what these are NOT.

These questions arose from our familiarity with the “political” issues in organizations of “directions” and “schools” of psychology and psychotherapy in the world.

We want to clarify the points below:

1. MSP is not another therapeutic method. But it is an entire overview on the human mind. It is a paradigm.
2. The society for MSP is **not** another institute that sells courses or therapeutic sessions.

SOMSP is an instrument to facilitate the paradigm shift in the entire field of social science, and in psychology in particular.

3. The relation between the existing methods of spatial psychotherapy and MSP.

The primary focus is to separate the Social Panorama from the much wider scope of MSP.

The social panorama is a psychotherapeutic/coaching method that deals with human relationships, in which spatial interventions are paramount. Its effectivity leads to the conclusion, that it must be caused by space being the foremost force in the mind. Where NLP stood at the cradle of the social panorama, it was the latter that gave rise to the conception of Mental Space Psychology: a psychology based on the assumption that the orientation in space, is the fundamental skill behind all cognition and experience.

From here onwards, all methods of spatial psychotherapy, independent of the agreement or affiliation of the founders/practitioners thereof with MSP, are regarded on the same level. Think of family Constellations, the Wholeness Process, Time Line Therapy etc They all feed the knowledge of MSP. In the same way, all manner of psychological research that involves the role of space in cognition/perception or personal change, is also regarded as feeding MSP.

4. The SOMSP will stay out of any type of commercial certification, franchising, controlling, licensing systems: since these things, so natural in the USA-type of thinking, have proven to cause conflicts and reduce the status of the field.



This implies that there are no SOMSP supported MSP trainer certification programs (just as there did and do not exist any Social Panorama trainer's certification programs for the same reason). Neither is SOMSP controlling any education in this area.

To organize a worldwide network of MSP supporters, the SOMSP picks:

- A. Ambassadors: People who actively promote MSP. You can find them on the SOMSP website (www.somsp.com/ambassadors)
- B. Affiliated organisations: organisations who work in the same or adjacent fields. (www.somsp.com/affiliated)
- C. National Academies for MSP: Independent institutes that profile themselves as proponents of MSP and related skills in a certain nation. (the SOMSP is not controlling these National Academies either. If the SOMSP do not agree with their work, she simply removes them from her website (www.msp-academy.com) National Academies cannot require to be placed on the SOMSP website. Permitted National Academies are obliged to refer to the website of the MSP Academy (www.msp-academy.com))

None of the three categories of chosen affiliations have to pay. All of them, just like all other people in the world, are welcome to sponsor the work of the SOMSP organization financially or otherwise.

5. The distribution of MSP relevant books and material, is taken on by the independent Web shop of SOMSP. (www.shopsomsp.com)
6. The education and research on MSP are coordinated by the International Academy for Mental Space Psychology. (www.msp-academy.com)
7. The Dutch Academy for Mental Space Psychology (Nederlandse Academie voor Mentale Ruimte Psychologie) is an independent alliance of trainers who are in the same relation to SOMSP as any other national academy for MSP. (<https://www.msp-academy.nl/>)