

**IX INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY  
CARLOFORTE 2008**

***“Philosophical counselling and the philosophical life”***

**Proposal: Workshop (section 2)**

**Title: The Screaming Words**

**Field: Philosophical Counselling**

“The Screaming Words” is a workshop aimed at refining the Art of Questioning. It consists in a collective philosophical consultation and serves the purpose of discussing, experimenting, justifying and proposing different possibilities of questioning for the same oral production. It requires 1 volunteer and a group up till 18/20 people.

Ideally, the objective is coming up with the “perfect question” for specific oral productions. Such an objective is pursued by identifying the screaming words in the oral productions.

A screaming word can be one that is revealing of the existence (or lack of it) of logical structure and coherence or a key word in the building of such structure or a word that introduces a philosophical problem.

Brief description of the key moments of the exercise:

- After each answer, the group will identify the words that can be characterized as screaming.
- Justification of the selection of the words as screaming ones.
- Choice of the screaming word that will be “attacked”.
- The group proposes several questions to deal with the screaming word.
- By democratic vote, one question is chosen.
- Why was such question the chosen one? What can it produce? What is its philosophical contribution?
- The author of the selected question poses it to the volunteer.
- The volunteer/client gives his answer.
- The new answer will be subjected to the same process.

This exercise asks of the participants the identification and put to use of the philosophical skills required by each question. By the discussion of different possibilities and their adequacy it becomes clear that the philosophical quality of the consultation lays on the question and the philosophical skills that it makes the client activate.

Identify, Problematize and Conceptualize are the three basic philosophical skills exercised and developed in this workshop.

The workshop ends with the construction of categories in which to group the screaming words.

The Screaming Words Workshop provides “training for the counsellors ear” and functions as an alarm bell in the sense that identifies the philosophical moments of the clients oral productions and, therefore, indicates paths of questioning.

This exercise was developed in 2007 and put to practice in several workshops in Portugal and in Oscar Brenifier International Seminars. It is deemed as a very useful tool for counsellors and trainees since it is a step by step progress towards the formulation of truly philosophical questions.

**Keywords:** *Philosophical Consultation, Counsellors Training, Screaming Word, Group Discussion, Democratic Choice, Philosophical Skills, Identification, Problematization, Conceptualization, Categorization.*

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