

Talk Outline

South Africa is in a crisis. It is too late for relying only on small, incremental changes. We need leaders with the audacity to make themselves visible and take bold and courageous actions towards Big Transformations. How can we assist leaders to connect with their innermost Audacious Desire? This talk will draw from my practice as Advisor in Leadership and focus on the systemic unconscious dynamics affecting leaders' ability and willingness to gain access to, and then make public, act upon and persist towards their innermost desire. I will explore the systemic dynamics of finding the Biko and Mandela within.

Speaker Profile

Jean's passion is to accompany leaders and managers on the lonely road towards continuous transformation and renewal of their institutions. He believes that South Africa, and the world, is in dire need of leaders who have the audacity to believe they can change the world. To this end Jean has founded JCI, a leadership advisory firm in Pretoria, and co-founded the non-profit South African Initiative for Transformative Dialogue (SAITD). Jean is currently involved in the Organisational Consultancy Section of the International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes (IAGP) as well as the International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organisations (ISPSO). When he lived in Chicago he was an active member of the Chicago Center for the Study of Groups and Organisations (CCSGO) as well as the A.K. Rice Institute for Human Relations (AKRI). Jean is registered as an Industrial/ Organisational Psychologist in South Africa and is a member of the Society for Industrial and Organisational Psychology of South Africa (SIOPSA). Jean has consulted to various public and private organisations, specifically on issues related to teams and leadership. He has taught in the fields of organisational psychology, systems- and psychoanalytic group theory and qualitative research methods at the University of Pretoria (South Africa), Northwestern University (Evanston, IL), Columbia University (New York), The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (Chicago), Loyola University (Chicago) and Rosalind Franklin University (Chicago). He has given presentations on his work in Tilburg, Melbourne, San Diego, Chicago and South Africa. Jean's doctoral research was done through the University of Pretoria, with a dissertation titled: "The forces involved in being a member of a small group". Through his research he developed a theory of what it means (and takes) to be a group member – something that he finds particularly useful when dealing with executive teams and boards of directors. Jean has participated, as a member, in group relations conferences in the Tavistock tradition, and served on the consulting staff of group relations conferences at Teachers' College Columbia University, and Northwestern University. He is also a certified Group Relations consultant of the A.K. Rice Institute of Human Relations. Jean loves writing, reading and running and is married to Fransie, they have three children: ages 10, 8 and 6.



Dr Jean Cooper

A TIME AND PLACE FOR AUDACIOUS
LEADERSHIP

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