



In Celebration of Jean-Claude Audergon

Jean-Claude Audergon, our beloved teacher, elder, friend and colleague, and co-founder of Processwork UK, died on the evening of October 27th 2020, at home in Cornwall.

Arlene, his wife, partner and love of his life, and his daughter Lea were with him. Here in the UK community and for many of us around the world, we are bereft - he had to leave us, and this realm, too soon and we are in deep gratitude to have had the privilege to know him.

Whatever we say here will not be enough to truly reflect who he is and his impact on all of us and in the world ...

In the days after his death, many of his colleagues around the world sat together online. Some mentioned it was like a non-local 'sitting shiva' grieving and sharing deeply moving tributes, memories and messages of love. And there has been an outpouring of messages coming in from friends, clients, students and colleagues.

Again and again, people speak about the way Jean-Claude is at once so strong and profoundly gentle; how they felt truly seen by him, often for the first time; about his tenderness and generosity in making himself available to work with them in their most difficult times; about his lightheartedness and playfulness. And how when we are with him, even in the toughest personal and community situations, we feel that unwavering strength, steadiness and stillness and a deep sense that we will somehow be okay and everything is possible.

He often reminded us not to be mesmerised into experiencing consensus reality as the only world, and that seems especially vivid now, as many of us are experiencing his presence in an expanded way - in our night-time dreams and daytime dreaming experiences, as a presence in our work and in our daily lives. We hope that never stops!

He was an extra ordinary man with great vision and passion. To many of us, he lived as a 'radical shaman' - again and again in any situation, turning himself inside out till he found the gold that transformed the outer scene. We saw him constantly diving deep under seemingly impossible complexities and finding the whole problem within himself, and a way forward. And finding that single core point and naming it - like cutting through butter!

His ability and tenacity to stay with the most challenging of spots, is a legacy that has changed the lives of all of us who worked with him.

He was part of the original group of Arnold Mindell's students in the late seventies in Zurich and instrumental in the development of Processwork and Worldwork. He supported the development of the first Processwork institute in Zurich in the early eighties. He co-founded Processwork UK in the late 80's and supported the development of several Processwork schools including in Slovakia and most recently a new school in Germany. He was co-founder of IAPOP, International Association of Process oriented Psychology.

He made important contributions to the development of Processwork in a wide range of areas. He was very interested in working with dreams and the body, and worked with many people dealing with illness, living and dying. He was very touched by the work of Mindell in reaching people in comas, which helped him with his own son, when he had an accident when he was six... and he went on to support others to work with their loved ones in coma.

Jean-Claude made cutting-edge contributions in areas of mental health and extreme states, conducting large seminars in a psychiatric hospital over many years, bringing together in-patients of the hospital, psychiatrists, mental health professionals, students, family, police and community.

He initiated the Arts Atelier, and had a lot of joy in bringing Processwork among artists including actors, improvisers, musicians, and opera singers.

Jean-Claude co-founded CFOR www.cfor.info which is devoted to facilitating communities to process historic and current injustice and tensions and to find pathways forward together. This includes the groundbreaking work facilitating communities impacted by war and genocide including the Balkans and Rwanda. In recent days, he was working on editing film material and the larger question of how to link 'worldwork' and facilitated community interactions with the wider fields of peace-building, social justice, and violence prevention.

JC was dedicated over many years to addressing the entrenched dynamics of structural racism. In his last weeks, and last day he spoke passionately about his wish for all of us to move forward with deepening our commitment and work in addressing and transforming the deep-seated dynamics of structural discrimination and racism.

With his constant focus on understanding systemic change and the link between inner work, relationship work and world work, Jean-Claude inspired and trained

many facilitators over the years, in their work in areas of psychotherapy, organisational facilitation, conflict resolution, reconciliation and social justice.

Jean-Claude was truly visionary in respect to imagining, and researching the applications of Processwork to different fields. In his practice and teaching, he drew on the importance of accuracy of awareness in following the creativity in nature and the potential in us to transform. He had a rare capacity to live from the dreaming and sentient dimensions, whilst relating to the outer, consensus reality context.

Jean-Claude was committed to passing on the tools and skills of Processwork and Worldwork that he felt so privileged to have learned. To the last moments, and perhaps beyond, he continues to research, and encourages that spirit and practice in the rest of us. He urges us to use death as our ally: to not hang back from whatever is important to us in our lives.

We are feeling alongside Arlene, Jean-Claude's partner in their life and work together since 35 years. And we are holding his two children in our hearts, Lea and Andri - JC was so proud of them.

In the coming days, weeks and months there will be more tributes, and a memorial gathering.

For now we send you our deepest love and gratitude, Jean-Claude, and celebrate your presence in our lives. We love you Jean Claude. Thank you

