



Fools Dancing on the Edge Schedule

*The Imaginal Institute's Second Gathering of Fools,
Co-sponsored by the Joseph Campbell Foundation.*

Friday, October 5

5:00: Registration begins

6:00: Wine and cheese reception begins

7:00: Welcome Fools!

7:15 - 8:00: An Exaltation of Larks, An Authority of Fools

A meandering exploration along the edges of foolish authority, to get our juices flowing for the weekend.

Presenter: Leigh Melander

8:00 - 10:00: Festive Fools Open Mic

Poetry, music, and other splendid performance turns from the Fools.

Saturday, October 6

8:00 - 9:00: Breakfast from Café Emporium

8:30 - 9:00: Set up Show and Tell, Book Store open

9:00 - 9:30: Community Introductions

What fools are these, who have gathered along the edge? A brief chance to share a little bit about ourselves.

9:30 - 10:15: Psychology of Ideas: Finding Authority in Possibility

We begin, appropriately enough, our day's conversation in bewilderment. We'll explore how possibility and uncertainty can provide openings into authority, with touches of philosophy and psychology.

Facilitator: Bradley Olson

10:15 - 11:00: Authority in Partnership: Re-Imagining the Hierarchy

How can we stand in our own authority while respecting the authority of others? In this conversation, we'll explore ideas of partnership, communication, and "power with" vs. "power over" as we think about how we live, work, and play with those around us.

Facilitator: Cynthia King

11:00 - 11:15: Break

11:15 - 12:00: The Poetic Doodle, the Doodling Poem

What happens when a group of fools is presented with the gleaming expanse of blank paper and crayons? Poems and doodles...or, perhaps, poodles and doems!

Facilitator: Terri Stiles Alkayali

12:00 - 1:00: Lunch from Rainbow Bridge

1:00 - 1:45: Warriors, Poets, and Fools

We tend to imagine authority and power linked in fairly direct ways to images of heroes and warriors. This conversation will start from another archetypal perspective on authority as offered by the Irish hero Cu Chulainn.

Facilitator: Patty Brundage

1:45 - 2:30: Authority Ridiculi

Don a mask and shed your dignity! Explore the authority of fools through Commedia Dell'Arte and escape the tyranny of the mind.

Facilitator: Susan Kelejian

2:30 - 2:45: Break

2:45 - 3:30: The Edges of Practicality, Community, and Myth

When communities come together for a common purpose, sometimes magic happens, and a certain kind of collective authority emerges. In this conversation, we'll explore how that can become possible.

Facilitator: Steve Gerring

3:30 - 4:15: Eccentricity, Leadership, & the Power of Subversion

We all are leaders in various contexts in our lives, some in community, some professionally, all in our ideas. How can we lead without being certain? Can we provide the infallible strengths of subversion and eccentricity even as we wrestle with our own fallibility?

Facilitator: Annette Marcus

4:15 - 5:00: The Authority of Imagination and Myth

Is there a certain kind of authority in imagination, myth, and creative endeavors? What does this look like, and how does it play out in our lives and work?

Facilitators: Leigh Melander and all of the Fools

5:00 onwards: Fools' Freedom

We have left the evening open for you to gather as you will!

Sunday, October 7

8:00 - 9:00: *Breakfast from Café Emporium*

8:30 *Bookstore and Show and Tell open*

9:00 - 9:45: Fools Molding: Clay and Cultural Exchange

In the spirit of Turkish Fool Hodja, we will play with clay, proclaim our own foolish identities, and explore the openings in cultural exchange.

Facilitator: Jane Hendrickson

9:45 - 10:30: Subversive Education

When do teaching and learning best collide, and how can participants in education be both simultaneously? How can learners learn to "self-author" their own experiences, and step into the world with creativity and a sense of stewardship? And how can teachers learn to dance with the multiple issues of authority in their experiences? What can we do to make learning subversive rather than subservient?

Facilitators: Sally Carless and Lily Kal

10:30 - 10:45: *Break*

10:45 - 11:30: Death of the Author: What Comes Now?

We've spent the weekend examining authority. However, with Roland Barthes' challenge to ideas of authorship, a new series of questions about the nature of creation and authority have emerged. How do these ideas bounce off of what we've talked about so far? And how do they shape our creative work and our lives?

Facilitators: Leigh Melander and all of the Fools

11:30 - 12:00: Touching Fingertips, Finding Constellations

This is a final opportunity for Foolish "Show and Tell" – Fools who would like to share a bit about projects they are working on are welcome to do so here. How can we support one another in our newly minted foolish authority?

Facilitators: Leigh Melander and all Fools

12:00 - 1:00: *Lunch from Rainbow Bridge*

1:00: Farewell to Fools!

Ongoing Foolish Threads

Fool's Gold: Show and Tell

During breaks and over meals, Fools are invited to check out each other's displays of their work and interests. We've chosen to do this informally so no Fool is put on the spot -- this is your chance to connect with one another about common interests and potential project collaborations on your own terms.

The Bookstore

We will have an array of books and other merchandise from our co-sponsors, the Joseph Campbell Foundation for sale, all for the better following of your bliss. Foolish Campbellian Steve Gerring is in charge here, and will be available during breaks to fulfill all of your blissful needs!

In addition, if any Fools have books or other media that you've produced and would like to make available to your fellows, please feel free to bring them! You can add them to the Bookstore array. Please note, however, that you should be prepared to do your own staffing/selling -- we decided that instead of the Imaginal Institute getting involved in these sales that it made far more sense for you to have the opportunity to cut your own deals with one another directly.

***When in doubt,
make a fool of yourself.
There is a microscopically thin line between being brilliantly creative
and acting like the most gigantic idiot on earth.
So what the hell, leap.
Cynthia Heimel***