

Abstract No. 5.4 Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 14:15-15:00

Title: Affective sense of touch and movement in shaping closeness

Presenter: Ivana Macokatic, Day-care Centre for Rehabilitation Mali dom-
Zagreb, Croatia

Co-presenters: Ana Katusic

Main focus: Both research and practice/Both congenital and acquired deafblindness

Abstract: There is growing neuroscience evidence that one of the modalities of somatosensory system – touch – offers, except well recognized discriminative input, also an affective input to the brain. The neurons in the skin responsible for detecting affective touch activates insular cortex, the area known to be responsible for processing emotions and related to social communication. This is why affective sense of touch plays an important role in many forms of social interaction and in the development of bonding.

The aim of the workshop is to observe and to experience how different qualities of touch and movement can shape our interaction and mutual understanding. The focus will be on the awareness of various modes of touch and movement that we can apply to enhance relations and bonding in our social surrounding. By exploring different context in which we use touch in affective way, as the movement, the workshop will strike parallels for development of closeness and communication in people with deafblindness. Within applying Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis and Somatic Practice™, the participants will be engaged in defining three modes of movements (Shape Flow, Directional Movement and Shaping Movement) and their impact on social interaction for individuals with deafblindness. Through interactive and learning experience, the participants will explore their own body shape during relations with others and also discuss, within neuroscientific frame of affective touch, what is happening in central processing of this submodality, if someone is unable to use vision or hearing in social communication.