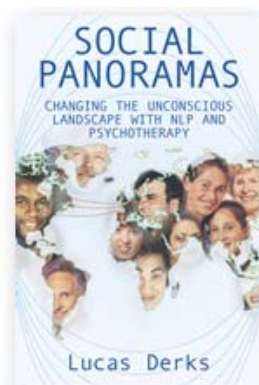


Lucas Derks' work on Social Panoramas has been attracting an increasing amount of attention since its publication last year. The latest endorsement of his work has come from the eminent therapist Ruben Battino, author of best selling Ericksonian Approaches. In his recent book, Expectation, Ruben devotes a chapter to Derks' work. An extract of which appears below:

'Given my fixation of reframing, it is always exciting to come across a new and different way to reframe (even if the author may not think of his contribution in these terms). Nevertheless, I am allowed my prejudice of thinking of Lucas Derks's new book (2005) as a major contribution to the literature on reframing, and a fascinating way of working with clients. One might even consider it to be a paradigmic shift as in Kopp's changing from therapist-centred to client-centred metaphors.

Derks states in his postscript with respect to "social panoramas" that this is "The first book on the subject ever to see the light of day." As such Derks made an important contribution in providing a well researched primer on the subject. Although this may be considered an elaboration of the NLP "Swich" techniques (or changing personal history, or time line therapy), and an extension of E.T. Hall's "proxemics" (Hall, 1959), it is much more.

The social panoramas is a major breakthrough in how to think about and work with client's "stuckness." To Derks, a client is stuck spatially – two – and three dimensionally – in a particular social panorama. His brilliant solution is to have the client alter and adjust their social panorama (and their position in it) so that they are no longer bound or controlled by the old configuration. In that sense, you might even consider this to be a kind of spatial reframing that is connected to Satir's family sculpting or Moreno's psychodrama, but in a more streamlined and effective format. Derks has in fact created almost endless "techniques" (61 of them!) for working through various concerns. His chapter on the spiritual panorama is especially interesting for its insights on the subject. The chapter on training is quite pragmatic. This new work by Derks is a fascinating and practical way to help clients "see" themselves in new and useful life panoramas. That kind of seeing sets them free! I recommend this book highly; it is well-worth studying in detail.'



Social Panoramas: Changing the unconscious landscape with NLP and psychotherapy

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