

Survey results - Biodanza in the World (July 2012) by Stefano Brumat

Translation by PJ (May 2014)

Conflicts

Virtually all teachers (92%) noted the existence of conflicts in Biodanza and 64% of them believe that these are inconsistent with the Biodanza message. If 57% considered conflicts to be natural, 52% thought that conflicts should be resolved. Regarding the causes, 76% think they're caused by personal differences, 54% by the lack of a common vision and 45% by lack of communication. When further feedback was asked for, 44 teachers gave univocal answers; they saw the main causes of conflict as too much ego and competition.

What do you think are the causes of conflict?

1. Fears
2. I believe that conflicts exist because people are different from one another and it is impossible to homogenize people.
3. Fears and hypersensitivity
4. Non-transcended egos
5. Territoriality and focus on 'my own little patch'
6. More humility is needed in order to understand everybody's reasons, putting our ego in 2nd place and cooperating so that everybody's light is able to shine
7. I think that the conflicts that Biodanza is currently facing are primarily due to a power struggle between the family who have inherited the system, and this situation is affecting everyone; and secondly that the system does not work with a sense of unity, each school director and teacher working towards their own personal ends without weaving together a truly affective network. There is much talk about empathy, feedback, resonance, syntony, putting ourselves in other people's shoes, but these are just empty words. We are still in development, however we must transcend our big egos in order to become an integrative system.
8. There is too much ego in biodanza and a kind of monarchical system that does little to the movement.
9. I see the need for an ethics committee.
10. Firstly I feel that those who have inherited the system are in a power struggle and that energy will stain the whole system. Secondly I think the original message of Biodanza is getting lost in the midst of the egos of those who coordinate schools and regular groups and want to monopolize regions, monopolize students, and monopolize the system.
11. I believe that there is some sort of mishandling of egos between biodanza schools. There is a lot of noise.
12. I'm referring more to the IBF than to the dancers in general.
13. Conflicts exist because we are unique individuals and what you see isn't always seen by the other.
14. Conflicts arise more between facilitators trying to grab students, and in many situations not realizing the boomerang effect.
15. I believe that conflicts are often not dealt with as growth factors to be resolved, but as things to be hidden and ignored, thus going against the biodanza vision.
16. Many facilitators are only interested in money and number of students.

17. Sometimes I get the feeling that each facilitator feels like a star with their followers, bigger and better than the others, and hardly participating in other groups. We need to promote and support each other more, to validate and recognise each other's strengths.
18. Too much ego, too little personal development.
19. Regarding the personal conflicts and money-related problems, which surely exist, I think they shouldn't be confused with the system. It's important to emphasize that the continuous proposal is to generate a union of wills for a better quality of natural life. Strengthen the dialogue and the common vision to be able to clearly see the proposal of biodanza. To know where we came from and where we are going, and that basically and fundamentally this is a pro-life movement.
20. We need to do a lot of work with the ego, the habitual tendency to control, to want things our way; we need to create strategies for dialogue and consensus.
21. I believe that conflict is inevitable, and this is linked to the diversity that differentiates the biodanza network; conflict is a natural element of every social group and can be healthy. I would be more worried if there were no conflicts.
22. In most cases, the problems that exist are due to double or quadruple speech. Most teachers, including didactics, and particularly those at the top, are dissociated. They can give beautiful speeches but their actions are absolutely dissociated. This generates mega-egos, genitalizes people even more, generates more confusion and the worst of all is that it alienates in a very twisted way because it makes them believe that they are making real progress in their personal development when the reality is totally different.
23. Big individual egos are not conducive to teamwork; teamwork is difficult when big egos are involved.
24. Sometimes I think the system needs to attend to the difficulties of transcending the ego.
25. The conflicts are due to lack of personal development and poorly worked egos.
26. The conflicts that I see are the usual in group dynamics, but terribly accentuated in endogamous (inbred) groups; and yes, it is incoherent to not be open to the fluctuations of the interactions. Besides the power struggles that stand out, rivalries between schools and family members are also very human, but in this context they seem dissonant.
27. Lack of time for meetings that would help to clarify common objectives. We continue to work individually, with little connection.
28. I think that in biodanza the conflicts are old stories that unfortunately continue to affect the movement because they separate and cut communication between schools. There is a lot of pettiness and meanness at level of school directors and those fears are transferred to the students in training. It becomes a vicious circle. I do not know how they can heal their differences, because biodanza becomes confused with those personal and family issues. It's not easy to heal, I just hope that one day they are able to embrace without bad feelings and dance together again with an open heart.
29. I see conflicts as having a common denominator, the ego. And I think that biodanza does very little when it comes to working with the ego in a coherent way.

30. Unfortunately the ego gets bigger among some teachers and that leads to personalism (allegiance to a particular leader rather than to a movement).
31. The only way to change these problems is by generating an open and mature dialogue about the existing conflicts. Biodanza, which is made up of people, should be constantly evaluated as an organic current that is open to experiential learning, and this dialogue should be reflective, with free discussion forums for facilitators, and a network that encourages reflection.
32. "Competence"
33. I see that in our mission we touch the light. Perhaps the untouched shadows are manifesting in veiled competition? I believe that facilitators are stimulated and celebrated a lot, and need great care to ensure that their egos don't get inflated. I see much vanity in the biodanza movement. The money and power issues permeate the conflicts in the IBF as an institution.
34. Perhaps we need to become more accepting of the existence of conflicts without needing to deny them. More conscious communication tools would also be helpful.
35. Complete absence of authentic and courageous dialogue.
36. If all the teachers consistently practiced the Biodanza concepts, which are of an affective nature, and sowed the seeds of love that are lacking in the world, then promoting the system would be much more viable.
37. Inherent in every human being
38. I see a lot of competition
39. There is still a lot of ego in the facilitators and the purpose of Biodanza is not to develop the ego but something much more transcendental
40. I see the need for deeper personal development of the facilitators; to abandon the idea that Biodanza is a "miracle" by itself; to share different views and approaches and be intent on overcoming the pronounced narcissism that exists.
41. It seems to me that we need to be consistent with what we feel, think and do because Rolando proposed the human encounter, and what I observe is that each person who has contributed towards biodanza says that it was him or her that created this or that, and is not aware of what others are doing. For example, I heard that someone created biocentric education, now others claim that they were the ones who created it, thus showing that they're mainly acting from the ego.
42. Difficulties accepting differences
43. Often it is envy or judging each other, which is inconsistent with what we're proposing.
44. It seems to me that sometimes competition is created between human groups by culture, and sometimes we see who is a facilitator just for the love of biodanza and who's in it for money.
45. Conflicts are generated by self-centeredness.