

40th Annual International Conference on Critical Thinking

JULY 22 - 26, 2020 IN THE ARKANSAS OZARKS

PRE-CONFERENCE: JULY 22

MAIN CONFERENCE: JULY 23 - 26

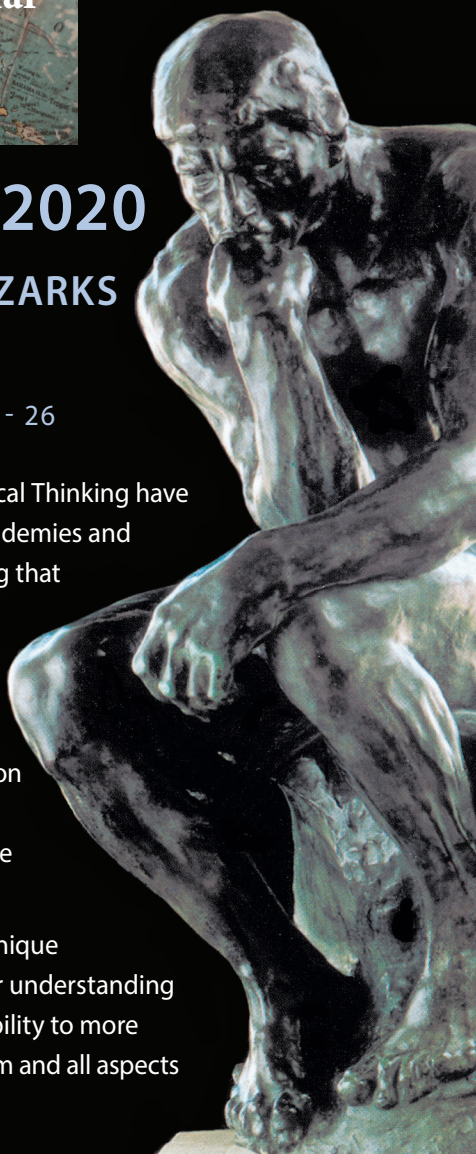
The Center and Foundation for Critical Thinking have together hosted critical thinking academies and conferences for four decades. During that time, we have played a key role in defining, structuring, assessing, improving, and advancing the principles and best practices of fairminded critical thought in education and society. We invite you to join us for the 40th International Conference on Critical Thinking.

Our annual conference provides a unique opportunity for you to improve your understanding of critical thinking, as well as your ability to more substantively foster it in the classroom and all aspects of your work and life.

The conference is designed to empower participants both theoretically and pragmatically. All sessions are grounded in carefully refined concepts and provide practical ways to come to terms with critical thinking practices. There are many ways to begin to implement critical thinking; participants



will be exposed to a variety of strategies to improve teaching and learning. This will include ways to design instruction so that on a typical day, students will take ownership of the content they are learning. It will include strategies in the art of critical reading, writing, speaking, and listening. All sessions will entail active participation by all attendees. Expect lively discussions and a meaningful exchange of ideas with other participants. New registrants will be introduced to the foundations of critical thinking; returning registrants will deepen their understanding of critical thinking and their ability to foster it.



Focal Session Presenters at this Year's Conference Include...



Dr. Linda Elder is an educational psychologist and international authority on critical thinking. President and Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Critical Thinking, she has taught psychology and critical thinking at the college level and has given presentations to more than 50,000 educators and leaders. She is author of *Liberating the Mind: Overcoming Sociocentric Thought and Egocentric Tendencies*, and is coauthor of Twenty-Four Thinker's Guides as well as four books (including *30 Days to Better Thinking and Better Living through Critical Thinking*). Concerned with understanding and illuminating the relationship between thinking and affect, as well as the barriers to critical thinking, Dr. Elder has placed these issues at the center of her thinking and work.

Dr. Gerald Nosich is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Critical Thinking and a prominent authority on critical thinking. He has given more than 150 national and international workshops on critical thinking, has worked with the U.S. Department of Education on a project for the National Assessment of Higher Order Thinking skills, has served as the Assistant Director of the Center for Critical Thinking, and has been featured as a Noted Scholar at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Nosich is Professor Emeritus at SUNY Buffalo State and the University of New Orleans. He is also the author of three books, including *Learning to Think Things Through: A Guide to Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum*.



Ms. Carmen Polka has worked diligently to infuse critical thinking into her classroom instruction, curriculum, and assessment for more than eighteen years. Focused on transforming education through the implementation of quality instructional practices, Ms. Polka instigated and co-authored the Colorado Academic State Standards, targeting research and reasoning based on the Paul-Elder framework. As a leader and critical thinking expert in her district, she led professional development and coached K-12 teachers to effectively utilize Paulian theory. Ms. Polka is currently a principal at an elementary school, a Doctoral candidate in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program at the University of Northern Colorado, and a licensed K-12 Special Education teacher.

Dr. Brian Barnes holds a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Humanities and an MA in Philosophy from the University of Louisville. Barnes is a veteran of the US Army, along with other non-academic careers, and currently teaches face-to-face and online classes at several universities in traditional philosophy topics, sustainability, and critical thinking. He has co-authored articles examining critical thinking strategies and tactics for the National Teaching and Learning Forum, and is author of the textbook, *The Central Question: Critical Engagement with Business Ethics*. Barnes co-hosts the weekly radio show, *Critical Thinking for Everyone!*, on 106.5 Forward Radio in Louisville; he also created *Adventures in Critical Thinking*, a critical thinking comic book series.



Dr. Paul Bankes For more than seventeen years, Dr. Bankes has played an important leadership role in fostering the Paulian conception of critical thinking in multiple school districts. As a principal, he led the implementation of this critical thinking approach to bring about state-recognized levels of achievement in three different Title I schools: a high school, a middle school, and an elementary school. He helped author the reasoning portion of the Colorado Academic Standards that are based on the Paul-Elder framework. In addition to his administrative experience, Dr. Bankes was an elementary school teacher, continues teaching critical thinking courses at the college level, and is currently serving as a Director on his School Board of Education.

The works of the Fellows of the Foundation for Critical Thinking have been translated into many languages, including French, Greek, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, German, and Polish.

For detailed descriptions of the conference sessions and conference theme, visit criticalthinking.org.



ABOUT US:

The Center and Foundation for Critical Thinking are sister institutions which focus on the cultivation of fairminded critical societies.

Throughout our work we emphasize and argue for the importance of teaching for critical thinking in a strong, rather than a weak, sense. We are committed to a clear and “substantive” concept of critical thinking (rather than one that is ill-defined): a concept that interfaces well with the disciplines, that integrates critical with creative thinking, that applies directly to the needs of everyday and professional life, that emphasizes the affective and cognitive dimensions of critical thinking, and that highlights intellectual standards and traits. We advocate a concept of critical thinking that organizes instruction in every subject area at every educational level.

All conference sessions will be designed to converge on basic critical thinking principles and to enrich a core concept of critical thinking. Many offer practical teaching and learning strategies.



CONFERENCE LOCATION: THE ARKANSAS OZARKS - BENTONVILLE:

The Pre-Conference and Main Conference will be held Wednesday, July 22 - Sunday, July 26 in Bentonville, Arkansas, located in the Ozark Mountain region. All Conference sessions and activities will take place in several Downtown venues, all within easy walking distance of each other. Registration fees cover tuition, learning materials, and beverages like coffee and tea.

Registration Fees:

Early-Bird Rates – if paid by May 22, 2020:

Main Conference Only – **\$790**

Main Conference & Pre-Conference – **\$995**

Standard Rates – if paid AFTER May 22, 2020:

Main Conference Only – **\$870**

Main Conference & Pre-Conference – **\$1,095**

(Price is per attendee; check website for group rates.)



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW:

PRE-CONFERENCE (July 22, 2020)

Choose one of the following sessions to attend...

- **For Higher Education:** Foundations of Critical Thinking: Essential Tools for Teaching and Learning in Every Field of Study at Every Level... Brian Barnes
- **For K-12:** Foundations of Critical Thinking: Essential Tools for Teaching and Learning in Every Field of Study at Every Level... Paul Bankes and Carmen Polka
- Teaching Students to Write Significant Papers Using Explicit Tools of Critical Thinking... Gerald Nosich

CONFERENCE DAY ONE (July 23)

Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address for all attendees...

- Why Intellectual Traits Are Essential to Critical Thinking... Linda Elder and Gerald Nosich

Choose one of the following sessions to attend (morning)...

- Using Peer Review on a Typical Day to Foster Substantive Critical Thinking... Carmen Polka
- Teaching Students to Use Critical Thinking Standards to Assess Reasoning... Gerald Nosich
- Bringing Rigorous Standards for Thought to Business and Government for Higher Level Reasoning... Brian Barnes

Choose one of the following sessions to attend (afternoon)...

- Teaching Students to Think Within the Logic of a Field or Discipline... Gerald Nosich
- Fostering Critical Thinking in the Secondary Classroom... Paul Bankes
- Tools of Rigorous Analysis for Business and Government... Brian Barnes
- **Advanced Session:** Why I Read in the Classics and Why Students (and You) Should Too... Linda Elder

CONFERENCE DAY TWO (July 24)

Choose one of the following sessions to attend (morning)...

- Bringing Robust Questions into Teaching and Learning at a Practical Level... Brian Barnes
- Helping Students Think Through Complexities Using Critical Thinking... Gerald Nosich
- **For Administrators:** How to Develop a Successful Long-Term Staff Development Plan that Fosters Critical Thinking... Paul Bankes and Carmen Polka

For all attendees (afternoon)...

- **Roundtable Discussions:** Choose at the conference.

Choose one of the following sessions to attend (afternoon)...

- Using the Practical Tools of Critical Thinking to Teach Students How to Study and Learn... Gerald Nosich
- Cultivating Evidence-Based Decision-Making in Business and Government... Brian Barnes
- Liberating the Mind Through Critical Thinking... Linda Elder

CONFERENCE DAY THREE (July 25)

- **Concurrent Sessions:** Choose at the conference.

CONFERENCE DAY FOUR (July 26)

Choose one of the following sessions to attend (morning)...

- Designing Instruction So That Students Learn to Think Things Through... Gerald Nosich
- Critical Reading as a Primary Tool for Educating the Mind... Carmen Polka
- Tackling Climate Change Through the Tools of Criticality... Brian Barnes

Closing session for all attendees...

- Bringing It All Together and Beginning to Develop a Plan for Moving Forward... All Fellows and Scholars

After the Conference - (Day four afternoon)...

- International Summit on the Advancement of Critical Thinking Across the World... everyone invited, see website for details

Celebrating 40 years of working toward essential change in education and society through the cultivation of fairminded critical thinking.

To register or for more details – visit:

www.criticalthinking.org and select *Conferences & Events*



The Foundation for Critical Thinking

800-833-3645 www.criticalthinking.org

P.O. Box 196, Tomales, CA 94971

