

**Professor Linden West, Canterbury Christ Church University**

***Transforming perspectives in lifelong learning and adult education:  
an auto/biographical pilgrimage***

My presentation is partly the outcome of a long dialogue with Professor Laura Formenti, from the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, about transformative learning, transformation and the idea of perspective, which will result in a new book to be published this year (Formenti and West, 2018). We are a man and a woman, from different parts of Europe, nurtured in different kinds of family, community, gendered roles, as well national and academic cultures. We have sought to learn from each other, auto/biographically and dialogically, using different perspectives and narrative research to weave new, shared, cooperative understanding. We have also dialogued with a diverse range of others in what amounts to a kind of meaning making pilgrimage: with Mezirow, Brookfield, Freire, Tawney, Williams, Freud, Jung, Spielrein, Bateson, Dewey, Dante, Dirxx, Honneth, Kokkos, Lorenzetto, Corradi, Gramsci, Tisdale and Fraser. We are, as a result, challenging various binaries in the literature and in the separation of different forms of experience, knowledge, and learning. We question overly competitive academic behaviours and my presentation in Athens focuses on how an understanding of transformation and transformative learning is enriched if we go beyond binary thinking, and enter a kind of perspectival pilgrimage.



I am Professor of Education at Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) in the United Kingdom. I have worked for the Open University, as a broadcaster and am a registered psychoanalytic psychotherapist. I have extensive experience of international work and research collaboration. I have taught in many countries including Poland, Denmark, Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Canada, the United States and France. I have examined and or supervised PhDs in Australia, Denmark, France, Canada, South Africa, Lithuania, Slovenia, and the Cameroon, Italy and France.

**Honours**

Award for ‘*an outstanding contribution to the theory and practice of transformative learning*’ at the 12th International Conference on Transformative Learning, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington State, October, 2016.

**Research and scholarship**

My research and scholarship are interdisciplinary – or what I call psychosocial – and I have explored learning and educational processes in different post-industrial communities. I have developed auto/biographical and narrative research methods, in a clinical style, to illuminate the complex experiences of diverse individuals and groups.