The Bridge

A recent Scandinavian drama series demonstrated physical and metaphorical boundaries between two countries. ‘The Bridge’ grappled with issues of personal and national identity and culture. It facilitated an opening up, allowing each side to view people, places and identities from a number of different perspectives, in an effort to develop the richest understanding possible.

To bridge the gap between innovative research and practice in Early Intervention and an underdeveloped system is challenging. Our recent conference on Early Intervention showed evidence that Ireland is enriched as a landscape in terms of Early Intervention, but without a unifying discourse.

If boundaries exist they cause fragmentation. To dissolve these boundaries the conference provided an opportunity for what Isaacs (1999) refers to as ‘the art of listening together’. In listening together, a fundamental shift in perspective is required if we are to advocate for the ‘whole’; to see the whole cloth, not different strands. Our conversations should have a ‘centre not sides’ (Isaacs, 1999).

Ideas flowed, multiple voices were heard – the conference merged ideologically with contemporary discourses of Early Intervention which may lead to something new, exciting and generative, placing the needs of vulnerable children and parents at the centre.

Reference: