

Frequently Asked Questions

How Collaborative-Dialogic practitioners describe themselves and the work they do?

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The Survey

As collaborative practitioners we are frequently asked about the way we describe ourselves and the work we do. Over the years, we have had conversations about the challenges we face choosing words to answer this question.

Responding to this challenge, we created an online survey in English and Spanish with the following questions and distributed it among the members of our collaborative dialogic community.

“In one word please describe yourself and the work you do as a collaborative-dialogic practitioner.”

“En una palabra describe tu trabajo y tu identidad como un profesional colaborativo-dialógico.”

The Responses

We sent an email to all ICCP program directors, board members and other colleagues inviting them to answer the question and share the survey with students and colleagues in their collaborative community.

We received 53 responses, after reading and analyzing them, we classified the participant’s words in three categories.

- Activities/Professions. 12 responses representing 19.6%
 The way participants describe the context where they do it
- Verbs: 18 responses representing 35.3%
 The way participants describe what they do
- Characteristics/Attitudes: 23 responses that represent 45.1 %
 The way participants describe themselves

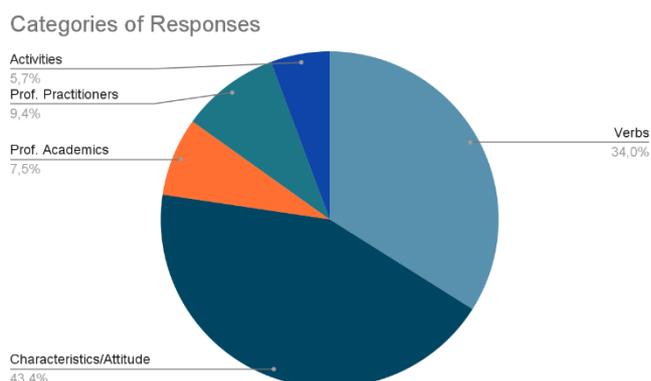


Figure 1: The following graphic represents the categories and percentages

Reflections on the collected data

Activities/Professions

The responses classified as activities/ professions are divided in two categories:

- Activities: “the doing of something...”
 - The activities that were mentioned: facilitator, conversationalist, and curious companion, can be applied to a variety of professional practices
- Professions: “a paid occupation, especially one that involves prolonged training and a formal qualification”.
 - The responses in this subcategory were divided in two categories:
 - Academic/scholar
 - The participants used the words: academic, author, dialogic faculty and educator to refer to the academic world
 - Practitioner
 - The practitioners were represented by the words: therapist (3), clinical psychologist and consultant. Therapist (3 times) was the most popular word in this category representing 25% of the words used to depict professions at large.

Verbs

In the “verb category” the words emphasize the act of “being in conversations and relationships”. The words are: listening (6 times), practicing (3 times), conversing (2 times), accompanying (2 times), exploring together (2 times), promoting, giving voice and teaching. The most popular word in the survey was listening (6 times). This emphasizes the importance the act of listening has for this community, as a main characteristic for being in dialogue and relationship with the other.

Characteristics/Attitude

Finally, the “characteristics/attitude” category reflects the richness of words collaborative-dialogic practitioners use to express what they value as human beings and the way these values guide their actions in the construction of their personal and professional identity. The words include reflexive (2 times), curiosity (2 times), openness (2 times), respect (2 times), humanist (2 times), trust, solidarity, rhizomatic, flexible, subversive, diversity, creative, genuine, benevolent, responsiveness, honesty, feeling-thinking, sponge.

In Closing

This survey reflects the diversity of words and categories the collaborative-dialogic community uses to describe themselves and their work. We hope that the richness of language provides ways to keep on elaborating on who we are and the work we do. We would like to thank the survey participants for their promptness and generosity.

Choose a word to describe yourself and your work as a collaborative-dialogic practitioner



Figure 3: Responses with categories and percentages

CHARACTERISTICS/ ATTITUDES (23)	ACTIVITIES/ PROFESSIONS/ (12)	VERBS (18)
	Activities (3) 25% Professions (9) 75% Academic/Scholar (4) 44.4% Practitioner (5) 55.5%	
43.4%	22.64%	34.0%
Reflexive (2) 8.6%	ACTIVITY (3) 25%	Listening (6) 33.33%
Curiosity (2) 8.6%	Facilitator 8.3%	Practicing (3) 16.6%
Openness (2) 8.6%	Conversationalist 8.3%	Conversing (2) 11.11%
Respect (2) 8.6%	Curious Companion 8.3%	Accompanying (2) 11.11%
Humanist (2) 8.6%		Exploring together (2) 11.11%

Trust 4.3%	PROFESSIONS (9) 75%	Promoting 5.5%
Solidarity 4.3%	ACADEMIC/SCHOLAR (4) 44.4%	Giving Voice 5.5%
Rhizomatic 4.3%	Academic 8.3%	Teaching 5.5%
Flexible 4.3%	Author 8.3%	
Subversive 4.3%	Dialogic faculty 8.3%	
Diversity 4.3%	Educator 8.3%	
Creative 4.3%		
Genuine 4.3%	PRACTITIONERS (5) 55.5%	
Benevolent 4.3%	Therapist (3) 25%	
Responsivity 4.3%	Clinical Psychologist 8.3%	
Honesty 4.3%	Consultant 8.3%	
Feeling/thinking 4.3%		
Sponge 4.3%		