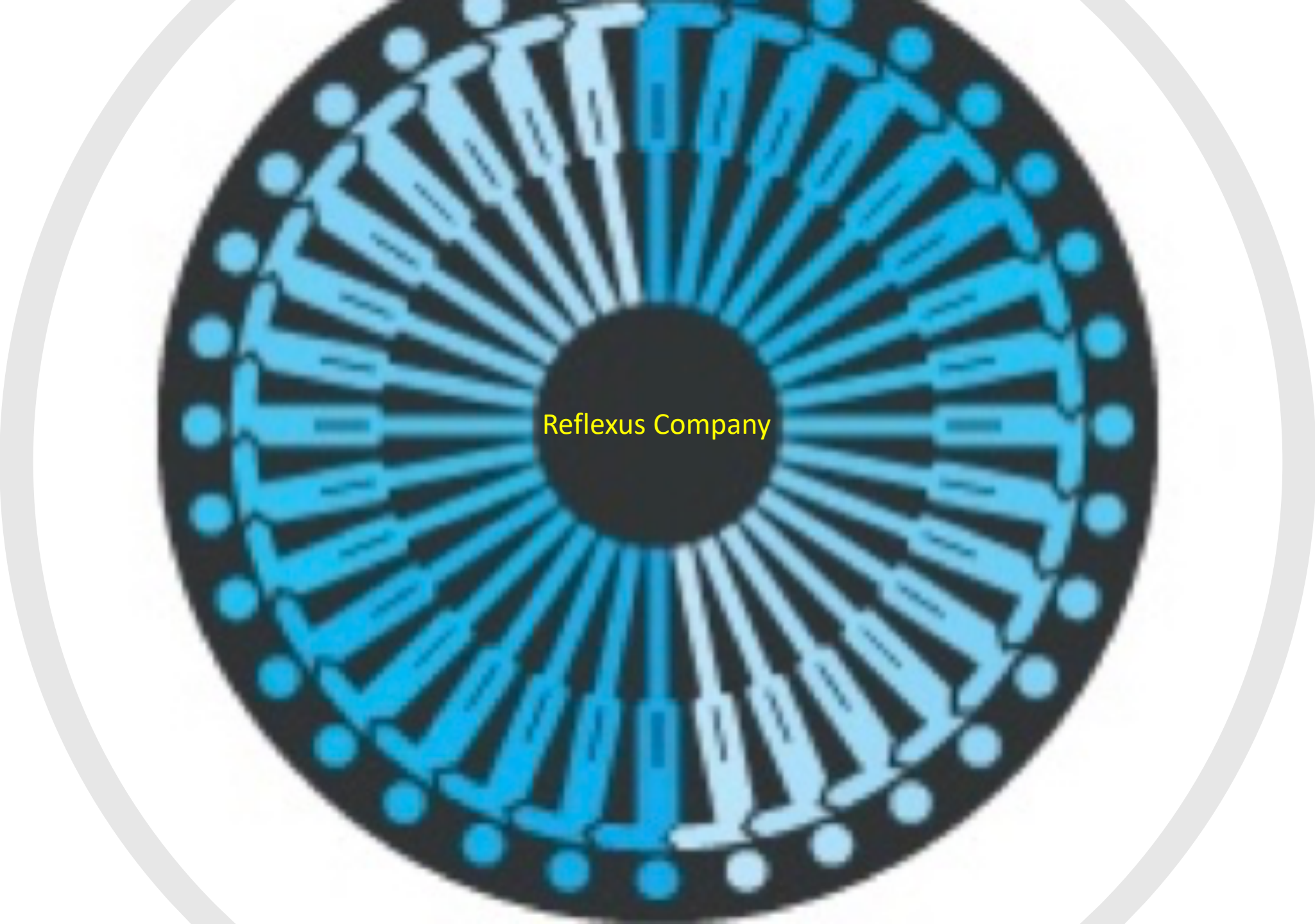


Structure in social systems

Part One: JL Moreno and Sociometry

The logo features a circular arrangement of stylized human figures in blue, holding hands to form a ring. The figures are positioned around a central black circle. The entire design is set against a white background with a light gray circular border.

Reflexus Company

Welcome to this presentation on *structure in social systems*.

This part one: JL Moreno and Sociometry introduces Moreno's action research and action science.

Most often, MIT's Kurt Lewin is cited as the source of action research. In this presentation, you will read Moreno's thoughts about the matter. But more importantly, if you are not aware of Moreno's work, you will see anew that action research as a study of networks of relations forming community matrices performed by the community.

This presentation was first shared at the 2005 Society for Organizational Learning Global Conference Vienna Austria: Social Action Research: Reflections on well being.

Very best wishes

Dennis Sandow

Sociometry was born in 1915 while I was a student of medicine and an officer of health in a concentration camp in Austria of 10,000 Italians. Here I saw the community develop from scratch. I saw for the first time a sociogram and charted this whole community. This was a beginning of a new applied science- the science of a group. (Moreno 1970)

The soil for sociometry was prepared by the thinking of J. Baldwin, C.H. Cooley, G.H. Mead, W.I. Thomas and particularly John Dewey. Sociologists and educators were the first to accept it. Psychiatrists were the slowest. (p. 52: Moreno, 1955)

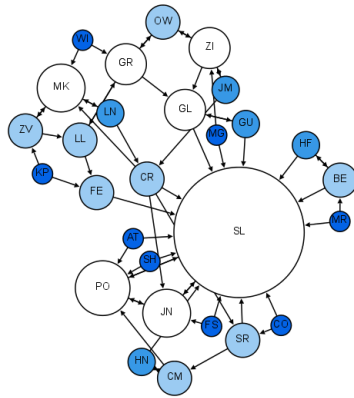
The similarities between Kurt Lewin's work in action and group research and my own has been so striking that many have wondered what kind of interdependence there is between Lewin and myself. (p. 91: Moreno 1955)

Lewin's dependence (on me) can be further shown in three respects. a) The Sociometric Institute served consciously or unconsciously as a model for the Research Center for Group Dynamics. b) The divergence between his theory and his actual research work. Lewin was original as a theoretician but his experimental work in group and action dynamics was not original. C) The techniques which made his work popular stem from me. (pg 95 Moreno 1955)

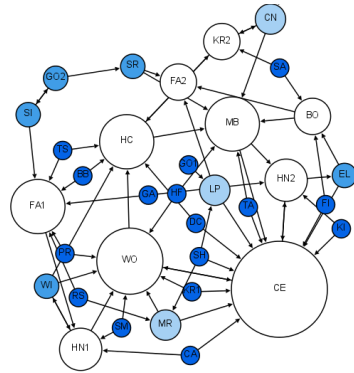
Sociometry means measurement of social relations, in its broadest sense, all measurement of all social relations. (p. 7: Moreno, 1951)

Sociometry is the sociology of the people, by the people, and for the people; here this axiom is applied to social research itself. (Rule of universal participation in action.) But the experimenter, by giving up his identity... has gained something: he is having experience, experience in situ; he is learning. (p. 61: Moreno, 1953)

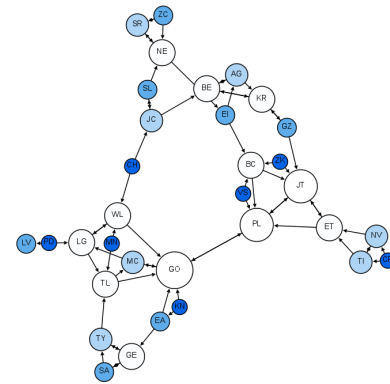
JL Moreno 1939 [Who Shall Survive?](#)



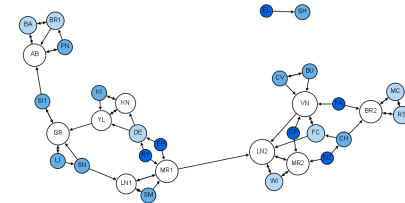
1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade

*"We have studied group formation
in three ways."*

*The first way may be called
observational and interpretative.*

*We watched the children as, free of
supervision, they ran out of school to
the playgrounds, the manner in
which they grouped themselves
spontaneously.*

We then approached the task from a different angle (Partnership).

Instead of observing the formation of groups from without we entered into the group, became a part of it, and registered its intimate developments.

But we cannot adequately comprehend the central direction of an individual in his development neither through observation, for instance, a child, through watching its most spontaneous expression, its play life, nor through partnership.

Considering group formation, we must make the members of the prospective groups themselves the authors of the groups to which they belong. To reach a more accurate knowledge of group organization the sociometric test is used."