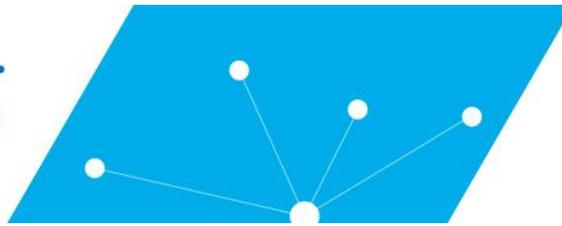
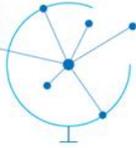


ICCT2018  
FOR THE FUTURE!



# Opening day 3 of the ICCT 2018

## April 20, 2018

Kees Bregman, chairman of the conference

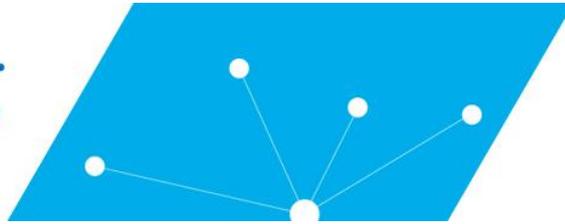
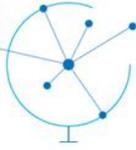
Ladies and gentlemen, fellow contextual workers and colleague professionals in therapy, social work and counselling – on behalf of the Institute of Contextual Approach of the Christian University of Applied Sciences Ede The Netherlands, I welcome you to **the International Conference on Contextual Therapy 2018**.

My name is Kees Bregman, I am honored to be your chairman today. Besides my work as a minister in the Protestant Church of the Netherlands, I am a teacher and trainer in Contextual Pastoral Care and Counselling.

We have been brought together by a common interest: the contextual approach of Ivan Boszormenyi-Nagy (1920-2007). We appreciate very much that his wife doctor Catharine Ducommun-Nagy is with us today. She is clinical associate professor in couple and family therapy, psychiatrist and for decades academic teacher of contextual therapy. Welcome to you! We also welcome our key-note speakers: Hanneke Meulink-Korf, with the late Aat van Rhijn founding parents of the contextual approach in pastoral care. Peter Rober, full professor in clinical psychology and family therapist, and Rasmi Gangamma, assistant professor in Marriage and Family therapy and also family therapist, we are glad that you are with us to share your knowledge and opinions.

**'For the future'** is our theme. For three reasons, Jaap van der Meiden pointed out, two days ago, at the beginning of the conference. First, *out of concern for the future of the earth* – Ivan Boszormenyi-Nagy has repeatedly expressed his conviction that current generations are responsible for a livable world for future generations. Second, *out of concern for the future of reciprocal care*. We have good reasons to be worried about the stability and responsibility in relationships in western society nowadays. Contextual theory shows a way to fair and trustful living together. Third, *out of concern for the future of the contextual approach itself*. Times are changing, generations come and go, time and again we need to rethink the concepts of the contextual approach, how to explain the core of relational ethics, how to act in light of other psychological and systemic therapeutic approaches, answering questions about merging models, evidence-based or practice-based research and so on. I would like to underline that it is proper to the contextual approach to integrate the best of all existing disciplines, as Nagy himself said. Today we hope to take a step forward. For the future!

Well, we could start now, with a lot of listening to spoken words and sharing ideas talking to each other, but I thought, maybe it would be a good idea to begin otherwise. Let's say, *emotionally*



*focused*. Family is a sensitive subject to discuss (*blood is thicker than water, isn't it?*), and family therapy too. Loyalty is always at stake, often *hidden loyalty*. I thought it would be appropriate to start with some music. There is a band of brothers and cousins which sings a touching song about family and everlasting family ties. Sometimes it is said that those who are involved with the contextual approach are tended to regard each other as a family, including hugs and rivalries. Let it all be taken up in this song at the start of this final day of ICCT2018:

### **Venice, The Family Tree (1999)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jxtHJ0K73U>

#### ***The Family Tree***

##### **Mark Lennon - Venice**

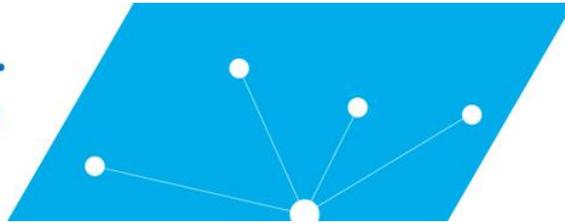
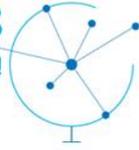
Branches in the wind  
Still standing here together  
One more storm to weather  
We'll get through it yet  
So we're gathered her  
Holding on to each other  
To let go of one another  
We won't forget

Now as we say goodbye  
To one of our own  
We may be lonely  
But we're not alone  
Though the leaves will fall  
And the tears will flow  
May it always comfort us to know  
The family tree will always grow

Father down to son  
Mother to daughter  
Thicker than water  
We are made of this  
From the Earth we rise  
To the Earth returning  
We'll keep the candle burning  
For the ones we'll miss

And when we say goodbye  
To one of our own  
We may be lonely  
But we're not alone

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Though the leaves will fall  
And the tears will flow  
May it always comfort us to know  
The family tree will always grow  
It's stronger than the wind can blow  
The family tree will always grow