

## Ryszard Praszquier, Ph.D.

Dr. Ryszard Praszquier is a researcher at the Center for Complex Systems, University of Warsaw. He is also a professor at the International Institute for Social & European Studies (ISES) based in Hungary and a lecturer at the Academy of Leadership.

### Areas of research

- 1) The properties of social networks that support profound, peaceful social transitions; the cases of the Polish underground Solidarity and the American Civil Rights Movement.
- 2) The dynamics of social change facilitated by social entrepreneurs, as seen through the lenses of complexity theory; autocatalytic processes which empower people and societies, leading to the emergence of an immense impact on higher levels.
- 3) The complexity approach to peacemaking and peace prevention: building alternative attractors for sustainable peace.

### Additional areas of interest

- 1) Social SYNC: how brains, individuals, groups and societies synchronize.
- 2) The neuroscience of creativity.
- 3) New kind of leadership “Empowering Leadership” as demonstrated by Social Entrepreneurs.

### Social entrepreneurship – practice

Consultant for Ashoka, Innovators for the Public ([www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org)). Since 1995, Dr. Praszquier has been the Country Director, launching Ashoka Poland; since 2000 he has been an Ashoka international staff training director and a second opinion reviewer chairing, in many countries, the selection process for Ashoka Fellowships.

### Solidarity underground movement

During the 1980s he participated in the Polish non-violent underground Solidarity Movement. Under a false name, he published an illegal manual for Solidarity activists “How to survive police interrogation.” After the transformation, he co-founded several grassroots NGO’s, remaining on the board of some through to the present.

### Recent academic publications

- Praszquier, R., Nowak, A. (2012). *Social Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice*. Cambridge University Press.
- Praszquier, R., Nowak, A. (2012). Social Entrepreneurship: paving the way for peace. In: Bartoli, A *et al.* (Eds.): *Peacemaking: A Comprehensive Theory and Practice Reference*, pp 159 -167. Praeger.
- Praszquier, R. (2012). Social entrepreneurs open closed worlds: the transformative influence of weak ties. In: Nowak A *et al.* (Eds.) *Complex Human Dynamics*, pp 111-129. Springer.
- Praszquier, R. *et al.* (2010). Social Entrepreneurs and Constructive Change: The Wisdom of Circumventing Conflict. *Peace and Conflict*, 16: 153–174.
- Praszquier, R. & Bartoli, A. (2014). The role of civil society in the peace process of the Basque Country. *International Journal of Peace Studies*, 19(1).
- Praszquier, R. (2014). Empathy, Mirror Neurons and SYNC. *Mind and Society*, doi: 10.1007/s11299-014-0160-x. Free access at: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11299-014-0160-x>