

BIO: Rosalma (Rosa) Zubizarreta-Ada

Rosalma (Rosa) Zubizarreta-Ada was born in Lima, Peru. As a child, her Cuban mother and Peruvian father immigrated to the U.S. with her and her siblings. In the 1990's, Rosa worked in bilingual education, translating children's books and writing educational materials. After encountering Focusing in the Bay Area in 1995, she eventually completed Focusing teacher training with Robert Lee.

In 2000, a transformative experience at a Dynamic Facilitation workshop inspired Rosa to return to school to study organization development, the field in which she eventually earned a Ph.D. Rosa's dissertation on democratic innovations explores the work of facilitators of Citizens' Councils in Vorarlberg, Austria, where this smaller, leaner version of Citizens' Assemblies was institutionalized in 2013.

Author of "From Conflict to Creative Collaboration: A User's Guide to Dynamic Facilitation" Rosa's own approach to working with groups continues to evolve. Informed by Paulo Freire's transformative pedagogy, Eugene Gendlin's Focusing, and Saul Eisen's model of Developing Human Systems, among others, Rosa calls her deepening body of work "Co-creating Desired Futures", or CDF for short.