

CHANGING THE WORLD ONE STORY AT A TIME

Cherri Jacobs Pruitt, MPA

Abstract

What if there is a way to transform society and create a more caring, equitable, and connected world? The Power of Partnership (POP) podcast brings you the people who are working to do just that: people who are helping to build a world that values caring, nature, and shared prosperity. They are applying the Partnership ethos, the ground-breaking alternative to Domination systems that are at the root of our most pressing challenges. In this article, POP podcast producer and host Cherri Jacobs Pruitt provides an overview of how the podcast started and what listeners can expect from each episode.

Keywords: Podcast, stories, partnership, domination, cultural transformation theory

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In 2022, I found myself at an emotional crossroads, feeling hopeless and ineffectual amidst increasing societal challenges. After several weeks of not sleeping well, eating too much, and moving too little, I decided to follow the age-old wisdom to do what brings me joy, and the answer came quickly. I would start a podcast to honor Riane Eisler, whose work has helped me so often to find hope in dark times. A podcast that would deepen my knowledge about the Partnership movement, while also spreading that knowledge to others by sharing the stories of Partnership leaders. A podcast that would allow me to use my voice and creativity in ways that were not going to be nurtured in my “day” job.

I first learned of Eisler when I listened to an interview with her about her book *The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics* (Eisler, 2008). Since then, I have

completed several online courses through the Center for Partnership Systems (CPS) and have worked with the CPS team on projects to share Eisler's caring economics and interdisciplinary Partnership-based approach to health care with work colleagues. Therefore, it was not too much of a stretch to act on this inspiration by reaching out to Sara Saltee, CPS' Organizational Partnership lead, to ask, "Can I coordinate a podcast to increase awareness of Riane's Partnership-Domination continuum and highlight how Partnership principles are being applied throughout the world? I would need a team...."

WHY THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP PODCAST, AND WHY NOW?

We are increasingly living in a world of mistrust: of leaders, of media, and of each other. This reality is forcing us to acknowledge the need to radically alter the divisive and destructive path we are on, and instead create a world that has egalitarian social structures, with hierarchies based on actualization rather than on domination. A Partnership-based world. Eisler's *The Power of Partnership: Seven Relationships That Will Change Your Life* (Eisler, 2003) is a self-help book to help us create this Partnership-based world. The Power of Partnership (POP) podcast augments the book by sharing examples of how people are innovating and co-creating a world based on caring, nature, and shared prosperity.

The introductory episode broadcast on June 24, 2023 (Pruitt, 2023, 6/24) features Eisler sharing her story of pioneering the Partnership movement and an overview of her Cultural Transformation Theory, including the four cornerstones that form the foundation of every society: childhood and family; gender; economics; and narratives and stories. Cultural Transformation Theory explains how the degree to which societies orient on a Domination-Partnership continuum impacts the societal norms related to each of these cornerstones (Eisler, 1988).

Podcast episodes are released every two weeks; each focuses on a different aspect of our lives:

- Interpersonal relationships: Safe Conversations: From Conflict to Connection with Harville Hendrix and Helen LaKelly Hunt. (Pruitt, 2023, 7/11).

- The way gender stereotypes influence our lives: Healing Men and Leaving Violence Behind with Jed Diamond (Pruitt, 2023, 7/24).
- Living in harmony with our planet: Turning Deserts to Gardens with Lyla June (Pruitt, 2023, 8/7).
- The way we structure our societies: Healing Healthcare with Teddie Potter. (Pruitt, 2023, 8/22).

Each episode includes discussions on how to identify patterns of Domination and Partnership, what transformation to Partnership looks like, and which resources will support making the shift to Partnership.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I enjoy closing each episode of the POP podcast by asking guests to share their final thoughts. I have been awestruck by the similarity in responses. First and foremost has been the deep sense of gratitude to Eisler for providing the language and alternative paradigm to help us shift to a Partnership-based world that values caring, nature, and shared prosperity. Second has been the value of listening, a value that is beautifully captured in the lyrics of Resilient by folk music group Rising Appalachia heard at the end of each episode:

I am resilient

I trust the movement

I negate the chaos

Uplift the negative

I'll show up at the table, again and again and again

I'll close my mouth and learn to listen. (Smith & Long, 2018)

For my final thoughts, I grow more thankful by the day that I am, indeed, getting what I was seeking: more creativity, more joy, more hope, and more gratitude. I am deeply humbled to be able to share with the world both Eisler's wisdom and that of the amazing guests I am honored to interview. And, I am moved by the sense of urgency and heart-

centered intensity they, and the CPS team, bring to the podcast to take the Partnership Movement forward.

You can download the podcast from the CPS POP podcast page (<https://centerforpartnership.org/the-power-of-partnership-podcast/>) or your favorite podcast site. Join us on our journey: sponsor a podcast, make a one-time or monthly donation to the podcast, or be featured on an episode as a Partnership practitioner. If you have questions or need help in your efforts to move toward the Partnership end of the continuum, contact us at <https://centerforpartnership.org/>.

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Cherri Jacobs Pruitt, MPA, has spent the majority of her professional life working in maternal and child health policy and systems work at the local, county, state, and federal levels. Cherri holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado. She has been an advocate for Riane's cultural transformation work since becoming a CPS Caring Economics Leader in 2013. Cherri is the coordinator for the Power of Partnership podcast series, launching April 2023. Cherri is the founder of CJ Connections, catalyzing systemic change through education, empowerment, and helping businesses and organizations thrive by applying partnership principles.

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