

## NEXUS

**Mark Krueger**

*Child and Youth Care Learning Center  
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee*

### **NEXUS: A CONNECTION, LINK. A CONNECTED GROUP OR SERIES.**

*For this column: Interconnected moments, actions, and attitudes in work with youth. Also the name of a fictitious agency with several programs for youth.*

Soul, rhythm, blues. Youth and workers in one country rocking to the same rhythms as youth in another country, the place, words, and faces unique and different, but the behaviors, longings, and dreams, similar. Global child and youth care woven in discussions like the string theory that physicists suggest weaves together the fabric of the universe. And in the midst of it a simple gesture, an adult from Seattle (Henry Maier) helping another adult from New Zealand (Leon Fulcher) on a bicycle as they role played in Henry's workshop. A hand squeezing another hand. People dancing and speaking across the spaces of their experiences.

Speeches about getting out of the boxes. Finding new ways to communicate with young people and ourselves. Discussion about building on the actions that got us to this point in favor of new actions that ring truer with the times in which we find ourselves. Abandoning the dreaded bureaucratic procedures and lectures and pomp and ceremony in favor of more fluid, project-based and learner-centered approaches to advocacy, knowledge generation, and professional development on behalf of and with children, youth and parents. "Space travel," as Kiarra Gharabaghi from Toronto put it. Traveling across the spaces of our experiences, open to our own and others' stories as we travel across the globe.

This is what I heard at the international conference in Cleveland.