



Practitioners, performers and researchers teaming together to understand the benefits of circus.

# Global Circus Studies

Global Circus Studies Newsletter

January 2014

**Global Institute of Circus Studies born in Tampere, Finland on December 8, 2013 to over 44 proud parents (Photo: Stephen Cadwell)**

Well it is a mere couple of weeks after the wonderfully successful Effective Circus conference in Finland.

Continued thanks need to go to the organizers for their dedication allowing the vision to live on. Kitos! We were all pleased with the amount of social circus activity around the world (mapped out by our friends at Cirque du Monde) and inspired by the positive results of research and program evaluation in the area.

The grand finale was a “research morning” spent creating a legacy plan for continued research and

knowledge translation. The discussions were had, and many a folk felt the tingle of excitement in the air.

Excitement was used to create action plans.



*Cirque du Monde Social Circus Map (December 20, 2013)*

## Events

- Global Institute for Circus Studies born (Dec 8).
- List server goes live (December 21, 2013)
- GICS Newsletter Inaugural Issue (December 21, 2013)
- Google Group and Website coming January 2014 ([globalcircus.org](http://globalcircus.org))



## Baby steps.

Creating a communication network was one of the key outcomes of the “moving forward” research meeting that finished the conference. One step was to create a list server (global-circus-studies) to act as a conduit for announcements of events and activities among the group. The list server was created and all 44 people were added to the list. Anyone can subscribe. List servers typically act as a route to announce and distribute information.

The Global-Circus-Studies list server will not function as a forum for discussion, so we will set up a forum in by January 2014 using Google Groups (**Global Circus Study Forum** created but not operational! Soon) or preferred is a Google Education site (a request to Google was submitted). Also, we will set up a repository for documents to be shared by the group, as well as a website (globalcircus.org: already registered).

To keep the list server fresh we will attempt to have a short newsletter distributed once per month. We will ask folks to write brief synopsis of key happenings (like the one to the right) and submit them to the newsletter along with a picture. Any suggestions for topics or sections will be welcomed.



### Social Circus Research Clip

In Montreal, a relatively large, prospective field trial is underway to compare children receiving circus training in grades 4, 5 and 6 to control schools that have regular physical education classes.

This study will examine the impact of social circus on movement vocabulary, movement competence, movement creativity, confidence and comprehension of movement terminology. It will also examine the impact on the perceptions of the parent, the physical education teacher, as well as the child. Finally, it will examine the amount and type of social participation.



**Stretching to reach our research goals.**

## Effective Circus Research Growth

We have all witnessed the power of circus in the various folks that we engage. We have seen some very positive results arising from the program evaluations and research on social circus. Circus research is in its infancy, and we need to make sure we create an enriched environment for it to grow. Please do take the time to help in this global initiative. So many have so much to gain by our efforts. Volunteers should not be exploited and we should be realistic about our progress. We will do our best to have an intelligent and consistent progression as we grow.



## Global Institute for Circus Studies.

On Dec 8, 2013 the Research Collaboration group in Tampere, Finland identified the following key needs:

1. The need to have a collective.
2. The need to have face-to-face meetings in a timely fashion to maintain the momentum. Next possible date is September 2014 in Montreal.
3. The need to find funding (agency, angel, etc) to support initiatives on circus research.
4. The need to act as a collective to create high quality applications and proposals.
5. The need to create a peer reviewed journal on circus studies.
  - a. Likely an E-journal (Human Kinetics Publisher perhaps)
  - b. Journal of Circus Studies (tentative name)
6. The need to publish existing circus research presented at the Effective Circus conference.
7. The need to create a database/forum/repository for
  - a. Evaluation tools and methodologies
  - b. Knowledge translation for pedagogy
  - c. Power points and other key documents
  - d. List of active research projects
  - e. List of active researchers
  - f. List of schools/curriculum for social circus
  - g. List of opportunities (grants, locations, etc) in circus research
8. Creation of a knowledge translation method to take research and convert to various audiences.
9. Creation of an open university for circus studies.
10. Creation of formalized graduate training in circus research and studies.
11. Creation of presentations for the promotion of circus research as one of the greatest “laboratories” for study of health and well being of all.
  - a. Allows attraction of students, agencies, researchers, etc
12. Creation of a peer group of student researchers.
13. Increasing the credibility of research in the area
  - a. University affiliated, etc

**We are acting on these initiatives.**

