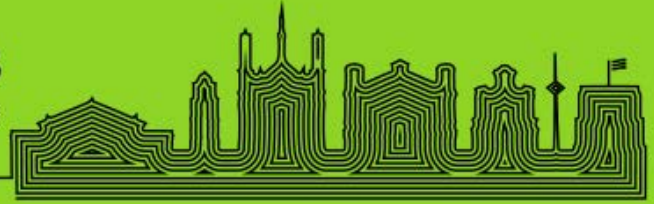




## Constructionism 2018

Constructionism, computational thinking  
and educational innovation

Vilnius, Lithuania, August 21 to 25



### Carol Sperry

Professor Emerita  
Millersville University  
United States

#### ***Evolution of a Constructionist Teacher (with some reminders from Seymour Papert)***

*This paper will address the difficulties of changing a deeply-held cultural idea of what it means to teach and learn from the constrictions of an authoritarian mindset to the organic, dynamic, relevant, and creative ideas of Constructionism. This can be especially difficult for the classroom teacher, who often needs a leap of faith to escape from her own experiences in school as well as restrictive pedagogical training.*

*We will examine stories of how teachers have developed a Constructionist mindset and learned how to integrate these ideas into classrooms. Along the way, we will remember Seymour Papert and some of the beautiful words he used to inspire us.*

#### **About speaker**

**Carol Sperry Suziedelis** has been an educational constructionist for almost forty years, beginning in the New York City public schools. She attended a workshop with Seymour Papert in 1981, a year after *Mindstorms* was published, and was excited by the creative possibilities of using computers and Logo in her own classroom. In 1985, she became a co-founder and co-director of the Computer School, a public junior high school in NYC, where she and the faculty used constructionism and project-based learning to create vibrant and meaningful curricula. At that time, Sperry also became a consultant for the Epistemology and Learning group at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and, in that capacity, worked with teachers in the United States and around the world, including Lithuania, Russia, Mexico, and Thailand. In 1987, she became the director of Project Mindstorm, a new program at a public elementary school in San Jose, California. She worked with the faculty and staff to facilitate the fashioning of workshops and projects for the entire school. Sperry has an MA in Science Education from New York University and an Ed.D. in Teaching and Learning from Harvard University. She taught “Psychology of Teaching and Learning,” and was a student teacher supervisor at Millersville University in Pennsylvania for ten years and is now Professor Emerita at that university.