

## **Risk and Philanthropy through the Lens of Philanthropic Psychology**

Decoding-the-Disciplines (DtD) interviews were conducted with international development philanthropists, who devoted personal wealth in excess of \$5 million to create social innovation in order to care for their beneficiaries. This seminar explores how they overcame the five major barriers in making and managing the highest risk they had experienced in their philanthropy to date. These barriers were: 1) defining risks; 2) assessing the degree of risks; 3) recognizing the pivotal points of shifting either their definitions or their assessment of the degree of risk; 4) coping with negative emotions associated with the first three processes and 5) optimizing the value that their life experience offers their philanthropy in the context of risk taking and management. I conclude with recommendations for how risk taking might be optimized in the focal domain and how this might be different from the for-profit domain (Shapira, 1994).