

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	3
PRESIDENT'S PAGE	4
Welcome to New Members	6
Deceased Members	7
Report From Barcelona by Haim Weinberg	8
On Toxic Leaders by Teresa von Sommaruga Howard	13
National Health Services and group-analysis by Kevin Power	19
14th European Symposium in Group Analysis by Liz O'Connor	22
EGATIN Agora in Dublin by Zoe Voyatzaki	24
A Study of Group Analysis in Moscow by Pokhmelkina Galina	25
Child-Parent Playgroups by Dr Les Spencer	33
A Multi-Family Group at a Psychiatric Day Hospital by Maria João Centeno and Isaura Neto	36
The GAS Forum	42
Obituary: Marisa Dillon Weston	43

Obituary: Alice Ricciardi-von Platen	45
RESEARCH: A method for the study of therapeutic factors in group psychotherapy	48
IGA/GAS Library Update by Elizabeth Nokes	50

Editorial

'Despair Dialogue Desire' is the theme of the 14th European Symposium in Group Analysis taking place in August in Dublin, and inside the triangle of 'Despair Dialogue Desire' we are all, individuals, therapists and group analysts, caught within its triple movement and dynamic.

We need to mourn the death of fellow Group Analysts like Pat de Maré, we need to fight for the existence of the group analytic culture and practice in the NHS, we need to find ways to engendering enthusiasm in new generations, we need to develop Group Analysis and its applications

How can communication really happen between different people, with different languages, from different cultures, traditions, histories and, in our specific area, different practises and trainings? How can we build a stronger sense of identity as group analysts? How can we 'globalise' group analysis, with the dynamic intention of creating a sense of belonging and at the same time respecting all the differences and specifics, what is essential to the sense of freedom and autonomy that any person and any group needs in order to keep alive desire and creativity?

We think and we hope that Contexts is contributing for this aim, raising questions and attempting to find answers and new ways to think about and deal with despair, deception, frustration and limitations. We attempt to facilitate communication and dialogue and to maintain creativity and desire.

We hope that we can meet, lots of us, next August in Dublin.

Terry Birchmore and Paula Carvalho

President's Page

Since I last wrote, we have received the news of the death of Pat de Maré, one of the great figures of group analysis. His book *Koinonia* (1991) and his work on the large group are known all over the world. He was a truly original mind and his death is a great loss to Group Analysis. His legacy will live on for many years to come.

Alice Riccardi, another great personality, has also left us. She was a remarkable woman, who made a lasting impression on whoever met her. She was one of the founder members of the Group Analytic training in Althausse, Austria. We also mourn Angela Molnos and Marisa Dillon Weston. Angela Molnos worked in London, but retired to Hungary her native country. Marisa Dillon Weston born in Italy, lived and worked in London but was also closely related to the training in Bologna. We are grateful for their contribution to group analysis.

The death of these senior group analysts means that the torch is being passed on to us, and we must meet the challenge of getting Group Analysis better known, demonstrating how it works and what it can offer. The Group Analytic Society itself must be developed as a truly international organisation. For some reasons we are not particularly good at making ourselves known, compared to the representatives of some other professional orientations. I keep wondering why this is so? Groups are not as popular as they used to be, even though research tells us that group psychotherapy is as effective as individual psychotherapy and sometimes even more so. Is it the *Zeitgeist* – a more individualised culture, one could feel tempted to say a more narcissistic culture we live in? The words ‘solidarity’ and ‘community’ nowadays have almost a negative connotation.

The coming Symposium in Dublin in August will give us the possibility of discussing this and other matters with colleagues from all over the world. Those opportunities to meet and discuss are very important in giving us the inspiration to go out and tell our story. For those of you who have not yet registered for the 14th European Group Analytic Symposium ‘Despair Dialogue

and Desire', 18th–22nd August 2008 in Dublin, Ireland <http://www.dublin-gas-symposium.com/> there is still time to do so. Overseen by the European Symposium Committee, we are very pleased with the Scientific Programme, organised by the Scientific Programme Committee under the chairmanship of Jacinta Kennedy. The Symposium has been carefully planned by the Local Organising Committee, under the chairmanship of Liz O'Connor. The Symposium promises to be both stimulating and a lot of fun.

Writing and publishing about Group Analysis is another way to make ourselves known, which takes me to The New International Library of Group Analysis or NILGA. Since this project was last mentioned here, there have been some changes in the organisation of it. The self publishing project has proved to be too complicated and expensive for us to manage. Instead, Karnac Books have given Earl Hopper a commissioning editorship for the New International Library of Group Analysis. Karnac Books is willing to publish 4-5 books a year, and will co-publish with the Group Analytic Society at least one book per year that might not otherwise be published on a commercial basis. However, at least for the time being, we have had to give up the idea of a Book Club. It has been a long process and we have learned a lot about the publishing process. We are very satisfied with having Karnac Books as our publishers.

The other project to which we have been giving much time is the future structure of GAS and our Constitution supporting it. We are moving forward with the idea of a 'chapter' or 'section' for the United Kingdom in order to make certain that as we internationalised the Society we are also able to meet the needs of the Society in the UK. We may develop parallel chapters or sections in the countries represented in the Society. We have had ongoing meetings with officers from the IGA (London) in a very collaborative atmosphere, and have agreed on future co-operation. For the time being we are discussing the form that this might take. We have had a good experience of working together for some years on the Film Society under the chairmanship of Roberta Green. More recently we have had a good experience in working together on the research project 'A Systematic Review of Group Analysis and Analytical/Dynamic Group Psychotherapy' headed by Jenny Potter. We hope that the next

joint project will be a celebration of Pat de Marés life and work in conjunction with the launch of the publication in NILGA of a selection of his papers edited by Karen Stefano and Rachel Lenn. We will announce more information about this as soon as possible.

The GAS Forum on the internet seems to have finally taken off. Lately there has been a lot of activity. This offers an opportunity for both the discussion of current issues and getting into contact with one another.

I take particular pleasure in announcing the next GAS Autumn Workshop which will take place in Krakow, Poland 14th–16th November 2008. The title is ‘Trauma: Individual and Group Experiences’. For further information contact Joanna Skowronska: js@rasztow.pl This annual workshop will be the first to take place under the new chairmanship of the Scientific Programme Committee by Dieter Nitzgen.

We are already thinking about the Workshop in 2009. Also, Anne Lindhardt our chair of the International Development Committee has been visiting South Africa in preparation for a future introductory event. We hope to be working together with the IGA (London) who is having discussions about setting up training activities in group analysis in South Africa.

Gerda Winther
President, GAS

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society. We hope that you will actively contribute to the Society and that we will hear more from you in this publication and on our Internet Forum, and participate in our events and other activities. Our Society depends on your participation and sharing of expertise and experience.

Mrs Maureen Cannell Student Member Glasgow, UK
Dr James Easton Student Member Bromley, UK
Mrs Joan Fogel Student Member London, UK
Ms Mary Gordon Full Member Dublin, Ireland
Mr Oded Handel Associate Member Haifa, Israel
Laura Jordan Student Member Hailsham, UK
Mrs Mandy McCoull Associate Member Morpeth, UK
Mr Vasilios Magalios Student Member London, UK
Ms Sonia Matykiewicz Student Member Leeds, UK
Ms Christine Ellis Oliver Student Member London, UK
Dr Jenny Potter Full Member London, UK
Mrs Gillie Ruscombe-King Full Member Oxford, UK

Deceased Members

Pat de Maré
Alice Riccardi
Angela Molnos
Marisa Dillon Weston

Be a Contexts Writer!

Contexts welcomes contributions from members on a variety of topics:

- Have you run or attended a group-analytic workshop?
- Are you involved in a group-analytic project that others might want to learn about?
- Would you like to share your ideas or professional concerns with a wide range of colleagues?

If so, send us an article for publication by post, e-mail, or fax. Articles submitted for publication should be between 500 and 2,500 words long, or between one and five pages.

Writing for Contexts is an ideal opportunity to begin your professional writing career with something that is informal,

even witty or funny, a short piece that is a report of an event, a report about practice, a review of a book or film, or stray thoughts that you have managed to capture on paper. Give it a go!

The deadline for each issue of Contexts is about three months before the publication of a specific issue. The deadline for publication in the June issue, for example, will therefore be early March.

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**Report From The 3rd IAGP Regional
Mediterranean Conference
Barcelona, Spain
28th February–2nd March, 2008
Haim Weinberg**

I went to the IAGP Mediterranean regional conference in Barcelona, Spain, straight from the AGPA conference in Washington, DC, which was a very intense and meaningful experience. I decided to go because the IAGP held its Board meeting in Barcelona before the conference, and I am a Board member. Anyway, it was difficult not to make some comparisons

between the conferences and it took me some days to let the experience in.

It was a smaller conference than the one in the USA (around 300 participants compared to 900 in Washington, DC), which made it easier to connect with more people. It took place in a congress center in the marina near the Columbus Square (Mirador de Colom), so every morning I was reminded of the beauty of Barcelona on the way to the venue. Barcelona is really beautiful. It has the marvelous plazas, statues, avenues, fountains, palaces and decorated houses reminding me of Classical Europe together with the Spanish taste. On top of that, it has its famous creative architect, Gaudi.

But we were talking about the conference. In general, the IAGP combines group analysis and psychodrama and they are both represented in its conferences. There has been some discussion on the GAS forum about how much the group analytic approach was represented in the Barcelona conference. As someone interested more in group analysis, I found enough events to go to.

The conference opened with a plenary interviewing Malcolm Pines, together with Juan Campos from Barcelona, who studied with Foulkes too and promoted group analysis in Spain. They were asked the same questions about the past, present and future of group analysis. The idea was very good, and the Power-Point presentation was very impressive, reflecting many hours of work invested in the presentation, but the interview was too long and many people in the audience were not group analysts and had no interest in its history.

Another interesting plenary session was around the issue of immigration. One of the speakers (Jaseba Achategui, Spain) defined 'the Ulysses syndrome', a syndrome that typifies immigrants in harsh conditions (refugees, etc.), which resembles depression but lacks the apathy and lack of energy typical to depression. Jorge Burmeister presented in this plenary too. The issue of immigration resonated through the conference and found its echo in the reflection groups as well.

I went to a psychodrama workshop about myths. The idea to use myths for clinical work is good, and there is a lot of potential in it. But the leaders (Jutta Fuerst & Hannes Krall from Austria) did not use it beyond the 'play' itself and did not process the

meaningful material that emerged. It is not the first time I have noticed that psychodrama can bring out deep and meaningful material, but not all psychodramatists make good use of this powerful tool and some of them tend to satisfy with the dramatic effect without working through the material. Another common mistake, in my opinion, is the focus on too optimistic-positive-Polianic solutions at the end of the workshop.

I also went to a workshop with Teresa Von Sommaruga Howard on toxic leaders. It started with intellectual discussion, where everyone agreed that we all have the potential to become toxic leaders, but then a conflict in the room about languages (I will relate to this dilemma in the conference later) made the workshop more present and meaningful. The question was whether leaders really take care of the group or more of their own needs. Teresa had to face the pressure of some participants to provide translation and a perfect environment, or else she might be considered a toxic leader herself. She made use of this transference but there was not enough time to elaborate (which is the regular fate of short conference workshops).

Another workshop I participated was led by Christer Sandhal from Sweden. It was on being a tourist, and Christer's creative idea was to relate to being a tourist as a role, with expectations, obligations, and tasks, and analyze it in the way organizational consultants with group analytic background work through role-analysis: usually they ask the members to draw a picture of their role and then the group analyzes the drawing. It was a lot of fun, and showed the many different perspectives people have when they become tourists.

I gave a presentation about trauma groups. I have given this workshop before in the GAS conference in Molde (with my wife, Martha Gilmore), after co-editing a special issue of group analysis about groups for trauma survivors, but I was not sure how much it will interest the participants in Barcelona. The workshop was well attended and the audience was very cooperative. In the first part I gave a theoretical introduction and a short presentation about these groups, and their typical dynamics, then I conducted a role-played group of traumatized patients, in which volunteers from the audience received a written role and played it in a demonstration group under my conduct, and at the end we discussed the processes and the leader's intervention. The feed back of the participants was good.

The main difficulty in this conference was the language barrier. This is a very common difficulty in group therapy international conferences. Usually the budget allows providing for a simultaneous translation in the plenary, but not in other presentations. I know this problem from my personal experience as we faced the same problem when I co-chaired the IAGP international group therapy conference in Brazil in 2006. We partly solved the problem by inviting volunteer students to be successive translators in all the presentations, in addition to the simultaneous plenary translation. Anyway, it is always a challenge, and requests a lot of patience from participants.

Many of the Spanish therapists did not speak English at all, and most of the English speaking did not know Spanish. Sometimes people in the audience who knew both languages helped with translation, but it was still a source of frustration. We encountered this problem in its highest intensity in one of the large groups. This conference did not have the kind of large groups we are used to at the GAS conferences. Every evening there were ongoing 5 'reflection groups', led in different approaches (psychodrama, group analysis, group relations, transaction analysis) for 1.5 hours. I participated in the one led by Malcolm Pines and the president of the Spanish association (SEPTG) Concha Oncea (a woman). Actually, the Spanish woman co-leader was mostly silent. This gender status difference seemed repetitious along the conference, as all the plenary presenters were male and the women were serving as their coordinators. None of this issue was addressed or discussed in the reflection group. Does it reflect the traditional Spanish society?

Anyway, back to the large group (which included around 60–70 people every day): The language problem was frequently addressed, as there was no official translator, and the one who might have been a volunteer appointed by the organizers did a poor job. The more these sessions advanced, the clearer it became that there is a struggle and a conflict that is beyond the communication problem. A fine interpretation by Malcolm was that it is a protest against the hegemony of the British. I agree that language serves as a means for crystallizing identity and as an instrument of the majority to establish its privileges. It became clearer when a conflict among the Spanish themselves started between the Catalonians (who are the majority in Barcelona and the area), and the other Spanish participants.

The Catalonians protested that their language is not represented in the conference.

I was surprised that none of the Spanish participants mentioned Franco and the days of his dictatorship. When one of the ‘foreign members’ mentioned that a taxi driver told him that in those days of Franco, things were better the Spanish became enraged and demanded to know who is this taxi driver(!) in order to teach him the history! As someone interested in the social unconscious I can only imagine that if this traumatic part of the Spanish history is not addressed and thoroughly discussed in public, it will find its unconscious ways to impact the life of Spain this way or another.

The atmosphere in the large group softened in the last half an hour of the last session and it seemed as if the conflict gave way to more connection and mutual recognition. An Italian woman addressed a Chinese man who lives in Australia and was quiet all the time. He told a story of a Buddhist monk in Vietnam who responded to an event of raping women through finding both the rapist and the raped inside of himself, ‘as we are all human’. The Italian woman asked for the Chinese’s name. He translated his name into ‘eternal peace’. ‘May I call you ‘human’”? the woman asked him. ‘Only if I deserve it’, was his calm answer. For me the conference could have ended at that moment.

So, I am ending with this hopeful dialogue, and can summarize it as my main learning from this conference: Call me human only if I deserve it.

Haim Weinberg is a clinical psychologist and group psychotherapist. He is President of the Israeli Association of Group Psychotherapy (IsAGP) and a board member of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy (IAGP).

See also Group Psychotherapy Resource Guide at: <http://www.group-psychotherapy.com/>

Also Community Unconscious on the Internet: <http://www.groupintervisual.net/hosting/ga-special-issue/papers/haim.htm>

On Toxic Leaders

Workshop at the XXXV SEPTG Symposium:

A Bridge called Mediterranean

As I explained in my abstract, the intention was to provide a space for participants to think together about why there are so many toxic leaders in organisations. What are the forces that produce them and what can we do about it?

When I entered the room, the workshop from the previous session was still very much in evidence. Beautiful coloured collages were spread across the floor as participants walked around and lovingly photographed them. I felt 'my space' had been intruded upon but I also recognised that there is often never enough time for workshops in conferences and intervals between are always too short. Here the 'space between' was only five minutes. As the time boundary had been crossed and as the previous workshop leader was a friend of mine, I suggested helping them tidy their work away. It felt a difficult process. While I was preparing and negotiating, I found myself thinking, I will have to manage this chaos. I had been very conscious of the fact that by having a workshop with this title, I was setting myself up to be a toxic leader. It felt not a little dangerous!

I arranged about twelve chairs into a circle with the help of those already there and we settled down to start. There were initially about twelve people in the room. Just as I was shutting the door as a signal, another ten or twelve people joined us and I asked them to shut the door and they came in. And we started again. After another short interval the door burst open again and another group of about ten people joined us. They said they had been waiting outside because they thought the previous workshop was continuing. It was not a nice welcome for them! So, after a while we were about 40 people in the room in a very wobbly circle. It felt chaotic and very unsettling. I was fascinated with the way the matrix had brought us the exact context in which I had been thinking a toxic leader might emerge. Our small group had expanded by four or five times in less than ten minutes with all the attendant chair shuffling and disruption.

Before the conference I had been ruminating on the theme and realised that it feels as though we are currently living in an increasingly fragile world! Existing structures, both physical and psychic, are apparently melting away. With the threat of global warming, the physical world as we know it will disappear. As the balance in the world economy changes from a dominant West to an increasingly dominant East. Mounting debt coupled with the disappearing millions as the American mortgage system collapses, gives our financial systems a will-o-the-wisp quality. The balance of power between the developed world and the developing world is changing. Then there is the terrorist threat. Meanwhile here in the room, we were creating a fragile structure that I was trying to hold.

I started by asking who needed help with understanding the English language and despite asking this question three times and having my question translated into Spanish each time, there was little response. I asked this question each time a new group joined us but despite this attempt to help with the literal understanding across languages, the difficulty of speaking and understanding each other became a primary preoccupation of the session.

It was in these opening minutes of the group that the frame was set. My constantly starting over and asking the same question became an irritating repetition for some. One person, wishing to be supportive, ‘instructed’ me to continue. ‘Don’t keep stopping!’ So the wish for a ‘strong’ leader to take control was evident from the start! The rapid change already evident in the room had become unwelcome and uncomfortable yet, we had only just started!

There was a precursor to this group that in my head fed into this process. On the first afternoon of the conference, I had been part of an evening daily reflective group conducted by David Guttman and Jacqueline Ternier of France. In that group, we had recognised the increasing difficulty IAGP were having in attracting young people as members. We almost didn’t notice that we already had two young women in the room but eventually we did see them and asked them for their perspective. One of the young women described her group-analytic educational experience as toxic. David, whose model is to pay close attention to the unconscious as it emerges and then take action to transform the status quo, had already

suggested to the other young women, a dance therapy student, that she take a prominent place in his workshop the next day. I decided to take his lead and so invited the young group analyst, who told us that she wanted to be able to dance with group-analysis, to join me in conducting this group on Toxic Leaders.

So after we had all settled down I invited my young friend to tell her story as one example and explained that she was there as a co-conductor.

It all felt quite wobbly at the beginning and we spent time thinking about what was toxic leader? It is interesting to notice how when we feel insecure we need definitions to help us find some safe space of knowing in the confusion. Questions such as, ‘What does toxic mean?’ ‘What is the definition of a toxic leader?’ ‘Does it mean destructive or poisonous?’ The group settled for a moment when a woman from Serbia said that she was quite clear that Milosevic was a toxic leader. In fact he and his wife were a toxic pair.

Just before the conference, I had discovered an interesting book by Mark Edmundson. In *The Death of Sigmund Freud: Fascism, Psychoanalysis and the Rise of Fundamentalism*¹ he writes that Freud suggests that because the psyche is often in a state of tension that borders on civil war, humanity has come up with many different solutions to this internal conflict and the pain it inevitably brings. Many of these solutions he believed, are best described as forms of intoxication. What these intoxicants enable a revision of the superego to make it less harsh in its judgements, and so more bearable.

In the group, we talked about how although we know certain substances poison us we still indulge in them because we become addicted to the intoxicating feelings they engender. So we become intoxicated with leaders who take away our pain despite their poisonous qualities.

As Edmundson points out, ‘Freud believed that the relationship of such a leader to the masses is an erotic one. ‘The leader takes the place of the over-I and offers individuals a psychological dispensation. Where the individual super ego is inconsistent and often inaccessible because it is unconscious, the collective superego, the leader, is clear and absolute in his values. He is associated with things that are permanent: with God, or destiny, or with absolute truth. He satisfies the human hunger to rise above time and chance and join with something

more powerful and more enduring than merely moral enterprises. By promulgating one code, one set of values, the leader wipes away the differences between people, differences that can be a serious source of anxiety' (100).

In the group, the idea of toxicity led us to thinking about poison and possible antidotes. What could be the antidote to a toxic leader? How can we boost the immune system? One woman thought that we should think about the idea of homeopathy where a tiny dose could change the course of a disease. I liked this idea although I was painfully aware that she had been through huge suffering as a result of being seen as a toxic leader. It is after all a human being who is presenting herself in the pivotal point to precipitate change and not a small pill or a few drops of liquid.

Some thought that the conference itself had exhibited a kind of abandoning leadership by not organising translation for the session. Another person thought that it should be made clear that only English is spoken in some workshops and then there would not be a problem. I thought if only the whole world was painted red as it was when I was growing up!

Another person thought that learning to listen carefully and thinking carefully about what we have heard could be another antidote. Certainly less and less space seemed to be available for thinking as time appeared to speed on as we approached the end of the group. The level of interaction just kept speeding up. Everyone wanted to speak at once but surprisingly for a group-analytic group, I was asked to take the role of a chair that I resisted but the forces on me were huge. Everybody wanted to talk at once. Many put up their hands, as in school, wanting me to decide who should speak first. I felt as though each person was not able to take their own authority but wanted me to decide who had the right to speak at any one moment. One person kept putting his hands up and refused to speak until he had the leader's permission! He got more and more upset about not being able to speak I finally relented and he showed us a sociogramme and gave us a little speech in his own language that need to be translated into English. I immediately regretted my decision especially as he continued almost to the ending time boundary. Just before the end, the session was in effect ended by the translator who was the same participant

who had asked me to carry on at the beginning. He got up saying he was frustrated with translating for this man and was going to have lunch! We had earlier noted how we are easily intoxicated by speed and ‘Speed’ is an intoxicant! We had not been able to slow down and think about the process as it was happening around us.

Despite, what felt like intense provocation to be a strong and decisive leader, I sought to maintain a place where we could keep thinking about what was happening between us in the room. But, despite my intense group-analytic stance, I noted that the group was turning me into a toxic leader. It felt as though whatever I said in that short space of time nothing could be different.

It led me to thinking about the world we have created and our capacity to sit with uncertainty. Perhaps there is a little toxicity in every person and every situation just because we are constantly dealing with huge levels of anxiety. As someone who has managed a large public sector department and quite frequently conducts large groups, I am familiar with the powerful projections that the person who is in authority in these situations has to take. The forces to be ‘strong’ and charismatic, to know what to do in every situation, are enormous. Most of us have suffered some personal narcissistic injury in our lives and want to be loved or at least liked. Resisting the need for personal approval in a difficult situation, by continuing to stand alone for long periods is almost impossible.

A recent article in the Guardian² after the apparent suicide of the Chief Constable of the Greater Manchester Police, Duncan Campbell asks, ‘What kind of person seeks the most senior police office, and how well equipped are they to deal with what will be thrown at them?’ As he begins to answer these questions, he quotes an anonymous Chief Constable interviewed for a book by Robert Reiner, ‘The difficulty about being a Chief Constable really is that people place you in impossible positions. They ask you questions, if you fail to answer, you are arrogant and unaccountable; if you do answer, you are political’ reports on the ‘constant pressure and a feeling that no one is ever satisfied. There are times when it really is quite bleak.’

The group spilled out into the lunch break. It had been a frustrating experience. Finding a way to contain and allay excessive and overwhelming anxiety, without being a dictator or a

pseudo-parent figure for the larger group, organisation or country, is not so easy and takes time. As Patrick de Maré often said, it is not love but ordinary friendliness or Koinonia that we need to develop. It isn't immediate or unproblematic but I suspect that if we can hold a model of the possibility and what that possibility entails we might learn to spot toxicity in ourselves and in others much more quickly.

In conclusion, I would like to dedicate this article to Patrick de Maré who died a week before this conference. When he retired from regularly conducting his Wednesday Median Group he passed it on to me to conduct with Don Montgomery. It was this gesture of faith that enabled me to build bridges between two very different ways of thinking, the spatial and the emotional for which I will always be grateful.

Teresa von Sommaruga Howard works in many different countries as an architect, organisational consultant in the public sector, group analytic psychotherapist specialising in median and large groups and lecturer.

See also Dilemmas and Dialogue in Organisational Settings at:
<http://www.lettheculturespeak.eu/Conflict%20dialogues%20in%20organisations.pdf>

Also The Physical Environment and the Use of Space at:
<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=4kMYgefN9YC&pg=PA69&lpg=PA69&dq=Teresa+von+Sommaruga+Howard&source=web&ots=izIvv1WQPY&sig=hmrjVOZPYhis06CzcNOfVZPBLaI&hl=en#PPA69,M1>

National Health Services and group-analysis

In Great Britain at present and for the last few years there is a definite impression that psychodynamic psychotherapies are under attack. There are fewer posts being advertised: therapeutic communities are being run down prior to closure or radical alteration; a wide-ranging questioning is happening under the auspices of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE). Their role is diminishing as a deliberate running down of such provision in order to replace them with precisely managed cognitive therapies that are limited in time. In particular in the UK there is a large rise in the expectations of the efficacies of cognitive-behaviour therapy (CBT).

In 2006 a report was published by Professor Layard of the London School of Economics (a school of the University of London) which wholeheartedly supported a vast increase of CBT provision within the UK's National Health Service. At present there are two experimental outpatient clinics, one in the east of London and a second in the town of Doncaster, which are wholly given over to the provision of CBT as the sole mental health therapy. The latest I have read of the results from these two clinics, each in situ for about two years, is that while the London-based clinic is achieving reasonably good results, the one in Doncaster is not.

There are several points I want to make of all this. Firstly, the Layard report, which has been taken large notice of within the government departments in the UK that deal with mental health matters, lays a heavy emphasis on balancing financial matters against clinical results. Arguments against psychodynamic psychotherapies centre on their apparent ability to go on for a very long time, and therefore cost a great deal of money for questionable healthier outcomes. Secondly that their outcomes are difficult to measure and there seems to be little evidence for their continued use. Prof. Layard's report spells out the arithmetic of these finances and comes up with the figure of £750 (2006 figures) per person per 16 week course of CBT therapy that will in at least 50% of individual cases get a

depressed, unemployed person back to work for at least one year. The report considers this money well spent.

Compare this with some arithmetic around the case for group-analysis. This is rather simplistic yet I hope you can follow the financial argument through; if it takes £750 to provide 16 weeks of one-to-one CBT, how much can be provided for the same sum in group-analysis?

In the UK £40000 is a good annual salary to expect a qualified group-analyst to earn when employed in the NHS. Working 37 hours per week this works out at $37 \times 52 = 1924$ hours per year (inc. holiday, training and potential sick leave).

Divide $40000/1924 = £21$ per hour. Thus a group that runs for 90 minutes costs £31. If this group holds eight members then each member 'costs' $31/8 = £4$ per person per session.

Now take the cost of a CBT therapy of £750 and divide this by £4 (the cost of one session of group-analysis for one patient), we arrive at $750/4 = 187$; this is the number of sessions that one person could be in group-analysis for the same cost as 16 CBT sessions. In weekly group-analysis at 40 sessions per year, this will give the patient over four and a half years in group-analytic psychotherapy.

Thus arithmetic states that while CBT provides a 16 week treatment for £750 in order to provide a 50% chance that the patient concerned will achieve a year minimum free of depression, group-analysis in a group will provide the same patient with a treatment that will last for more than 4.5 years. Group-analysis will provide a long running treatment that can allow exploration in a contained environment (democratically: 'analysis of the group, by the group') out of which an individual can develop abilities that can both get him/her back to work (if this a given target) and stay there while also attending the group and working through all the difficulties that being back at work will inevitably produce).

For £750 the NHS can provide 16 weeks of CBT to gain possibly a return to work for a minimum of a year in 50% of patients. In contrast group-analysis can provide over 4 years of group-analysis to help people back to work and help them stay in it, gain promotion, change jobs, making their marriages and other relationships work that much better, raise their children better etc.

Of course this is a very simple argument, yet I do hope that it validates the necessity of group-analysts raising just these matters with their finance managers in their work places. These figures do not take into account costs of secretaries, further training for staff and so forth. Yet if the time in a group was reduced to 3 years maximum still a long time – they would do. It would also account for experienced staff members who can supervise other group-analysts in their jobs, can provide training to those in other profession such as nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists. This is to move into a more dynamic way of understanding how a whole outpatient clinic works, and not be cornered by arguing solely on economic grounds, per case/cost basis.

CBT has its place in the range of therapies that any mental health provision needs to provide, only it is deeply fallacious to believe that it will meet all demands. Peter Fonagy, a well known British psychiatrist and psychoanalyst said recently that CBT ‘has been marketed as an antibiotic, whereas it is in fact an aspirin’. This is a quality distinction that group-analysts and psycho-dynamic therapists need to note and use in their work places.

On a recent radio programme (BBC Radio Four, ‘All in the Mind’) David Bell, current chairman of the British Psycho-analytic Society, said that the CBT route is one that is in his opinion quite limited. He added that he has been asked to supervise CBT therapists who have begun treating patients with a short term programme who have found themselves continuing for more than two years due to the fact that their patients were getting better due to their relationships with the therapist. This may be anecdotal yet there is much truth in it that all psycho-dynamic therapists can recognise. Please let us not undersell ourselves nor measure ourselves by the current economic metre. Pay attention to finance yet bear in mind that there is a great deal more to provide than mere gloomy cost-effectiveness or strictly measured evidence-based practice.

Kevin Power
Honorary Treasurer of GAS

14th European Symposium in Group Analysis

August is fast approaching when we will be gathering in Dublin for the Symposium. The process of organizing this, our first Symposium in Ireland, has been and continues to be a challenging and interesting experience. At this point it seems appropriate to share with you a brief background about Group Analysis in Ireland.

The Institute of Group Analysis (London) was invited to Dublin by Dr Cormac Gallagher, a Lacanian Analyst and the founder of the School of Psychotherapy St. Vincents' University Hospital, Dublin. (Cormac's connection to the IGA was through Jim Christie from Glasgow). The School had been established under the auspices of Noel Walsh Professor of Psychiatry, University College Dublin. Following a series of preparatory conversations, the IGA was asked and agreed to provide an Introductory Course in Group Analysis within the School of Psychotherapy.

The Course was convened by Tom Hamrogue and began in Dublin in September 1987. The team members with Tom were Jenny Duckham, Nancy McKenzie and Terry Lear. Interest in the training was strong and the Introductory Course was followed by Advanced and Diploma training. Most of the first cohort of students went on to complete the Diploma in Group Analysis awarded by the then Overseas Training Committee of the IGA. Student numbers increased and staff group were joined by Jim Christie and Eva Gottesman. The Course has continued as a block training programme and will be entering its 21st year in September 08. The number of students has averaged fifty in total. Graduates of the training joined the Course training team as the IGA staff withdrew and the Irish Institute has gradually assumed responsibility for training which continues to be offered in conjunction with the School of Psychotherapy now within the Faculty of Medicine in University College Dublin. In September 2008 the qualifying course will be offered for the first time as an MSc in Group Analytic Psychotherapy.

The Irish Group Analytic Society was established in the early 1990s and the Irish Institute of Group Analysis in 2002. Currently there are fifty Graduate Group Analysts in Ireland. Until recent years the practice of Group Analysis in Ireland has been largely within the private sector. The student profile also has been largely non-medical and we share with many other Institutes the absence of a gender balance in both the graduate and the student group. Group Analysis is slowly gaining a place within the Public Health Service and there are now a small number of groups offered within the public sector both by Graduates and by students in Health Service placements. Whilst psychotherapy generally is not as yet a statutory regulated profession, negotiations with the Government are in place and when this happens it is hoped that Group Analysis will be more available in the Health Services.

There has always been considerable interest in Group Analysis as an applied discipline from students working in wide variety of fields such as social work, teaching, community development, nursing, religious communities, psychology and more recently organisational development. Some of these students have progressed to full clinical training and some have not but there has been a high value placed on the Introductory and Advanced levels of the course as a support to their work in their primary disciplines. In Ireland this is may be a very significant area for potential development.

In agreeing to host this Symposium we recognized the unique opportunity it presented. Were aware of our desire to take our place at the International table of Group Analysis and to develop our collegial networks and we look forward to this with great enthusiasm. Also at a national level we wished to create a platform for the continuing promotion of Group Analysis in the private and public sectors in its clinical and non – clinical application in Ireland. Ireland has undergone rapid social and economic transformation over the last twenty years. It has changed from a country of stagnation and emigration to a country of growth and immigration. In the process it has become one of the most expensive countries in Europe.

I am aware that the costs associated with coming to Ireland for the Symposium have been experienced as very high. These costs are a reflection of the reality of prices here in Dublin at this time and have been felt most acutely by our Eastern European

colleagues. We have attempted to ameliorate the costs by providing a bursary system to help with Symposium fees. This has been made possible by financial donations from GAS London, the Irish Institute and the students of our training course. In addition many of the Group Analytic community here have offered to host delegates in their own homes for the duration of the Symposium. We hope this will go some way to addressing the disparity between the economies of the east and west though we realize it is not the solution. We must talk about these things so that we learn from them and integrate our experience for the future in this uniquely important field of Group Analysis.

I would like to say to that I look forward with great anticipation to this event and all that it has to offer as a gathering together in the interests of scholarly discourse and best practice in the field of Group Analysis.

Liz O'Connor
Symposium Chairperson

EGATIN Agora in Dublin

The next European Symposium in Dublin is only a few months away now. Many of us will meet there this August in order to exchange knowledge and experiences as well as to see old and new friends.

A new event is being planned for this Symposium by the Committee of EGATIN. It is a large open meeting, which we have called the EGATIN AGORA. It is open to everyone, not only the EGATIN delegates. We would like to meet with people involved in the process of training on both sides. Trainers and trainees, especially trainees, are welcome, as well as anyone interested in matters of training in Group Analysis.

The thought of having this meeting came about both as a revival of an old EGATIN ‘habit’, that of having so called open plenaries during the European Symposia and in response to the wish of a number of colleagues who said they missed an EGATIN Meeting during the Symposia.

A further reason, this particular year, is that EGATIN, the European Group Analytic Training Institutions Network, is celebrating 20 years from its official inauguration! In 1988, in Heidelberg, our Constitution was formally voted upon by the assembly of Delegates.

The theme of the plenary this time will be ‘Dialogue between Countries and Generations- 20 years of EGATIN’ and it will be preceded by a cheese and wine reception.

On behalf of the Committee of EGATIN I would like to invite all of you to join us on Tuesday evening, August 19th.

Zoe Voyatzaki
Open Psychotherapy Centre, Athens, Greece

A Study of Group-Analysis in Moscow

General situation and GA

The construction of an educational project in Group Analysis in Moscow is able to be formed when psychotherapy de jura exists as a medical, psychiatric profession. In Russia there has been no legislation that regulates psychotherapy and consulting as it is in Europe, no general standards, requirements of professional competence, no developed systems and professional and public associations that train consultants and psychotherapists.

Group Analysis before the early 1990s had not been known in Russia. Psychoanalysis, that had been developing at the beginning of the 20th century in the same way as psychoanalysis in Europe, was damned and prohibited by the authorities and psychoanalytic leaders were subjected to repression. However,

from the late 1950s it was possible to practice but the discipline had to be surreptitious and underground in developing theory and modes of practice. Formally, it was partial and unilateral: psychoanalysis was only considered from critical stances and was subjected to criticism in keeping with the best traditions of socialist ideology. Nevertheless this criticism provided the possibility of learning about the dominant ideas of psychoanalysis from a close analysis of theory and practice and thus learning about how human perceptions and relationships might be changed. Psychoanalysis provided alternative philosophical perspectives that were different from existing dogmas of socialist studies under severe repressive control.

Academic programs of psychological studies in USSR universities in the 1960s contained basic concepts and a knowledge of the basic theories of psychoanalysis. Students learnt concepts about Freud's personal theory, the psychoanalytical theory of neurosis, but only as information about psychoanalysis. Any consideration of the applications of classical psychoanalysis and the practice of psychotherapy as a psycho-dynamic field of application, as well as exposure to theory and practice before the early 1970s were absent.

At the time of change in Russian society at the end of 20th century the interest in psychoanalysis, and other methods of psychological and psychotherapeutic treatment and consultation, was growing immensely. Understandably, this zeitgeist was developed by specialists who had no relevant education or certification from a European point of view. A generation of analysts and psychotherapists emerged who had not experienced a personal analysis and had not received supervision of their practice, but they based the development of their profession on models derived from European trends and schools central European models of psychotherapy gave these individuals their direction. Up to now the influence of these specialists, psychotherapists and psychoanalysts is sufficiently great due to their attainment of senior posts in scientific and psychological or medical arenas.

Social changes over the past two decades have reconstructed broken contacts with world psychotherapeutic society. In the cities of Russia under the auspices of Western schools we have been creating projects and educational programs and developing

organisations and professional societies in order to influence and direct the development of psychotherapeutic help and consultation.

The technique of Group Analysis was known about in Russia from seminars held by the Institute of Group and Family Psychotherapy in the early 1990s. The first Group Analytic training program was offered by The Institute of Group-Analysis, London in St-Petersburg.

The Training Program in Moscow

Since 2000 there are groups in Moscow and the system and structures of group-analytic training are developing. Group Analytic trainers from Austria, Germany and Switzerland conduct this training program. Staff in alphabetical order as follows: Dr. Rainer Danzinger, Dr. Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl, Dr. Michael Ertl, Dr. Bianca Gueye, Dr. Ingrid Krafft-Ebing, Dr. Theodor Meissel, Dr. Maria Rohde, Dipl.soc.ped. Christiane Schlossarek, Dr. Hanspeter Stutz. They hold 6-day blocks of self-knowledge groups twice a year and 6 hours are devoted to group supervision. The project is overseen in management, procedure and policy by OeAGG (Oesterreichischer Arbeitskreis der Gruppendynamik und Gruppentherapie). Doctor Eisenbach-Stangl has already worked with us for 8 years and she links the Moscow project with OeAGG.

In 2001 (the second year of project functioning) two Russian Group Analysts Andrey Sklizkov (to the present time) and Vladimir Tsapov (to 2005) who have studied 'The Introductory Course in Group-Analysis' of The Institute of Group-Analysis, London in Saint-Petersburg, then in the 5-year Truskavets project of the EAP (European Association of Psychotherapy) 1 (1994 1999) supplemented the team of European trainers. Russian Group Analysts undertake the provision of theoretical practice and supervisions for trainees.

Thus, participation of Group Analysts from Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Russia is considered an essential feature of the Moscow project of GA training, its 'interschool' and international nature and it seems to correspond to the open and democratic spirit of GA.

The initiative to open this educational program belongs to Dr. Alfred Pritz, to Dr. Elisabeth Vykoukal and to myself, Dr. Galina Pokhmelkina. The initial idea to study different trends of psychotherapy in Moscow was discussed at workshops on the Truskavets project where I have trained in the use of group psychodrama. In 1998 we instigated a project the first aim of which was searching for an organization that would consider the project as a legitimate educational endeavour.

The training in Group analysts is based on The Centre for European Education in Psychotherapy (CEEP). CEEP was founded in 2001 as an organizational structure for educational projects comprising different psychotherapy traditions. Educational projects in Group Analysis, System Family Therapy, Client/Person-centred Therapy, Psycho-organic Analysis, Existential Analysis and Logotherapy were begun in the year 2000. The keynote or aim is the search for models and standards of education similar to European ones. From the moment of creation a great significance was attached to the social character of project management which was regarded as a European feature of management of psychotherapy education that was not felt to be relevant to our (Russian) mind.

An attempt to implement these projects into the Professional Psychotherapeutic League (PPL) (the umbrella organization of the EAP in Russia) failed because of the different understanding of models and standards of education. The Centre for European Education in Psychotherapy (CEEP) was founded by a project organizer, the author of this article, and also was supported by leaders of the projects previously mentioned. CEEP was preoccupied by issues concerning the legitimization and organizational support of education; project staffs of were preoccupied with the programs, trainers and content of education. We together looked for a future model of development of training and systems of management.

After graduating from the Truskavets project of the EAP it was important for me to found a project of education that implements the development of methods of high-grade education of the necessary length and correspondence with training requirements to meet the necessary standards for certification. It was important for me to try creating an advanced organizational model of education using the experience of the Truskavets project as it

seemed at that period to correct the previous mistakes of management. First of all I meant to correct failures in modes of group arrangement and the social character of management.

The system of transferring the Group Analytic method GA training is considered as a guarantee of ‘good’ development in the next generations of Group analysts. Creation of a suitable educational system meant for me the creation of organizational principals for the future professional society. Attaching great significance to the competence of trainers who conduct these training courses I understood that method transfer was not the only basis GA training as it existed in Europe, which also consisted of a passing on of cultural resistance. In these ways method transfer was different from the Russia style of education. However, the degree and strength of this resistance became clear only when the educational system was established.

The model of the ‘joint roof’ shared by different psychotherapeutic schools was partly borrowed from Truskavets psychotherapy. The permanent interaction of representatives of different psychotherapeutic schools on the Truskavets project established an environment of mutual respect towards a variety of methods of psychotherapy. Moreover, simultaneous convening of trainings and teaching sessions created competition causing trainees to study by themselves the features, merits and demerits of different methods of psychotherapy. It ensured an intensity of professional identity. Unfortunately there was no possibility of organising large groups in Moscow as in the Truskavets project (also it was known to us by the project in Alpbach OeAGG) where trainees and trainers of different psychotherapeutic schools had participated since the workshops of the different schools were held at different times. Our Large Groups therefore consist almost exclusively of Group analysts.

As one more essential feature of this education I consider that informational, professional and intellectual, management, financial and person-backed contributions have been made and are made by a lot of experts from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, among them psychotherapists, mediators, supervisors organizing consultants, organizers of structures and public associations in the field of psychotherapy, mediation, supervision and coaching. I also consider contributions not only via direct participation in the project, to work with it, for a long time or

incidental, but also questions, queries, interest that helps to permanently reflex the difficulties and ‘hidden agendas’, to listen and reflect on the cultural features associated with the implementation of this method into Russian culture. Seminars, conferences, symposia, congresses organized by European societies of psychotherapists, firstly Group analysts, and E.G.A.T.I.N., as the most important, are the forums in which brief but very important discussions, speeches, contacts allow us to secure the education via permanent discussion and reflection.

The Moscow GA training project was affected greatly by the situation in Moscow and in Russia. The level of education established in our GA project sets new standards of psychotherapeutic competence. The requirements specified for graduation are based on guidelines that reflect an agreement across various schools and educational programs and that are the necessary standards for the development of a psychotherapeutic professional movement. Convincing achievements of our education in Moscow are the successful psychotherapeutic, supervision, and GA practices of our leavers and not only those who have attained the certificate of completion of the training.

Today CEEP has 12 certified GA leavers. Each year from 2005 2–4 persons received their final certificate. They are practising psychotherapists, doctors, psychologists, trainers, and consultants. Their practice is various: part is private Group analysts, some work in institutions, clinics, medical associations, educational institutions.

The Curriculum. When creating educational programs for analytic groups we were guided by the recommended educational standards of EGATIN. In 2000 a Project Council (staff) was founded with Group Analysts from Europe and Russian teaching group analysts. One of the first decisions of the staff was the creation and ratification of the curriculum text:

‘The Centre of European Psychological and Therapy education together with the Austrian Society of Group Analysis and Group Therapy (ÖAGG) proposes a five year qualification course in ‘Group Psychoanalysis.’ Education in group psychoanalysis includes those participants who work with groups in different practical spheres and those who want to raise their qualification in conducting and facilitating groups. The course aim is to obtain an experience of participation in an analytical group; to learn theory and methods of group psychoanalysis

which helps to apply the methods of group analysis in working with groups.

A preliminary interview is a condition for entering the training. The key in education is the group analytical self-understanding of participants attained through participation in a personal group analysis.

The training consists of:

160 lessons of group analysis
100 lessons of theory
80 lessons of group supervision
1 lesson = 90 minutes

In addition, trainees need to conduct their own group from the third year of training and lead it for at least two years under regular supervision.

Completion of the program

A final report about self-dependent group conduct is considered the end of the course.

On qualification each participant of the program receives a qualification certificate that is acknowledged in Europe.

The training lasts for at least five years.

Education in group psychoanalysis is conducted in German with bilingual conference interpretation. Groups consist of 12 persons with 2 leaders. Training groups are semi-open in nature.

Distribution of the lessons: twice a year lasting 6 days (38 training hours) group analytic therapy (32 training hours) including 6 hours of large groups and supervision (6 training hours); 'Theory and Supervision' sessions are held three times a year. Non-attended sessions need to be made up by prolonging the training.

The documents regulating the institute of CEEP are Curriculum, Provision about Complete Education in group analysis, basic ethics principles, the contract between group participants and CEEP, staff decisions which take place twice a year in Moscow and in internet-correspondence.

We take into account the traditional requirements for Europe but new also ones for Russia, i.e. polymorphous membership with men and women of different age and profession; excluding people who are in any private and professional relationships to each other. People with higher education in psychological, social, medical professions and three year of working experience with people who are not younger the 24 are admitted to the training.

Theory of group analysis: mixed sessions of theory and supervision take place three times a year for three days, altogether 24 training hours = 12 training lessons. Total distribution of hours: of supervision is 4–6 training lessons; theory: 6–8 training lessons. There is an opportunity to receive supervision for individual cases in the last two years.

The conceptual basis of theory is supported on casuistry as the content-subject part of theoretical lessons.

A peculiarity of supervision is the distribution of hours between European and Russian training therapists: European supervisors conduct 3 double sessions (6 hours) per workshop, changing the groups, i.e. those who have analysis in one group have the supervision in parallel one. There should be at least two educational groups. There are 2-3 groups more in the project.

We operate on principles of transparency in organizing this education which decreases the possibility of their damage. It is very important for us as a preventive measure in our society not to turn into some kind of sect. Transparency is realized by clear aims, rules and the content of educational organization, programs, decisions taken for all participants of the process and there is always a possibility for discussion and influence in making decisions. There are organized meetings for all participants during the workshops and between them. We try to act as transparently as possible to prevent all types of corruption.

The Centre of European Education in Psychotherapy is an intermediate member of EGATIN. Nowadays CEEP has decided upon a task of gradual change of European group analysts towards a more Russian model. We develop provisions according to which Russian graduates have an opportunity to be trainers, teachers of theory and supervisors; we develop the system of entering our graduates into trainer's work. Four certified graduates of the project as tutors hold theory blocks on the training. A public society of group analysts is forming who are ready

to continue the establishment of the organization based on the theory of European specialists. The peculiarities of our general culture as a whole and as a culture of organization in particular influence this processes. In this case I mean peculiarities which can be called an ‘inability to form contractual relationships’, ‘dominant fighting at weak points when engaging in contractual negotiations’, ‘weak reflex responsive competitive relations and strong instincts of power’. All of these aims make a field for further group analytical organization. My optimism is supported by my hope for clearly developed positions, norms, requirements to obtain a status of ‘teaching group analyst’.

Pokhmelkina Galina, CSP, Director of Centre for European Education in Psychotherapy, Moscow. Sphere of scientific interests is psychology of reflexion; organization culture and groups; psychology of contract processes (mediation); about 50 publications, 3 books are among them. Private practice: mediator, supervisor and couch. Director of publishers VERTE.

Child-Parent Playgroups

I wrote the following piece for my PhD about a Therapeutic Community in the 1960’s in Sydney Australia where they had Child-Parent groups in a residential TC unit. This unit was closed in 1968.

‘Webb and Bruen (1968) wrote up research relating to the first 13 weeks of Multiple Child-Parent Therapy in Fraser House called by some, ‘the mad hour’. Median attendance was 15 parents and sixteen children (aged 14 and under). This therapy was held in the same room as Big Group. All chairs were removed and ‘free play’ items were provided – including saucepans, games, balls, clothes as well as chalk and a blackboard. Attendance for parents and their children under 14 was compulsory and doors were locked to prevent people leaving; although parents with unproblematic relations with young infants were not required to bring them. Outpatients visiting Fraser House with children

under 14 also attended the parent-child groups. As with other groups at Fraser House, there was a spread of diagnostic categories [1] among the people attending, as well as a spread of under-actives/ over-actives and the under-controlled/over-controlled (Bruen Dec, 2005).

The first half hour was a free period. Parents asked what they were supposed to do. The only instruction was ‘parents are free to play with or discipline their children as they see fit’. Staff were told that during the free period they were to observe but not intervene unless physical damage seemed imminent. Staff could move around and talk to parents or play with children; however, staff were not to organize anything.

In the first few weeks these groups were extremely noisy, rowdy and stressful for parents, staff and children alike, especially the free period where staff were almost as overwhelmed as the parents.

The second half hour was usually structured with finger painting or routine group therapy. The third half hour was a reporting session. After that session the attendees were divided into three groups run by staff – parents (one hour session), children 8–14 (one hour session) and younger children (half hour session). The half hour with the younger children was described as ‘utter chaos’. There was then a final reporting session for staff for a half hour.

Initially, nearly all parents expressed considerable hostility towards the group and towards the staff who set up the group. During subsequent groups, parents grudgingly acknowledged that children enjoyed it. In an email exchange Bruen stated (December 2005) that ‘Even having parents become hostile towards us succeeded in bringing them closer to their children’.

The free period was originally an arena for staff to watch interactions that emerged. Initially parents were unable and unwilling to go near or engage with their children they were emotional strangers. ‘Getting together’ as a family was a rare event in these people’s lives.

For six weeks the group was a provoking agent. After six weeks parents grudgingly admitted that the children enjoyed the sessions (Webb & Bruen, 1968, p. 52). After 9 weeks, successful whole family discussions were starting. Parents began playing with each other and play was being organised by parents with and between whole family groups. Whole families began to get

together and enjoy each other's company. A major therapeutic role of the groups was having parents showing pleasure and amazement in having for the first time their children approaching them to play with them, and if parents did this, that it would not have disastrous consequences.

During the thirteen weeks covered in the Web-Bruen research, the attendees were also attending Big and Small Groups, and discussion about the Child-Parent Groups was often raised in both of those forums.

Terry O'Neill used to facilitate this upstairs child-play segment as a volunteer psychologist after Warrick Bruen left. (I received my counselling skills training from Terry in the late Seventies.) Terry told me (October 1998) that on his first evening alone with the children (8–14), so much emotional energy had been generated during the first segment, 'playing' with their parents, that the nature of the frenzied play upstairs was scary. Some of the older children were kicking a soccer ball round like a deadly missile. Everyone had to be super alert not to get his or her head knocked off. Terry said (October 1998) that having a number of disturbed children in play therapy in these evening sessions stretched his skills to their limit.

The substantial change towards good parent-child relations during free play in these child-parent groups is another example of 'provoking' or 'perturbing' the families and tapping into functional self organizing aspects in the context of all of the other Fraser House changework'.

1, Schizophrenia 2, Personality Disorder 6, Personality Disorder with Alcohol and Drug Addiction 4, and Neuroses 3.

The full PhD is the first link at www.laceweb.org.au called cultural keyline.

There are also interesting broadcasts on the following website: <http://www.tc-of.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=P7S1>

The chapter on Neville's group process is I believe potent to this day. A core idea was attending to and reflecting back the functional-in-contexts aspects of each person.

Dr Les Spencer. Behavioural scientist and sociologist based in Melbourne, Australia.

A Multi-Family Group at a Psychiatric Day Hospital – A Group Analytic Experience

Abstract

Considering that the parents' collaboration in the treatment of their young and dependant children is fundamental, in order to proceed with effective treatment and to reduce to a minimum the number of dropouts, we initiated, at the beginning of the year 2001, a multi-family psychoanalytic group (Badaracco, J.G., 2000) constituted by the inpatients of the Psychiatric Service's Day Hospital, in the Hospital de Santa Maria (a General Hospital in Lisbon), by their parents and by our Day Hospital's Team.

By confronting generations, the family's psychopathology emerges with an impressive transparency in these groups and taking into account that transgenerationality is generated by vicious-circles of pathological projective identifications, the Multi-family Group (MFG), by penetrating into these closed circular meanders, becomes the mediator which will enable the dismantling of the pathological and pathogenic inter-dependencies (Badaracco, 2000) between parents and children.

As this setting amplifies the mutual mirroring considerably, it allows new identifications, and induces the development of the self, through verbalisation of emotions and conflicts facing the parents.

The Day Hospital of the Psychiatric Service of Santa Maria's Hospital has existed since 1977 and has been dedicated to the treatment of preferably young patients suffering from acute decompensation.

Its functioning is the responsibility of a Multidisciplinary Team that is constituted by a main nucleus of fixed technicians – 2 psychiatric doctors (including the Team Leader), 2 psychologists, 2 nurses and 1 occupational therapist – and by a group of technicians in training – psychiatric residents, psychologists (long term interns and scholastic ones), paedopsychiatrists, medical students and nursing students.

Our Day Unit centres its interventions in the therapeutic relationship, through the Team's activity, in both an individual and group context.

We have an essentially dynamic approach – Psychoanalytical and Group-analytical – which has a 'Pattern' that is based on Authenticity, Empathic Attitude of Support and Contention.

We aim to encourage Group Cohesion, the development of a Group 'Matrix', the identification with new relational models and transformation of emotional experiences; re-learning of relationships and adaptation to reality, helping the person to use his ability to think and feel; and most of all, helping to substitute the language and the expression of the symptom with the language and expression of the emotion/affect.

The Day Hospital's inpatients benefit from a weekly (one hour) session of individual psychotherapy, three weekly sessions (ninety minutes each) of analytic group psychotherapy, a weekly (two hours) session of gymnastic/dance, and daily occupational activities, and since 2001 a fortnightly multifamily group.

The thirty one years of institutional work has made us realize the importance of family relationships and interactions in the genesis of psychopathology and in the therapeutic evolution of our patients.

The majority of our patients have a symbiotic relationship with at least one of the parents; therefore, the trigger for their illness has been the crucial moments that lead towards autonomy.

The patients' parents show signs of psychopathological traits, such as: affective immaturity; empathic flaws; latent or manifest conflicts between the parents; inadequacy of containing and support functions which may lead to the inversion of roles; identity and autonomy disorders. All of these aspects are systematically denied.

Predominantly due to that, we started a Multifamily Group seven years ago, based on the Multifamily Psychoanalysis model, by Badaracco, J.G. (2000), and based on groupanalytic theory and technique, developed by Foulkes, S.H. Cortesão, E.L. and followers.

Our MFG, is a median semi-open Group, in which it's possible, at least for a certain time, to guarantee the stability of the permanency of its members. So, the same elements are maintained for considerable periods of time, which enables the investigation and comprehension of the genesis of psychopathology,

as well as facilitates the evaluation of the development undergone by the patients and the group itself.

The MFG has a fortnightly periodicity, occurring on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 11:00, and is constituted by families, the Day Hospital's whole team and one or two observers.

All sessions are registered in writing by 1 or 2 technicians.

At the beginning we congregated in this group an average of 4–5 families: patients and their parents, specially the ones depending (affectively + materially) on their parents.

Currently, and because we have opened the group to other relatives, such as husbands/wives and brothers/sisters, we are able to get together 8–9 families. Therefore the total number of participants has increased substantially. And although we have a large room – with a capacity for 40 people – we sometimes have problems with space.

Nevertheless, we are very pleased with the results in terms of the rapid diagnosis of the families' relational pathology, which has given us the possibility of understanding our patients' pathologies better, and facilitating the working through in a more efficient manner. Besides, we have had the strong adherence of the patients and their families.

Thinking about the advantages of this psychotherapeutic tool, we can say that it enables us to observe, identify, understand and attempt to change the pathological and genealogical heritage, passed from parents to children.

Moreover, the diversity of opportunities for expression, that the MFG presents and mutual mirroring phenomena, allows that progressively, healthier identifications can be constructed, at the same time that certain empathic failures that were suffered are repaired. It allows us to work with various families at the same time, pointing out their differences, similarities and contradictions, which promote new identifications, new individual and family organisations and transforming affective experiences.

Analysing seven years of group work, it is possible to delineate some of the main subjects brought by both parents and children.

The main subject, in all of these groups has been, from the beginning and still is, ones' autonomy. There are other issues, most of them associated with this one, which also appear frequently: separation difficulties, discordance between parents and children, 'parental control'; or issues like envy, rivalry, aggression,

sexuality, (frequently denied/repressed), self identity and difficulties in confronting and managing conflicts.

‘Conflict’ is a very frequent theme in our MFGs, it emerges either in the framework of the parental couple or in the divergences between parents and children. But the main theme has been and still is ‘autonomy’.

These parents criticise their children’s choices, but paradoxically they also criticise their incapacity to choose; they criticise their ‘inactivity’, but make them feel threatened by the possibility of being abandoned if they realize any movements towards autonomy.

After some time in the MFG, some of the patients start showing signs of improvement – increased spontaneity, increased facility of expression, elaboration of future projects. This change seems misunderstood by parents. In fact, they feel it like some kind of rejection and interpret these sketches of self delineation as aggression and developmental regressions. They themselves, still dependent on their past primary objects, cannot face their children’s individuation – they feel envy of their children’s gains.

After sometime we begin to see some changes in the family units and in the individuals: the children become more conscious of their difficulties, and by taking advantage of the therapist’s protection, progressively become more capable of expressing their feelings. This enables mentalization and working through of psychic contents, till then kept away from the conscience. Alternative and more creative forms of expression emerge: writing, music, painting or drawing, and these appear, side by side, with a far greater spontaneity in their verbal expression. They also become more emphatic.

The parents become more conscious of their children’s true difficulties. They request help in order to deal with these difficulties and adopt more adequate attitudes when dealing with them. They begin to develop certain empathic capacities towards the other parents’ children, and only later, towards their own children.

The MFG contributes significantly for the dismantling of the ‘pathological and pathogenic interdependencies’ (Badaracco, 2000) which give the patients a false feeling of safety and that difficult emotional growth, which is indispensable in order to achieve true autonomy; it sets the limits and breaks up the dual

relationship and introduces new knowledge leading to the desired transformations.

The Multifamily framework has been a great help in our institutional work with psychotic and borderline patient allowing both the revelation of unconsciously repressed conflicts, and the emotional growth of the people involved.

The MFG becomes an instrument of analysis and elaboration of the trans-generational knots, as well as an excellent means of psychic change, due to the transformation of emotional experiences that it provides, therefore we have achieved a significant step towards the acceleration of our patients' therapeutic processes, and at the same time decreased the length of hospitalization in our Unit.

Maria João Centeno and Isaura Neto

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See Also:

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The GAS Forum

The Forum is now becoming a more active and interesting space within which fellow GAS members discuss issues, share understandings, experiences and information, and agree and disagree. If you would like to join this lively community follow these instructions:

The first step is to send an email to me at:
birchmore@yahoo.com

I will then sign you up to the GAS Forum and you will begin to receive messages from the Forum.

The most important second step will involve you setting up your own Google account and this will allow you to change your email settings, unsubscribe if you wish, to read the files placed on the GAS Forum Google Group site, and generally to take control of your own administration. This will be expected of you.

So, you now need to create a Google Account in order to do what you want with your subscription to the GAS Forum. You will need to follow these steps:

Visit the Google main page at: <http://www.google.com/>

Any Google main page will be fine, however, Google.de, Google.co.uk, Google in Chinese, etc., etc.

Click on 'Sign In' at the top right hand upper corner. On the page that loads click on 'Don't have a Google Account? Create an account now'. You then need to type the email address you have used to sign on to the Forum and choose a password. Easy!

You can then, from the Google Main Page, click on 'more' at the top of the page, then on 'Groups' – the GAS Forum will then be displayed and you can enter the site and change your email settings, view past messages, and view the files placed on the site by members.

Recent ‘Threads’ Posted on the Forum

- Bibliotherapy
- Dublin Symposium
- Award for Psychoanalytic Writing
- Kasser calls for ‘revolution of values’
- Call-for-Papers: TERROR: The Human Condition Series
- Guardian Letter
- Class: The Last taboo
- Ricciardi died
- Barcelona
- Adult handicap and group
- La 3ª Conferencia Mediterránea no terminó!
- Where there is Hope, there is Life, but life is never ‘roses, roses all the way’
- Hope and Courage as important factors in Group Analysis.
- The Kokoda Trail
- Let us talk seriously about: ‘Language Is Power’ (Standard English or Queens English!)
- Dialog the Pat’s way
- How group cooperation varies between cultures

Terry Birchmore

Obituaries

Marisa Dillon Weston: October 1940 January 2008

‘Death be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and Dreadful, for thou art not so’. John Donne

The defiance that was Marisa’s death was also her life. Much as she loved the beautiful Italian village of Brisighella where she grew up, she also rejected the limited, judgemental life it imposed. Marisa had to be tough. Her father had died in the war leaving

her mother to struggle and be grateful to the charity of the nuns that took Marisa into their convent school. Breaking free through her intelligence and zest for living, she used her talent for languages to search out her own life.

As her son Stephen says, ‘Marisa had a rich life: she was a teacher, a psychotherapist, and for a period in the 70s presented a programme called *Avventura* on BBC TV sporting a beehive the size of a missile silo!’

Marisa was a passionately interested person. Her head bowed close to me, she would ask a question as part of an ongoing discussion that we might be having over several months. What did I really think? As we spoke, she would then take my arm and steer me to a café and a conversation filled with advice on my diet, a work problem to explore, a play she had just seen, a paper she had read or a book I should read. A restless, stimulating, loving friendship.

The standards and responsibilities she set herself for friendship and in her work were also expected of her friends and colleagues. This did lead to difficulties as she was attracted to strong-minded people but I admired her integrity, her loyalty and her determination to stand by what she felt was right.

She loved learning, teaching and being a therapist. She trained first at the IGA where she gave so much. She supervised on the London Training but also trained group analysts in Bologna and more recently, in Glasgow. She later trained at the BAP as an individual therapist.

With her great capacity to love and her tremendous loyalty to those she loved, she knew the value of being alongside others who struggle. Working as a therapist finally brought a temporary calmness because it brought together a need to understand, a need to help and heal, a need for closeness with others and a need for privacy. She put so much of herself into her life that her home, with her husband Michael’s love and understanding, was a place where she could be restored. Her illness belonged privately there, not in the world where she lived so intensely.

Marisa would have been so proud of Stephen as he spoke at the funeral; ‘Mum did it the Italian way; she was stylish, she was warm, she had flair, she was a woman of huge energy, resilience, intelligence, compassion and emotional generosity, who cared deeply about her family, her friends and her patients. She was

serious, yet fun loving, tough yet vulnerable and we will miss her hugely.’

Sue Einhorn

Alice Ricciardi-von Platen

Paul Weindling

The Guardian, Thursday March 13 2008

Our understanding of the horrors of Nazi medicine owes much to the courageous work of the German-born psychiatrist Alice Ricciardi-von Platen, who has died aged 97. Her book, *The Killing of the Mentally Ill in Germany*, published in 1948, was the first full account of the subject, describing how the fate of psychiatric patients in the Third Reich was bureaucratised murder, supervised by a medical profession that was largely ‘conservative, nationalistic and used to obeying’.

Alice Platen-Hallermund (as she then was) learned about the situation late in 1946, when, as a young psychiatrist, she attended the so-called ‘doctors’ trial’ at Nuremberg as a member of the German delegation of medical observers. The trial, involving 23 leading physicians and administrators accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity, heard evidence of human experiments, doctors killing weak and infirm patients, and genocide. After 140 days of hearings, including the testimony of 85 witnesses and the submission of 1,500 documents, 13 of the doctors and three officials were convicted. Seven were executed in 1948.

The trial culminated in the judges promulgating a code on human experiments that required voluntary consent – which became the basis of modern ideas of informed consent.

The delegation of which Platen-Hallermund was a member was led by the social psychiatrist Alexander Mitscherlich. They had bravely defied pressure from the German medical profession to side with the defendants – and, vengefully, that professional establishment ensured that none of the delegation members made a career in medicine in Germany. But afterwards, instead of assisting Mitscherlich in the preparation of his book on ‘science without humanity’, Platen-Hallermund insisted on

writing under her own name. Her book was published by the Catholic-oriented journal *Frankfurter Hefte* and edited by Eugen Kogon, himself a former Buchenwald prisoner and witness of human experiments.

Alice was a scion of the aristocratic von Platen family, born at Weissenhaus in Holstein, northern Germany. Her landowning father had socialist sympathies, and her mother was an Anglophile. As a girl, she spent time in England – English was her first language – but her family returned to Germany in 1915, when she was five, having managed to travel back through Russia.

She was educated at Schloss Salem – a progressive boarding school in Baden-Württemberg, southern Germany, run by the educator Kurt Hahn – where she was introduced to democratic ideas of social responsibility. She noticed, though, that Hahn lacked any understanding of students with mental problems.

As a medical student in Munich, she witnessed the intimidation and violence of Nazi students. After qualifying in 1934, she took a post as assistant physician in Potsdam, where she was shocked by the psychiatrist Hans Heinze's cruel treatment of psychiatric patients – Heinze was later involved in children's euthanasia. She broke off her specialist training and joined refugee circles in Florence, where she completed her MD on allergies, and remained in Italy until the summer of 1939.

When war came, she worked as a country doctor in Upper Austria, at Pettenbach, near Linz. There, she became close to an anti-Nazi priest and learned about the horrors of the nearby concentration camps of Mauthausen and Ebensee. She also knew that mentally ill people were vulnerable, badly treated and starving, although the administrative machinery behind the killing of more than 200,000 psychiatric patients was not at that time clear to her.

After the war, and by now a single mother, Platen-Hallermund worked as assistant to Viktor von Weizsäcker, the pioneer of psychosomatic medicine at Heidelberg, who recommended her for the long and lonely stint on the Nuremberg delegation. During the proceedings, one of the defendants, Karl Brandt, sent notes that he hoped Platen-Hallermund would understand, but she regarded him as sentimental, naive and immature in his admiration of Hitler. Brandt, who became Hitler's personal physician in 1944 and had headed the administration of the

euthanasia programme from 1939, was among those executed after the doctors' trial.

With the proceedings behind her, Platen-Hallermund worked as a psychiatrist at Bamberg, in Bavaria, but then decided to undertake training in psychotherapy in Britain. The Hungarian emigre analyst Michael Balint (who had also conducted a training analysis of Mitscherlich) supervised her work, and it became clear that she had no wish to return to Germany. She collaborated with Siegmund Foulkes in the Group Analytic Society, founded in 1952, which promoted group analysis, and worked at hospitals in Shenley, Hertfordshire, and Bromley, south-east London. She admired such innovations as the Peckham health experiment, founded in 1935, which offered preventive approaches to health.

In 1956 she married Baron Augusto Ricciardi, moved to Tripoli and, in 1967, to Rome. Later, she had a rural retreat near Cortona, in Tuscany. She was a pioneer of group analysis in Italy and enjoyed a flourishing practice; having coffee in the square at Cortona, she would be joined by wayward youngsters who appreciated her sound counsel.

In the 1990s, her historical work was rediscovered by a younger generation of German doctors concerned with human rights in medicine. In 1993 her study of Nazi euthanasia was republished and an Italian translation followed. She was always extraordinarily observant in her understanding of people. She participated in the Altaussee group therapy conferences, and took a lead in developing psychotherapy in post-communist eastern Europe, especially in Ukraine.

Alice always retained a handsome elegance; she loved flowers – as on a recent visit to Oxford's Botanic Garden. She remained alert to the latest ideas in history and psychoanalysis, and her clear, commanding voice meant that she relished working with large groups. Aged 96, she lectured with great clarity before a packed, young audience in the Nuremberg town hall, inspired by her concerns with the troubling legacy of nazism in today's psychiatry. She is survived by her son, Georg.

- Alice Ricciardi-von Platen, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, born April 28 1910; died February 23 2008

Research

Therapeutic Alliance and Cohesion Variables as Predictors of Outcome in Short-Term Group Psychotherapy. Anthony S. Joyce, William E. Piper, John S. Ogrodniczuk. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*. New York: July 2007. Vol. 57, Iss. 3; pg. 269, 28 pgs.

Abstract: The current study explored the relative ability of aggregate therapeutic alliance and cohesion variables to predict short-term group therapy outcome. Data were collected from a comparative trial of two forms of time-limited group psychotherapy for complicated grief (Piper, McCallum, Joyce, Rosie, & Ogrodniczuk, 2001). The therapeutic alliance and elements of the cohesion construct were measured from the perspectives of each patient and the group therapist at intervals during the groups; scores were aggregated across assessments. Hierarchical multiple regression analyses, adjusting for the effects of treatment approach (interpretive vs. supportive) and specific group membership, demonstrated that the patient-rated alliance was a consistent predictor of outcome. Two cohesion measures, reflecting other participants' (therapist, other members) views of the patient's 'fit' with the group, also accounted for variation in outcome. Implications of the findings for research and clinical practice, and the limitations of the measurement approach taken in this study, are considered.

Review: This paper examines the influence of the therapeutic alliance with the group therapist. The authors point out that the alliance between clinician and patient in individual therapy has consistently been identified as a significant predictor of treatment success but the nature of the association between the alliance and outcome in group therapy is much less clear. They state that patients in group therapy have been shown to place a high value on the relationships developed with the other members or the group as a whole, regarding these as being of equivalent or greater benefit than the relationship with the therapist, and in the group context treatment benefit may be facilitated by the

patient's relationship with the therapist, the patient's sense of cohesion with the other patients, the patients' experience of cohesion to the group as a whole, or some combination of these relationships. This study aimed to explore, first, how global measures of the alliance and cohesion may overlap and, second, how they may jointly influence group therapy outcome.

The authors examine the concepts of the therapeutic alliance and group cohesion as used in previous literature. They then outline their research methodology: matching of patients using ratings of object relations and psychological mindedness, etc; the inclusion criteria for the project were based on measures of complicated grief and social role dysfunction; and they outline the measures used. Each patient engaged in a form of short-term group therapy that placed emphasis on either interpretive or supportive technique. Both types of group met for 90-minute sessions each week for 12 weeks.

The guiding question of the research concerned how the therapeutic alliance and cohesion may be implicated in treatment benefit, particularly when considered together. The study showed that patient's rating of the alliance had a weak to moderate direct association with three of the five indices of cohesion. The largest overlap was with the patient's ratings of commitment to the group and the compatibility of the other members. The authors conclude that their findings point to the importance of the therapeutic alliance in group therapy, and, to an extent, challenge the clinical belief that cohesion is central to change in group treatment. Their findings also suggest that how the individual is seen to 'fit' with the group is associated with his or her benefit from therapy in that the patient's perceptions of the quality of his or her collaboration with the therapist, and the view of others (other members, therapist) regarding the patient's compatibility or 'fit' in the group, are important elements independently associated with improvement. The therapist's perceptions of the patient's 'fit' in the group had a significant simple relationship with improvement (General Symptoms).

IGA/GAS Library Update

Firstly I would like to advise all library users that the Librarian's hours of attendance have changed [again! – I'm sorry: hopefully this arrangement will last for a while]; they are now Tuesday and Wednesday, 11.00–17.00. This is a slight increase in hours over the previous one long day worked, in light of the evident workload and expected additional work which will be occasioned by system installation and data input.

The Library Committee met in January 2008, when it received with regret the resignation of Paul Sepping, tendered in light of his frequent inability to attend. We are in the process of finding a replacement for him, and we are still, as reported in the last issue of GA Contexts, seeking a member to represent the student body a current, or recent student, and a distant, or 'corresponding' member.

Work is continuing on liaison with the Qualifying Course convenor, and on establishing an appropriate form of Copyright Licensing Agency license for our needs.

The IGA Library has no formal interlibrary loan arrangements and belongs to no co-operative group [apart from the online community of Lis-Med, the general medical mailing list], but fruitful contact has been established with the Librarian of the SAP Society of Analytical Psychology, and of the BAP – the British Association of Psychotherapists, and the librarian has visited Birkbeck College Library.

With an early Easter this year, the Spring term has seemed a short one, and has been busy with sourcing and obtaining reading list material. As a result, there have been few new acquisitions, but a 'current awareness' listing of journal articles, sourced from journals received in stock, has been maintained, and can be supplied on request.

Please do contact me by telephone or by email: elizabeth@igalondon.org.uk at any time, if you have any queries.

Elizabeth M Nokes

IGA/GAS Library
1 Daleham Gardens
London NW3 5BY
Tel 020 7431 2693
Fax 020 7431 7246

Librarian available at the following times:

Tuesday 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Wednesday 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

IGA/GAS Film Group

18th July 2008. Jindabyne

An outstanding Australian film from director Ray Lawrence (who made *Lantana*) and screenwriter Beatrix Christian. It is based on Raymond Carver's short story *So Much Water So Close to Home*, transposed to the vast landscape of New South Wales. On an annual fishing trip, in isolated high country, Stewart, Carl, Rocco and Billy ('the Kid') find a girl's body in the river. It's too late in the day for them to hike back to the road and report their tragic find. Next morning, instead of making the long trek back, they spend the day fishing. Their decision to stay on at the river is a little mysterious – almost as if the place itself is exerting some kind of magic over them. When the men finally return home to Jindabyne, and report finding the body, all hell breaks loose. Their wives can't understand how they could have gone fishing with the dead girl right there in the water – she needed their help. The men are confused – the girl was already dead, there was nothing they could do for her. Stewart's wife Claire is the last to know. As details filter out, and Stewart resists talking about what has happened, she is unnerved. There is a callousness about all of this which disturbs her deeply. Stewart is not convinced that he has done anything wrong. Claire's faith in her relationship with her husband is shaken to the core. The fishermen, their wives and their children

are suddenly haunted by their own bad spirits. As public opinion builds against the actions of the men, their certainty about themselves and the decision they made at the river is challenged. They cannot undo what they have done. Only Claire understands that something fundamental is not being addressed. She wants to understand and tries to make things right. In her determination Claire sets herself not only against her own family and friends but also those of the dead girl. Her marriage is taken to the brink and her peaceful life with Stewart and their young son hangs in the balance.

Jindabyne addresses a gulf between articulate women and moody silent males, between the whites and the patronised Aborigines, and between scared humanity and the vast and frightening landscape of Australia itself, a landscape in which one may so easily lose one's bearings of Anglo-Saxon normality, and in which violence or loss are terrifyingly possible.

To book for the above events contact:

**Lucy Messer, General Administrator, Institute of Group Analysis,
020 7431 2693.**

IGA/GAS Summer Film Festival

Sex and Death, Youth, Mid-life and the Third Age

13th and 14th June 2008

Includes small and large group discussions inclusive fee for the whole programme: £95

13th June 2008. La Grande Bouffe. Directed by Marco Ferreri (France/Italy 1973).

This surreal, satirical film, starring icons of cinema Marcello Mastroianni, Michel Piccoli, Philippe Noiret takes us into the world of perversion and excess. A group of men hire some prostitutes and go to a villa wanting to have an orgy culminating in eating themselves to death.

Discussion led by Dr Earl Hopper, group analyst, psychoanalyst, sociologist and author of 'The Social Unconscious'.

NB: Due to the running time of the film the evening will begin at 7pm, half an hour earlier than usual. Registration at 6.00pm starting at 7.00pm ending at 10.30pm.

14th June 2008. Y tu mamá también. Directed by Alfonso Cuarón (Mexico 2002)

A sexually charged coming of age, ménage a trios, road film about the maturation of two young men and their relationship with their older cousin. Influenced by French cinema's la nouvelle vague and starring Gael Garcia Bernal, this is a bawdy but very affecting and subtle film.

Discussion led by Valli Kohon , psychoanalyst with a particular interest in film studies.

Registration at 9.30am starting at 10.00am.

Also Venus. Written by Hanif Kureishi, Directed by Roger Michell (UK 2006)

Sex and death from the perspective of old age as the character played by Peter O'Toole becomes transfixed by the young niece of his friend played by Leslie Phillips. Outstanding cinematography, tragic-comic script and heartrending, vulnerable performances.

Discussion led by Yana Stajavo , film maker, script writer and regular contributor to Screen Memories.

Showing in the afternoon ending at 5.00pm.

To Book: Send your name, address and contact details, including your email address with a cheque for £95.00 to The Administrator, IGA, 1 Daleham Gardens, London NW3 5BY You can also book by phone using your credit card (2% fee) or debit card (£0.50). Phone 020 7431 2693.

Request for Foulkes Letters and Documents for Society Archives

We are appealing for letters, notes, and correspondence from Foulkes that Society members may possess. This will add to our already valuable society archive that contains much interesting material, papers and minutes and that is a significant source of information on our history and development.

Please contact Julia in the GAS office if you would like to donate any original or copied documents:

Group-Analytic Society
102 Belsize Road
London NW3 5BB
Tel: +44 (0)20 7435 6611
Fax: +44 (0)20 7443 9576
E-mail: admin@groupanalyticsociety.co.uk

**GOLDSMITHS ASSOCIATION of
GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPISTS**

presents

I versus We

A conference taking an attachment perspective

Saturday 14th June 2008

10am–4pm

at the Charity Centre, 24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2DP

with

Jeremy Holmes

MD, FRCPsych, Professor of Psychotherapy,
University of Exeter

Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist in private practice.

Writer on psychotherapy and attachment theory

I versus We:

**The developmental origins of security and insecurity in groups:
Clinical implications**

Jeremy Holmes will review studies from attachment theory looking particularly at defensive attachment styles, including extreme narcissistic and borderline forms, which are seen as ways of managing interpersonal threat while holding onto social connections, however tenuous. Clinical implications will be explored: considering how natural groups can mitigate or exacerbate pre-existing insecure attachment styles, and how therapeutic groups may begin to transform these patterns in more lasting ways.

Choice of afternoon workshops

including discussion of Mentalization/the Adult Attachment interview/a film/art therapy group – all on issues of attachment

Large group

Cost: £80, or £65 for GAGP members, to include refreshments and lunch

Numbers restricted – Book early

Please contact:

Nikolas Ragiadacos, 20 Meadowview Road, Catford,
London SE6 3NN

Any queries: nragiadacos@yahoo.co.uk

Autumn Workshop 2008

**Organisation: Group Analytic Society – London
and
Institute of Group Analysis ‘Rasztów’ Warsaw**

Trauma: Individual and Group Experiences

*An exploration of the consequences of trauma in the experiences of
individuals, groups, societies and generations*

Friday 14th to Sunday 16th November 2008

Venue: Krakow, Poland

The workshop is intended as a space to reflect on how traumatic experiences, in terms of both traumatic events and traumatic relationships, carve a psychological landscape and how we work with their consequences.

It will be conducted in Krakow which for centuries was the capital of Poland and the seat of kings, drawing great scholars and artists from the around world. This contributed to the multi-cultural character of the city which is a treasury of unique historical relics, and which reflects the most important trends in European culture.

There are direct flights from London, Bristol, Liverpool and many European cities including Amsterdam, Barcelona, Brussels, Budapest, Frankfurt, Milan, Oslo, Paris and Prague, and train connections from Warsaw.

As we know that there are some people who are interested in visiting The Memory Place Museum: Former Holocaust Lager Auschwitz-Birkenau and who wish to take the opportunity that the workshop offers a space to discuss thoughts and impressions, we are ready to organise and assist at such a visit on Friday the 14th of November from 9:00 to 14:00 (the tour and travel taking around 5 hours).

For further information please contact Łukasz Dobromirski: dobromirski@gmail.com

Information about registration fee, recommended hotels and registration form is published at www.instytut.rasztow.pl

Repeating, Reflecting, Moving On: Germans, Jews, Palestinians & Others Today

**An Experiential Conference in the ‘Nazareth’ Series
Platres, Cyprus
3rd–8th September 2008**

The Holocaust appears to have cast a very long shadow. Since the end of World War II Germans, Jews and Others in the West, Israelis, Palestinians and Others in the Middle East and, more recently, Westerners, Muslims and Others worldwide, have become embroiled in seemingly unstoppable cycles of inter-group hatred and violence. Are we doomed to repeat these destructive patterns endlessly, or is it possible to engage with the legacy of the past in a way that opens up the possibility of a better and more hopeful future? This experiential conference,

the sixth of its kind, offers a unique space for exploring this question in relation to our world today. Like recent ones, it is intended for an international membership

These conferences began when German and Israeli psychoanalytic colleagues recognised the extent to which hatred and guilt – given a deadly form by the Holocaust – lived on and adversely affected one's capacity to work with, and relate to, the Other. The Tavistock Group Relations model, which integrates psychoanalytic and open systems approaches, was specially adapted to create a safe setting in which experiences ordinarily disowned (e.g. involving painful and entrenched group enmity, hatred, prejudice, cruel persecution and unbearable shame and guilt) could be discovered and voiced, allowing their role in bedevilling inter-group relations to be studied and illuminated.

At an individual level, many were helped to put right the burdens of the past and to move on to a more hopeful future. Alongside this work on old enmities, however, there has been a growing awareness of the need to work on newly invoked enmities (e.g. Arab/Jew; Muslim/Jew-Christian; Palestinian/Israeli), which have particular urgency in light of the dangerous escalation of armed conflict in our world. Can the work of these conferences shed light on what is going on and contribute towards building a better future?

This conference is intended for all who suffer on account of the effects of such enmities, or are troubled by them, and want to work, through their own experience, towards understanding – rather than surrendering to – the sinister forces involved. The hope is that this might lead to a better future.

For further information please contact: www.pcca.org.il (web site in construction)

GROUPS AT WORK ORGANISATIONAL CONSULTATION FORUM

Monthly forum, commencing on October 15th
from 6.00pm to 9.00pm

The Institute of Group Analysis
1 Daleham Gardens, London NW3 5BY

Fee: £750 (Six Sessions)
IGA members less 10%

The aim of the forum is to enable managers, consultants, coaches and other professionals to further their understanding of individual, group and organisational dynamics, and to develop their skills in consultation and coaching.

Members will be able to reflect on their practice and how the complexity of the working environment impinges on their work roles and relationships, on those of their staff and clients, and how to develop strategies to manage more effectively.

Members will be expected to bring issues of concern or dilemmas related to their work and roles. These will be explored from a psychodynamic, systemic and group analytic perspective so that both theoretical understanding of individual and group processes will be enhanced. The emphasis will be on task, process and 'putting into action'.

The forum will act as a learning community and will explore the dynamics of the group as they arise. There will be a theoretical input as well as case presentations. Managing transitions and uncertainty, leadership, authority, succession, difference and sustainability will be explored.

The Organisational Forum will meet monthly at the Institute of Group Analysis. Fees will be £750 for six sessions. (IGA members less 10%) CPD certification.

Consultants: Dr Marlene Spero and Professor Barry Curnow

For further information please contact:

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