

# BELGIRATE VI

## The Place where we Live: The space for Group Relations

*An international meeting  
for Group Relations Conferences practitioners*

**1 - 4 November 2018**

**Hotel Villa Carlotta  
Belgirate  
Lago Maggiore, Italy**

### MEETING SPONSORS

The A K Rice Institute  
for the Study of Social Systems

OFEK – The Israeli Association for the  
Study of Group and Organizational Processes

The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations

## Background:

Since the first Leicester conference, which was pioneered by staff of the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations in 1957, Group Relations conferences have been understood as educational events which are based on learning through experience. Strategic and structural dynamics of organisations are studied and explored from a psychoanalytic-systemic perspective. The knowledge is acquired and then applied by working through the conscious and unconscious dynamics of leadership and management in groups, organisations and systems. The Leicester Conference has become the fundamental model for similar conferences held in many countries around the world. It has been adapted and modified over the years to be useful as a laboratory of reflection in various local contexts including the social, cultural, religious, spiritual, geographical and theoretical.

## Purpose of the Belgirate Meetings:

Since 2003, the Belgirate meetings have become a meta-study hub where practitioners of Group Relations come together to share, explore and reflect upon the theory, practice, discourse and values of the Group Relations field and the changes that have taken place over time.

The focus of Belgirate VI will be on context, ie on the relationship between our physical place we inhabit or co-create, and the psychic, inner or spiritual space we are part of.

## Primary Task of this Meeting:

**To explore the ecosystem called Group Relations Conferences and reflect upon our lived experience of that ecosystem in relation to our different spaces and contexts.**

## Participants:

This meeting is intended for people who have held administrative, consultative and/or directorial roles in Group Relations conferences. **Places are limited, so early registration is advised.** (Please see Administrative Information on page 7 for information on reduced fees for early registration.)

## Meeting Events:

**Opening Plenary:** This opening session will include an introduction to the meeting and an opportunity to share experiences of crossing the boundary into this space as practitioners in the Group Relations field.

**Introductions in Very Small Groups:** Following the Opening Plenary, participants will have an opportunity to become better acquainted with some of their colleagues in very small group settings.

**Keynote Lectures:** There will be three keynote lectures focusing on the themes of the meeting. Each lecture will be followed by buzz groups and a general discussion with the presenter. Scheduled lectures and their topics are:

***Unbounded Worlds - A Challenge for Group Relations?***

**Shmuel Erlich PhD**

Sigmund Freud Professor of Psychoanalysis (Emeritus), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Psychoanalyst in private practice; consultant to organizations; Founding Member, OFEK, PCCA.

***The Invitation of the Unknown Known: A Collective Consciousness Conversation***

**Zachary Gabriel Green PhD**

Founding Circle, Group Relations International and Professor of Practice, University of San Diego. Zachary devoted a year's leave from the university to discern the direction and focus of his life's journey. Through reading, writing and working with one local and one global organization, he is sharpening his focus on a collective call to consciousness that embraces our common humanity.

***Transforming the World --Transforming Ourselves: crafting space for activism and spirituality in Group Relations work***

**Rosemary Viswanath PGDM**

Consults on organizational strategy, leadership and change processes primarily with social development, social justice, and human and environmental rights organisations and people's movements. Passionately involved in Group Relations work in India and internationally since 1987, she is the Founder - Managing Trustee of Group Relations India.

**Morning Reflections, Dreams and Associations:** The second, third and fourth days will open in this session where participants will be invited to share overnight thoughts and dreams to enhance the process of sense-making of the wider field within which we practice the business of Group Relations conferences. The sessions will be convened by two participants.

**Parallel Presentations:** These presentations, listed below, will comprise three to four parallel presentations in each of three sessions. The presentations will be chaired by participants.

**Exploratory Event:** Participants are invited to engage with the meeting themes in different ways to those that have been used thus far, in order that the space for Group Relations – 'in the place in which we live' is viscerally experienced and embodied and the meaning of our discourse is extracted afresh. The event will open and close in plenary.

**Review Groups in Plenary:** This session will precede and prepare for the final meeting plenary discussion.

**Closing Plenary:** This session will review the meeting as a whole, in order to further the sense-making and understanding of 'the space we live in' as Group Relations practitioners, as the meeting draws to a close.

## Roles in the Meeting:

### Management and Administration Team (MAT):

**Eliat Aram, PhD, CBAM, CPsych,** CEO, The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations; Member, OFEK. London, UK.

**Coreene Archer MA** Principal Consultant; Director of the Coaching course; The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations. London, UK.

**Gordon Strauss MD** Professor of Psychiatry, University of Louisville; Fellow and former Board member, A K Rice Institute for the Study of Social Systems; Past President, Midwest Group Relations Center. Louisville, Kentucky, USA.

**Yossi Triest PhD** Clinical psychologist, Training Psychoanalyst (IPS); Organizational consultant; Lecturer, Tel-Aviv University; Co-owner, Triest-Sarig private clinic; Past President of the Israeli Psychoanalytic Society; Supervisor / teacher, Israel Psychoanalytical Institute; Member , OFEK; Co-Director, Program in Organizational Consultation and Development (POCD). Tel-Aviv, Israel.

**Rachel Kelly BA, MSTAT** Professional Development Portfolio Manager & Coordinator, The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations; Teacher of the Alexander Technique. London, UK.

**Conveners and Chairs will be invited in due course. If you wish to express interest in such a role do contact us.**

## Parallel Presentations: (currently in alphabetical order)

- 1. *A nomadic state of mind: In search of a place to live***  
**Coreene Archer:** Principal Consultant and Director of the Coaching Course at the Tavistock Institute
- 2. *Nothingness: A group phenomenon or a Sixth Basic Assumption Does it really matter? Does anything matter at all?***  
**Daphna Bahat:** Clinical Psychologist and Consultant to Organisations | Teaches psychotherapy and the Psychoanalytic-Systemic Approach for groups and organisations in various institutions, including 'Touch OFEK' | Leads workshops for women's empowerment using dance | Chairwoman, OFEK.
- 3. *Immigration, Adaptation and Dynamics of Destruction: Effects on "The Place We Live"***  
**Jaume Benavent i Guàrdia:** Project Manager and Organisational Consultant of Innova Institute for organisational and social innovation, Barcelona  
**Sandra Carrau Pascual:** Partner and Organisational Consultant of Innova Institute for organisational and social innovation, Barcelona

**Joan Roma I Vergés:** President and Organisational Consultant of Innova Institute for organisational and social innovation, Barcelona

**David Sierra Lozano:** Partner and Organisational Consultant of Innova Institute for organisational and social innovation, Barcelona

**4. *Exploring Differences in The Places Where We Live***

**Fabio D'Apice** is the Director of Centro Coaching (UK and Gibraltar), and the Executive Director of the International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organisations (ISPSO); trained within the Tavistock tradition and working with private and public sector organisations with the application of Systemic and Psychoanalytic thinking.

**John Wilkes** is a freelance coach and consultant, who is grateful for the learning he has derived from over 20 years of Group Relations experiences and for the opportunity to explore the complex and multi-faceted issues that encompass difference and diversity, working with Barbara Williams and Fabio D'Apice.

**Barbara Williams** is Director of Bureau Kensington Consulting in Toronto, EdD, MSW, MSc; Member: ISPSO, AKRI & Center for the Study of Groups and Social Systems; Guest Toronto Psychoanalytic Society & Institute; Associate Editor for *Journal Organizational and Social Dynamics*.

**5. *The Place Where Psychoanalysts Live: Introducing Group Relations to Psychoanalytic Institutes***

**John Lundgren** MD is a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Psychoanalytic Center of California and a member of GREX and the AK Rice Institute.

**6. *LFA: When Action is not the opposite of Thinking: Living in a temporary community as a space for experiential learning***

**[Il Nodo Group Lfa web page](#)**

**Luca Mingarelli:** Psychologist, Social Entrepreneur, founder and director of therapeutic communities for adolescents, President of the charity "Rosa dei Venti Foundation", President of Il Nodo Group. OPUS member, staff member of GRC ALI since 2006 and in other international GRCs.

**Giada Boldetti** MD: psychiatrist, freelance. Until 2016 she has worked in public health. Since 2000 she has been responsible in psychiatric residential rehabilitation in TCs. From 2014 to 2016 she has been deputy director of Mental Health Service Psichiatria I in Padua. She has been part of many GRCs as a member and as a consultant. Member of Il Nodo Group.

**Gilad Ovadia:** Senior clinical psychologist and a senior educational psychologist. Therapist, organizational consultant and entrepreneur. Member of the Tel -Aviv Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis. Friend of Ofek. Taking part in the LFA from 2013.

**John Diamond:** Director of the Mulberry Bush UK. An international expert in Mental Health Communities for children and adolescents, he is the author of several papers and books in this area. He is an associate of OPUS and a member of the International Journal of Therapeutic Communities. He has a passion for painting.

**Giovanni Foresti** MD: and psychiatrist, he is training and supervising analyst of the Italian Psychoanalytic Society (SPI) and the IPA, associate member of OPUS, London, and member of the scientific committee of IL NODO group, Turin. He teaches at School of Psychiatry of the Milano-Bicocca University and at the department of Psychology of the Catholic University. He works as supervisor and organizational consultant in several institutions.

**Simona Masnata:** TC therapist, social manager, coach, consultant, member of GRC ALI staff 2012 - 2015, member of LFA Staff 2013-2017 member of Il Nodo Group, member of the scientific committee of CSS Ita.

**Lili Valko:** Clinical psychologist, psychotherapist, part of the therapeutic community Thalassa Ház in Budapest, Hungary for more than nine years in different roles, currently deputy manager.

**7. *African American Social and Political Thought: The Lived Experience of Pairs***

**Carl Mack jr** PhD: Associate Professor, Alliant International University

**8. *Polyglossia or Babel: Working across Languages, Traditions, and Identities in Group Relations Conferences***

**Diane Forbes Berthoud** PhD is an Assistant Vice Chancellor at the University of California, San Diego, and Faculty emeritus of the RISE San Diego Urban Leadership Fellows Program.

**Shmuel Erlich** PhD is Founding Member of OFEK and Chair of the IPA Institutional Issues Committee.

**Zachary Gabriel Green** PhD is a Co-founder of Group Relations International and Lead Faculty of the RISE San Diego Urban Leadership Fellows Program

**Patricia Kummel** JD, PhD is the Chair of the Training and Certification Committee of AKRI and has recently been named the next Director of AKRI's annual residential conference (2019-2021).

**Jack Marmorstein** EdS is President-Elect of the AKRI.

**Janice Wagner** LICSW Past President and member, CSGSS, AKRI associate and psychotherapist, Boston

**9. *Yantras, Mantras and Organizational Designs: Creating, Changing and Managing the Unseen***

**Sari Mattila** PhD is Visiting Faculty at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore.

**10. *In the Shadow of Envy: Shame in Group Relations Conferences***

**Ellen L Short** PhD: Chairperson and Associate Professor, Department of Counseling and School Psychology, Long Island University, Brooklyn; Consultant; Member, New York Center; AKRI Internal Director and Board Member

**Janice K Wagner** LICSW: Psychotherapy and Consultation, Boston, MA ; Past-President and Member , Center for the Study of Groups and Social Systems, Boston, MA ; Associate, AKRI; Volunteer for Asylum Program, Cambridge Legal and Counseling Service, Cambridge, MA.

**11. *At Home At Work and Vice Versa: Exploring the dynamics of dual/special relationships in group relations conferences and organizational life***

**Katherine M Zwick** MA, LPCC, CGP: Clinical Supervisor & Psychotherapist, Private Practice, Santa Cruz, CA; Clinical & Management Consultant, Private Practice, Santa Cruz, CA; Associate, AK Rice Institute; Member, GREX West Coast Affiliate; Clinical Member, American Group Psychotherapy Association; past Secretary, Chicago Center for the Study of Groups and Organizations.

**Seth Harkins** EdD: Harkins Educational Consulting and Advocacy; Adjunct Professor, National Louis University, Chicago; chair person, board of directors, Illinois Community and Residential Services Authority; executive director and board member, Serenity Academy Chicago; board member; Chicago Virtual Charter School; Associate, AK Rice Institute; past president and member, Chicago Center for the Study of Groups and Organizations; vice president, Midwest Group Relations Center.

## Meeting Schedule

### Thursday, 1 November

12.00 - 13.55	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>14.00</b> - 15.00	Opening Plenary
15.00 - 15.15	<i>Break</i>
15.15 - 16.15	Introductions in Very Small Groups
16.15 - 16.45	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
16.45 - 18.15	Keynote Lecture:
19.00 - 20.30	<i>Dinner and free evening</i>

### Friday, 2 November

8.45 - 9.25	Morning Reflections, Dreams and Associations
9.30 - 11.00	Keynote Lecture:
11.00 - 11.30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
11.30 - 13.00	Parallel Presentations I
13.00 - 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30 - 16.00	Parallel Presentations II
16.00 - 16.30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
16.30 - 19.00	Exploratory Event
19.00 - 20.30	<i>Dinner</i>
20.30 - 21.30	Exploratory Event (cont.)

### Saturday, 3 November

8.45 - 9.25	Morning Reflections, Dreams and Associations
9.30 - 11.00	Keynote Lecture:
11.00 - 11.30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
11.30 - 13.00	Exploratory Event (cont.)
13.00 - 16.00	<i>Lunch, free time</i>
15.30 - 16.00	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
16.00 - 17.15	Exploratory Event (cont.)
17.15 - 17.30	<i>Break</i>
17.30 - 19.00	Exploratory Event Plenary
19.00 - 20.30	<i>Dinner</i>
20.30	Belgirate V Book launch / Celebration and Party 😊

### Sunday, 4 November

8.45 - 9.25	Morning Reflections, Dreams and Associations
9.30 - 11.00	Parallel Presentations III
11.00 - 11.15	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
11.15 - 11.45	Review Groups in Plenary
11.45 - 12.00	<i>Break</i>
12.00 - <b>13.00</b>	Closing Plenary
13.00	<i>Lunch and Departure</i>

## Administrative Information:

**Dates and Times:** The meeting will begin at 14:00 on Thursday, 1 November 2018 with lunch available beforehand and ends at 13:00 on Sunday, 4 November 2018 with lunch available afterwards.

**Venue:** Hotel Villa Carlotta, Belgirate, Lago Maggiore, Italy, about one hour northwest (by train or taxi) of Milan. The meeting is residential.

**Working Language:** The working language of the meeting is English.

### Fees:

All fees include single accommodation with full board

**Early Bird:** £995 by Monday, **30 July 2018**

**Early Bird sharing:** £850 **sharing a twin room** with another meeting participant, by Monday, **30 July 2018**

Full Fee: £1,300 from Tuesday, 31 July.

Sharing Fees: £1,100 sharing a twin room with another meeting participant from Tuesday, 31 July

In all cases, the non-refundable registration fee of £200 must accompany the completed application. The balance must be paid by Monday, **3 September** 2018.

Withdrawal from 4 September until Monday, 1 October will incur a 50% cancellation fee. Withdrawal after 1 October will incur a 100% cancellation fee.

**Registration:** the form can be completed online at [www.tav institute.org/belgirate](http://www.tav institute.org/belgirate) and payment made using Sagepay (you can use your credit/debit card to pay). Alternatively, you can email the administrator to make a bank transfer – please ask for bank details - for the registration fee of £200 and/or full payment.

For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Rachel Kelly, Administrator: [r.kelly@tav institute.org](mailto:r.kelly@tav institute.org) or +44 (0)20 7457 3927.

## Sponsors of the Meeting

**The A K Rice Institute for the Study of Social Systems** is a non-profit educational institute in the United States committed to enhancing peoples' understanding of the complex dynamics that influence their ability to work, manage and lead in today's continually changing organisations. The Institute's goal is to support the development of more effective, productive organisations while enhancing the individual's skills as leader, manager and/or team member. Founded in 1970, AKRI now sponsors Group Relations conferences, a biennial meeting (the AKRI Dialogues) and training workshops. It also publishes books and occasional papers in the Group Relations field, available in print and through the AKRI website.

**OFEK, Organization, Person, Group – The Israeli Association for the Study of Group and Organizational Processes** (Public Benefit Non-Profit Company) was founded in 1985 and has 90 members. Its primary aim is to help promote learning and change in individuals, groups, organizations and society through the study, development and application of psychoanalytic and open systems theories regarding groups and organisations. OFEK's activities include annual international Group Relations conferences, Hebrew-speaking conferences, theme conferences, bespoke conferences for particular organisations, scientific meetings, professional development courses, (TouchOFEK), and additional activities for members and the wider public. OFEK also co-sponsors a Program in Organizational Consultation and Development: A Psychoanalytic-Systemic Approach (POCD).

**The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations** was formally founded in the UK in 1947, although its work started before the War. It is dedicated to the study of Human Relations for the purpose of bettering working life and conditions for all living systems. The TIHR operates on the interface between the conscious and the unconscious, the systemic, the interpersonal and the individual, in a tapestry of methods spanning social science research methods; Fine and Performing Arts; psychophysical methods and psychoanalytic / other psychotherapeutic theories. We work nationally and internationally to promote a learning culture through developing capacity to think through actions, to change and understand both change dynamics and the resistance to it and to put new insights into practice. Our Group Relations Programme (GRP) is the leading experiential learning method in the world as is our flagship GRC: Task Authority Organisation, The TAO of Tavistock Institute, known as the Leicester Conference. Our GRP staff lead and publish on Group Relations theory and practice internationally.