

Welcoming Letter

Crossing Borders Social, Cultural and Clinical Challenges

Berlin
15-19 August 2017
Maritim Hotel

**17th
International
Symposium
of the
Group Analytic Society
International**

It is with great pleasure that the Group Analytic Society international (GASi) in cooperation with the Berliner Institut für Gruppenanalyse e.V. (BIG) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Gruppenanalyse und Gruppenpsychotherapie (D3G) invite you to the 17th International Symposium in Group Analysis – Crossing Borders: Social, Cultural and Clinical Challenges in Berlin 15-19 August, 2017.

The theme of the Symposium goes right to the center of today's problems with thousands of people on the move away from wars and poverty, indeed crossing borders. In the social context there is growing fear of being invaded by refugees and immigrants and on top a fear of terrorist attacks. Our world today is fast moving and in constant change.

It is a global village where the mix and clash of cultures pose new challenges for individuals, families, groups and organisations and danger of social disintegration. As Group analysts and group psychotherapists we have some powerful instruments to help understand and analyse the phenomena we see around us and hopefully also to be instrumental in helping groups of people. Some may say that we are not able to solve problems in this massive scale as they are for now, but we should not hold back, but try to use and apply the knowledge we do have about the dynamics conscious and unconscious of small and large groups and in this way contribute to making the world a better place to live in.

Together we can gather still more knowledge by sharing experiences from the clinic from groups, organisations and from scientific projects. By sharing theoretical ideas, research and clinical experience the participants of the symposium will be instrumental in heightening the effectivity and quality of the group analytic method.

The symposium will give you the opportunity to explore the theme in both theoretical and experiential ways through lectures, papers, panel presentations and workshops and through participation in small, median and large groups. It will also give you the opportunity to expand your professional network and meet friends and not least to develop connections across national and cultural boundaries.

We look forward to seeing you in Berlin in August 2017.

Chairs:

Kurt Husemann and Gerda Winther

in cooperation with