

GROUP RELATIONS CONFERENCE

Authority, Leadership, Role, and Task:

Bringing Mind and Body to Work



May 16-19, 2019

Roosevelt University
400 N. Roosevelt Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173

Conference Director:

Barney Straus, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA

Associate Director:

Dannielle Kennedy, LICSW, PhD

Assistant Director for Administration:

Olga Konyakova, LSW, CADC

Assistant Director for Group Challenge Events:

Rachel Murray, MS

This conference is sponsored by
Roosevelt University, Department of
Psychology (Host) and co-sponsored by
the A.K. Rice Institute for the Study of
Groups and Social Systems

Additional Co-Sponsors Include:

- Adventure Forward Therapy
- Chicago Center for the Study of Groups and Organizations
- Corporate Learning Institute
- Illinois Group Psychotherapy Society
- International Association of Social Work with Groups
- Midwest Group Relations Center
- Mind Body Co-Op
- Working Sobriety Chicago

EMAIL US AT
grouprelations2019@gmail.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.grouprelationsconference.com

An experiential conference in the Tavistock tradition offering a unique opportunity to study group dynamics by integrating group challenge events into the traditional GRC conference structure.

STRUCTURE & METHOD

THIS CONFERENCE is designed for individuals who wish to study the exercise of authority in groups and understand more about their own responses to exercising and encountering authority. The Conference is organized as a sequence of group and inter-group interactions. Events include experiences in:

- SMALL STUDY GROUP— examines the life of an eight to twelve member group as it unfolds. A consultant assists the group with its task.
- LARGE STUDY GROUP— consists of all conference members with a team of consultants and meets to study its own behavior in the here-and-now. This simulates processes and dynamics of larger social systems as they struggle with the problems of formation, transition and rapid change.
- INSTITUTIONAL EVENT — members form their own groups to interact with other member groups and with staff. The primary task of the Institutional Event is to study authority, leadership, and overt/covert processes as groups evolve and interact in the here-and-now and dynamic understating of the institution as a whole.
- GROUP CHALLENGE EVENTS — members will engage in a series of concrete problem-solving initiatives in small and large group configurations. These events will offer an opportunity to explore how roles may shift as a group focuses on accomplishing physical tasks.
- REVIEW/APPLICATION GROUP — consists of five to seven members with one or two consultants; provides opportunities for members to further reflect on their experiences and roles in the different conference events and relate them to their work roles in community and institutional settings.
- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION —An opportunity to sign up for one-to-one consultation with a specific staff member will be provided on the last day of the conference. These sessions may be open to observation by other conference members.

The Group Relations conference is an educational event whose primary task is to provide opportunities to study the exercise of authority through interpersonal, intergroup, and institutional relations that develop within the conference itself as a temporary educational social system.

RATIONALE & AIMS: LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

Effective leadership and the meaningful exercise of authority require more than intellectual and technical understanding. The Group Relations model in the Tavistock tradition provides a well-defined context within which to examine group-level forces and dynamics as they occur in the here-and-now. As people work in groups, families and other social systems, their participation takes on many different meanings — influencing thoughts, feelings and action. The confluence of individual meanings and unconscious phenomena powerfully affects the identities, roles and authority we take on in groups, schools, organizations, institutions, communities, and society.

MEMBERS OF A GROUP RELATIONS CONFERENCE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DIRECTLY EXPERIENCE

- How people join and engage in group work, delegate and resist authority, and develop roles and reputations.
- How people contribute to and obstruct getting the group's work accomplished.
- How members of a group exercise authority, power and influence in meaningful and appropriate ways — both as leaders and as followers.
- Group collusion in the creation and enabling of maladaptive roles.
- Group cooperation in the creation and enabling of adaptive roles.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY MAY 16	FRIDAY MAY 17	SATURDAY MAY 18	SUNDAY MAY 19
Registration/Check In 8:00-8:55 AM	Small Study Group 3 8:30-9:45 AM	Institutional Event 4 8:30-9:30 AM	Small Study Group 5 8:30-9:45 AM
Opening Plenary 9:00-9:25 AM	Large Study Group 3 10:15-11:30 AM	Institutional Event 5 9:45-10:45 AM	Large Study Group 5 10:15-11:30 AM
Small Study Group 1 9:30-10:45 AM	Lunch (provided) 11:30-12:30 PM	Institutional Event Plenary Review 11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Lunch (provided) 11:30-12:30 PM
Large Study Group 1 11:15-12:30 PM	Group Challenge 2 12:30-2:00 PM	Lunch (provided) 12:00-1:00 PM	Individual Consultation 12:00-1:30 PM
Lunch (provided) 12:30-1:30 PM	Institutional Plenary and Event 1 2:30-3:30 PM	Small Study Group 4 1:00-2:15 PM	Conference Review 2:00-3:00 PM
Group Challenge 1 1:30-3:00 PM	Institutional Event 2 3:45-4:45 PM	Large Study Group 4 2:45-4:00 PM	Review/Application Group 4 3:15-4:15 PM
Small Study Group 2 3:15-4:30 PM	Institutional Event 3 5:00-6:00 PM	Group Challenge 3 4:30-6:00 PM	Member and Staff Social Time 4:30-4:55 PM
Large Study Group 2 5:00-6:15 PM	Review/Application Group 2 6:15-7:15 PM	Review/Application Group 3 6:15-7:15 PM	
Review/Application Group 1 6:30-7:30 PM			

Please note: The conference is designed to provide an integrated experience. Learning occurs not only during individual conference events but also from their sequence and relationship to one another; therefore, membership entails a commitment to attend all events.

REGISTRATION

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES

Enrollment will be limited to 48 members; early registration is advised. The Conference is offered at reduced fees for faculty, students and employees of the host and sponsoring institutions, for students in general and for those able to register early.

WITHDRAWALS AND CANCELLATIONS

Withdrawals after April 15, 2019 will not be refunded unless the position can be filled by someone on a waiting list. A \$30.00 registration fee will be withheld to cover administrative costs in the event of cancellation.

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED MEMBERS

The conference staff is committed to meeting the needs of physically challenged members to every extent possible. Please advise the Assistant Director for Administration of special needs. NOTE: No special athletic ability is required for group challenge events.

REFERENCE LETTER

Experiential learning can sometimes be stressful. Therefore, individuals who are ill or experiencing a period of significant personal difficulty should forego attendance at this time. In addition to the completed Conference Registration Form, available at the conference web site, each applicant must provide a letter of reference from someone who can vouch for his or her capacity to participate in an intensive learning experience. The applicant is responsible for seeing that this letter is submitted before May 1, 2019. Letters should be sent via e-mail to the conference email address: grouprelations2019@gmail.com

LODGING (Recommendation)

SpringHill Suites Chicago Schaumburg/Woodfield Mall

1550 McConnor Parkway
Schaumburg, IL 60173

\$99/night [Book Your Room](#)

Reservations number: (888) 236-2427 and mention the code RGCO or the group name "Group Relations Conference".

Spring Hill Suits is located directly opposite the Roosevelt University Campus. It is a 5-10 minute walk and on Thursday and Friday the hotel offers shuttle service, if desired. The shuttle can also be taken to nearby restaurants.

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Email addresses of members will be shared with sponsoring organizations unless a member explicitly requests not to have his/her email address shared.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

PAYMENT OF FEES

Registration should be submitted online at www.grouprelationsconference.com (Click on Chicago). Payment may be made by credit card or check. For alternative payment options, please contact us at grouprelations2019@gmail.com

EARLY REGISTRATION FEE = \$1,000
(Before March 1, 2019).

REGULAR REGISTRATION FEE = \$1,200

Faculty, employees, and members of sponsoring organizations may register before **March 1, 2019 for \$800, and \$1,000 after that.**

Students from Roosevelt University may register for **\$300.00**. Students from other institutions may register for **\$400.00**.

A limited number of **partial scholarships** will be available. The scholarship application fee is \$30.00. Please send a letter of request to grouprelations2019@gmail.com

A \$50.00 rebate will be provided per person when three or more individuals from the same organization register for the conference.

The fee structure has been designed to encourage those from the same organization attending together.

CEU'S

Illinois Group Psychotherapy Society will award 30 CEU's to social workers, psychologists, and masters level counselors.

Please sign up for CEU's at the registration desk.

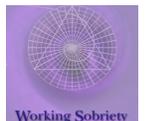
AUTHORITY FOR THE CONFERENCE

SPONSORS

This conference is sponsored by Roosevelt University, Department of Psychology; and co-sponsored by Adventure Forward Therapy; the A.K. Rice Institute; Chicago Center for the Study of Groups and Organizations; Corporate Learning Institute; Illinois Group Psychotherapy Society; International Association of Social Work with Groups; Midwest Group Relations Center; Mind Body Co-op, and Working Sobriety Chicago.

The principles and methods of this conference originated at the Center for Applied Social Research, Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, London, England under the leadership of the late A.K. Rice. The Washington School of Psychiatry and the Department of Psychiatry of Yale University Medical School introduced conferences using these principles and methods to the United States in 1965. The A.K. Rice Institute for the Study of Social Systems, a not-for-profit organization, was established in 1970 to advance knowledge of the dynamics of groups, organizations and social systems.

"This conference is co-sponsored by the A.K. Rice Institute as consistent with its educational standards for Group Relations training in the Tavistock tradition"



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE SITE

The conference will take place at the Schaumburg campus of Roosevelt University. The facility includes snack rooms, outside space, and free parking.

The conference is also conveniently located within walking distance of Woodfield Mall, which features a variety of restaurants and shops.

Lunch will be provided for members on each day of the conference. Snacks and water will be provided as well. Hot beverages and additional snacks will be available for purchase in a vending area on campus. Please plan accordingly.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From Downtown Chicago and O'Hare: Take I-90 Westbound 9 miles past O'Hare to Exit 67, Meacham Road. Take a left onto Meacham at the end of the ramp. Go to the first traffic light and turn left onto McConnor Parkway. Roosevelt University will be on your right.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

From Chicago or O'Hare: Take the blue line to Rosemont stop; Take bus 606 at the Rosemont CTA station; Exit on Perimeter/Middle Dr.; Walk for about 10 minutes to Roosevelt University.

CONFERENCE STAFF ROLES

- Act collectively as management
- Take responsibility and authority to provide the boundary conditions to engage in the primary task of the conference
- Play specific directorial, administrative and consultant roles
- Offer interpretations and working hypotheses about what is happening during the here-and-now events
- Contribute in whatever ways they believe will advance the work

The way staff exercise their authority and roles is explicitly available for study by Conference participants.

STAFF BIOS

DIRECTOR:

Barney Straus, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA: Founder, Adventure Forward Therapy; Private Practice, Chicago, IL; Adjunct Faculty, Loyola University Chicago, School of Social Work and Roosevelt University, Chicago and Schaumburg, IL; Member, Association for Experiential Education; Member, CCSGO and the Midwest Center; Associate, AKRI.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:

Dannielle Kennedy, LICSW, PhD: Principal, *WORKLAB*, Organizational and Leadership Consulting; Psychotherapist, Private Practice, Cambridge, MA; Former President and Board Member, Center of the Study of Groups and Social Systems, Boston; Associate, AKRI.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION:

Olga Konyakova, LSW, CADC: Clinical Social Worker, LSW, CADC, IPRY, CABISAM certified; Teambuilding facilitator, Chicago area; Member AKRI, CCSGO, IASWG, NASW.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR GROUP CHALLENGE EVENTS:

Rachel Murray, MS: Program Coordinator, Outdoor Experiential Education, Loyola University Chicago; ACCT Challenge Course Manager Certification; Wilderness First Responder Certification; Member, Association for Outdoor Recreation and Education.

CONSULTING STAFF:

Seth Harkins, Ed. D: Principal, Harkins Educational Consulting and Advocacy; Adjunct Professor, National Louis University, Chicago; Researcher; Board of Directors, A.K. Rice Institute; Past President and Member CCSGO; Vice President and Board Member, Midwest Group Relations Center; President Board of Directors Illinois Community and Residential Services Authority; Board of Directors Chicago Virtual Charter School; Executive Director and Board Member Serenity Academy Chicago; Board Member, AKRI.

Dannielle Kennedy, LICSW, PhD

Mark Kiel, PsyD, ABPP, CGP: Dean of Counseling, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL; Private Practice in Clinical Psychology, TMS and Associates, Hinsdale, IL; Private Practice in Group and Organizational Psychology, Kiel Consulting, Chicago, IL; Clinical Lecturer, Northwestern University; Member AKRI; President CCSGO, Chicago, IL

Xiaohua Lu, PhD (Consulting Candidate): Associate Professor, Counseling Center of Beijing Jiaotong University; Secretary General of The Division of Group Counseling and Group Therapy, China Association of Mental Health; Consultant in training by Division of Group Counseling and Group Therapy, China Association of Mental Health and A.K. Rice Institute.

Mo Sook Park, M.Ed.: Harvard Graduate School of Education; Founder and Consultant, i-D Leadership Consulting, Chicago, IL; "Immunity-to-Change Exercise" Certified Facilitator; Member of CCSGO, AKRI, CSGSS; Training and Consultant Candidate, AKRI.

Isabelle Reiniger, LCSW, Psychotherapy and Consulting Practice, Evanston and Chicago, IL; Adjunct Faculty, Loyola University, Chicago; Associate, AKRI; Associate Member and Secretary, CCSGO, Chicago, IL.

Jeffrey D. Roth, MD, FAGPA, FASAM, FAKRI: Lecturer, Psychiatry, University of Chicago Medical Center; Adjunct Faculty, Psychiatry, Rush University Medical Center; Medical Director, Working Sobriety; Private Practice; Member and Past President, CCSGO; Fellow, AKRI.

Barney Straus, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA

Barbara Williams, MSW, MSc, EdD (Consulting Candidate): Director of Bureau Kensington Consulting, Toronto, Canada; Guest & Faculty at Toronto Psychoanalytic Society; Member ISPSO and OPUS; Advisory Editor for the Journal of Organizational and Social Dynamics; Co-ordinator of Insight for Community Impact.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:

Thomas Favale, DVM, MSW. Small animal veterinarian with a special interest in treating behavior problems; Pending Certification in Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics; Speaker on experiential mindfulness; Member of AGPA, AKRI, NASW.

Olga Konyakova, LSW, CADC

Rachel Murray, MS