

**Authority, Leadership and Identity:
A Question of Personal Brand,
Technological Acumen Or Social
Responsibility?!**



The Fall Group Relations Conference
Teachers College, Columbia University
October 26-28, 2018

Dear prospective member:

Ten years ago, our financial markets collapsed on a scale that has not been known before, viscerally making us aware of our interdependencies, the unpredictable nature of human behavior, and the painful breakdown of trust in our leadership.

Ten years later, society is still struggling with the impact of technology on the self and its sense of security and identity. We are torn between despising our political leaders who tweet and behave like Hollywood celebrities, and being fascinated and admiring their ability of showing up as “one of us” or “one of the people”.

Ten years on, we struggle no less with the tension between trust in that which is shown to us and that which is unknown to us: be it through personal information stolen through the internet, or social injustice exposed through the #MeToo movement. We are torn between the promise of the global, technological world in protecting our economic growth and our environment and the lived-experience of the technological world being potentially destructive to our ecology.

Questions of identity, nationality, belonging and personal value stand in tension to the process of a globalised economy and multinational enterprises. What is the nature of one’s own accountability? If you struggle with these questions too, this conference is the place for you. You will have opportunities to learn about the place of feelings, impressions, expectations, thoughts, fantasies, fears, likes, and dislikes as they reverberate in the conference. This conference weaves a fabric that makes up the understanding, the relationships, and the relatedness among individuals, groups, organisations, and systems.

You are invited to take up the challenge of learning both about what is known, but more so about what is not yet known in organisational life, and explore the relationships between the organisation we are creating together in the conference and its social, political and economic environments.

Eliat Aram

Conference Director

Kopal Manglik

Associate Director of Administration

Angel Hu and Abigail Johnson

The Administrative Team

Program in Social-Organizational Psychology
Teachers College, Columbia University

Primary Task

The primary task is to study the intra- and inter-personal, inter-group, and organizational behavior and dynamics as they unfold in the here-and-now of the conference as a temporary organization within its context.

You will have an opportunity to learn about:

- Conscious and unconscious factors that shape participation in groups
- What roles we take up in groups and why
- How we take up our own leadership and authority
- How our leadership and authority are taken up by others
- How aspects of our identities influence and are influenced by our social, political and ecological context

Conference Design and Role of Staff:

The conference is designed as a temporary organization with the primary task of providing opportunities for learning. It is not about teaching in conventional ways. Staff members manage the conference boundaries, but they do not manage people. They will be examining, interpreting, reflecting on and making sense of the various groups' experiences, as well as their own, including those that are hidden and sometimes unconscious. The consulting staff's interpretations will focus on group-level phenomena rather than on individual behavior. A complete staff list with brief biographies will be provided at registration.

Conference Times:

9:15 AM - 7:45 PM Friday, October 26, 2018
9:00 AM - 7:45 PM Saturday, October 27, 2018
9:00 AM - 5:15 PM Sunday October 28, 2018

Registration:

To secure your place in the conference, please complete your online registration by 12 Midnight (EST), Monday, October 8, 2018. You may access the online registration form here: <https://form.jotform.com/teacherscollegeGRC/Fall2018>

If you have questions, please email: teacherscollegeGRC@gmail.com