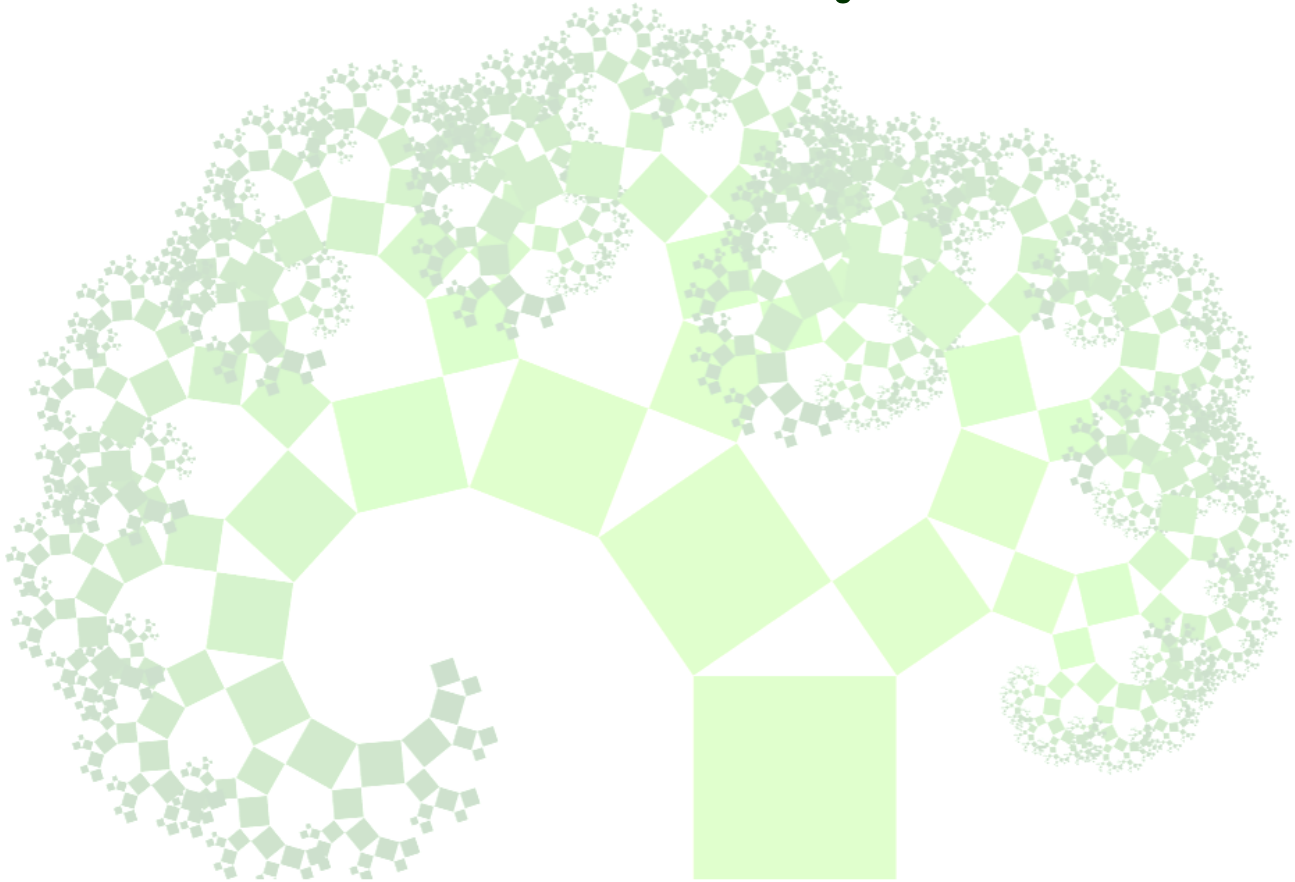


Authority, Leadership, and the Unconscious: Exploring dynamics in systems in times of uncertainty



Group Relations Conference

Teachers College, Columbia University, NY
November 22-24, 2019

Teachers College, Columbia University

TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations

**THE
TAVISTOCK
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Dear prospective member:

There are currently major challenges to the status quo of societal roles, norms, values, attitudes, and institutions on every level- personal, interpersonal, local, regional, national, international, and global. In the wake of these challenges, conflict has occurred on increasingly bifurcated grounds: us vs. them, in vs. out, new vs. old, status quo vs. change, good vs. bad, liberal vs. conservative, binary gender (male/female) vs. fluid/multiple genders (transgender/gender non-conforming), individual vs. the collective or the state, haves vs. have nots, globalization vs. nationalism, citizen vs. immigrant, nation vs. nation, ideology vs. ideology. All one has to do is turn on any news program to hear, see, and feel the divides and uncertainty that predominates much of current modern life.

The sense that this is a global phenomenon may suggest that there are group dynamics and processes that connect or disconnect all of us. If so, how do we understand these dynamics and processes? How were they formed? How are they part of collective unconscious processes? What function are they serving for us? What roles do we play in them? And who ends up acting them out on our behalf?

This conference will explore the conscious and unconscious group processes by which we form and confer authority and leadership on others, how we take up and use or abdicate our own personal authority and leadership, and the potential social, political, and emotional consequences related to these processes. This exploration may assist us in understanding the current global condition, how these dynamics affect us personally, and how our daily roles, beliefs, and attitudes are determined by them.

Directorate:

Eliat Aram
Conference Director

Jonathan Rust
Associate Conference Director

Abigail Johnson
Associate Director of Administration

Kopal Manglik and Sasha Wells
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 group-as-a-whole 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 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 manage the conference boundaries, but they do not manage people. They will be observing, [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.

Logistics:

Location

Teachers College, Columbia University
525 West 120th Street
New York, New York, 10027

Schedule

Friday,	November 22, 2019	9:15 AM - 7:45 PM
Saturday,	November 23, 2019	9:00 AM - 7:45 PM
Sunday	November 24, 2019	9:00 AM - 5:15 PM

Registration takes place on Friday from 9:15 to 9:55 am
There will be a reception on Sunday from 5:15 to 5:45 pm

Meals and Lodging

Refreshments will be available during breaks. Continental breakfast will be offered Saturday and Sunday at 8:30am. Lunch breaks are the responsibility of members.

The conference is non-residential. Recommendations for housing accommodations are provided upon request by contacting the administrative team.

Registration

All invited members must register by November 4, 2019, using the following link:
<https://form.jotform.com/70415341585151>

If you are not currently enrolled in the Group Dynamics: A Systems Perspective course at Teachers College, the first step is to complete this form:
<https://goo.gl/forms/6jMDZHePhjK6Ost1>. After filling out the form, you will be contacted on a first-come, first-served basis with information about fees and payment until all the spots are filled for this conference. If you are not offered a spot in this GRC you will be placed on a waitlist for the next available GRC.

If you have questions, please email the administrative team at :
teacherscollegeGRC@gmail.com