

IL NODO GROUP

7th International Working Conference
LFA 2017



DECISION-MAKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

20-22 October 2017
Casa Emmaus, Maccagno (VA), Italia

Methodology: LEARNING FROM ACTION / APPRENDERE DALL'AZIONE

The **idea** of these Working Conferences originates in the early 2000s from the joint thinking and cooperation between **Robert D. Hinshelwood and Enrico Pedriali**. This type of conference is now an item in the Standard Quality Manual of Community of Communities.

The **“Learning from action” Working Conference draws on the Group Relations model (www.ilnodo.group.it)** and is aimed at helping community staff and carers to explore and study the value of their daily activities as a form of communication.

The **primary task** of this working conference is to offer an opportunity to explore how unconscious and nonverbal communication shapes Decision-Making processes and influences accountability and various other aspects of ‘working together’ in this temporary learning community.

Participants learn directly by sharing their life and forming a Temporary Learning Community for the length of the event, **developing fundamental competences for all those who work in residential or semi residential institutions, and more generally in mental health institutions**. Such competences are highly valuable for a wide range of professionals such as educators, nurses, assistants, administrators, managers, consultants, psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists, neuropsychologists, neuropsychiatrists, social workers, carers, etc. However, as has already been successfully experienced in the past editions, **professionals working in other areas, like the section of profit and corporate worlds, are also most welcome to join the conference**.

The main learning objective of the conference is to enhance the participants’ understanding of conscious and unconscious dynamics affecting Decision-Making processes both at an individual and at a group level, along with their organisational and institutional implications. Individual members will have a chance to explore their own role and the way they operate within and on behalf of the whole system (the temporary learning organisation), reflecting on nonverbal and unconscious communication. Consequently they will be encouraged to take responsibility for their contribution whilst taking part in the daily life and relationships within the community.

Members of the conference and staff together will constitute a temporary LEARNING COMMUNITY. A further learning objective of this event is to explore the various dimensions and connections between **action, thinking and learning**, so that the acquired insight can then be transferred and applied to different workplaces and practices.

The working conference will create an opportunity for a direct experience of the different elements that come into play when making decisions, and will stimulate reflection on what might constitute a democratic practice and an environmentally sustainable use of available resources in a healthy institution. All learning will be experiential and action-led, with no formal teaching or lectures.

All participants will be given the opportunity to share everyday life within the community, becoming involved with organising, sharing, cohabiting and reflecting individually and as a group. The focal themes will be **decision-making processes and accountability as a way of thinking and as a practice**.

This is a residential event and all participants are required to attend for the whole length of the conference.

It is highly recommended and particularly useful for participants to repeat their attendance to these conferences: those attending for at least the second time will form a **Senior subgroup** within the event and will be offered a personalised programme with specific learning opportunities. **The programme for the senior participants will begin on Friday 20th October 2017 at 10.30 am.**

In order to facilitate the learning process, it is essential that participants read through this brochure carefully and repeatedly.

Accommodation for participants is in shared rooms. Participants will be responsible for managing and tidying up their personal space. The basic needs of community life will be dealt with by forming groups aimed at the following tasks:

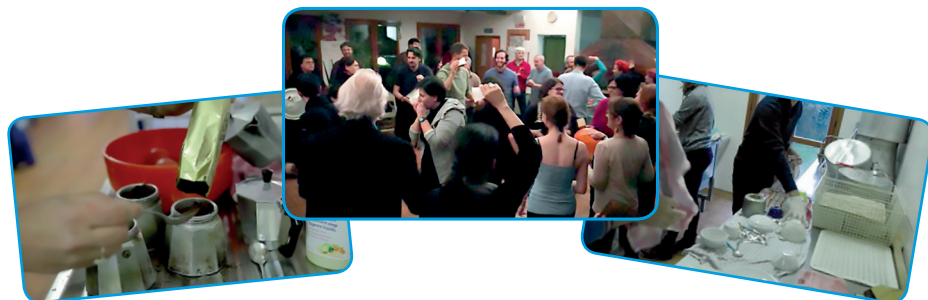
- catering;
- cleaning and tidying communal areas;
- organizing leisure activities;
- organizing other activities agreed upon during the course of the conference.

As in any other community or institution, participants will witness the emergence of interpersonal dynamics related to cohabiting and sharing, such as taking and delegating responsibility, working for others, making decisions, relating to authority and leadership, managing relationships between individuals and within groups, managing conflicts, using or wasting resources and much more.

In order to achieve these learning objectives the conference will employ a **“Learning from Action”** methodology and it will be organised around a programme with a number of daily events, such as: Opening and Closing Plenary, Decision-Making Event and Decision-Making Groups, Activity Groups, Morning and Evening Community Meetings, Review and Application Groups and possible Emergency Meetings.

Participants will be given beforehand, a document with the description of each event and task, as well as the indications and rules of cohabitation.

The main language for the international working conference will be English.



SCHEDULE / PROGRAMMA

FRIDAY, 20 OCTOBER / VENERDI'

- Ore 11,45 - 13,00: Registration and snack / Registrazione dei partecipanti e spuntino
Ore 13,15 - 14,15: Opening plenary / Riunione Plenaria Iniziale
Ore 14,15 - 14,45: Break / Pausa
Ore 14,45 - 16,15: Decision-making event / Riunione Decisionale
Ore 16,15 - 16,30: Break / Pausa
Ore 16,30 - 17,30: Decision-making groups / Gruppi decisionali
Ore 17,30 - 19,00: Activities / Attività
Ore 19,00 - 19,15: Break / Pausa
Ore 19,15 - 20,15: Evening community meeting / Riunione di comunità della sera
Ore 20,15 - 20,30: Break / Pausa
Ore 20,30 - 21,45: Dinner / Cena
Ore 21,50 - 22,30: Community free time / Tempo libero comunitario

SATURDAY, 21 OCTOBER / SABATO

- Ore 08,00 - 09,00: Breakfast / Colazione
Ore 09,00 - 10,00: Morning Community meeting / Riunione di Comunità del mattino
Ore 10,00 - 10,30: Decision-making groups / Gruppi decisionali
Ore 10,30 - 11,00: Break / Pausa
Ore 11,00 - 12,45: Activities / Attività
Ore 12,45 - 14,15: Lunch / Pranzo
Ore 14,15 - 15,00: Community free time / Tempo libero comunitario
Ore 15,00 - 15,15: Break / Pausa
Ore 15,15 - 15,45: Decision-making groups / Gruppi decisionali
Ore 15,45 - 16,00: Break / Pausa
Ore 16,00 - 17,30: Review groups / Gruppi di Revisione
Ore 17,30 - 17,45: Break / Pausa
Ore 17,45 - 19,30: Activities / Attività
Ore 19,30 - 21,00: Dinner / Cena
Ore 21,00 - 22,00: Evening community meeting / Riunione di comunità della sera

SUNDAY, 22 OCTOBER / DOMENICA

- Ore 07,00 - 08,00: Breakfast / Colazione
Ore 08,00 - 08,45: Morning Community meeting / Riunione di Comunità del mattino
Ore 08,45 - 09,00: Break / Pausa
Ore 09,00 - 10,45: Application Group / Gruppo di Applicazione
Ore 10,50 - 11,20: Decision-making groups / Gruppi decisionali
Ore 11,20 - 12,20: Activities / Attività
Ore 12,20 - 13,20: Light Lunch / Pranzo
Ore 13,20 - 13,50: Washing up & Cleaning / Lavaggio piatti & Pulizie conclusive comunitarie
Ore 13,50 - 14,00: Break / Pausa
Ore 14,00 - 15,00: Closing plenary / Riunione plenaria conclusiva
Ore 15,00 - 15,15: Leave-taking / Commiato

Staff may change the programme according to needs and circumstances. Participants will be timely informed of such changes, before or during the conference. The conference may not be suitable for those who are going through a period of considerable emotional or psychological stress.

STAFF / LO STAFF

Director of the working conference: **Giada Boldetti**

Consultant psychiatrist, freelancer, who worked in public structures until October 2016, since 2014 Director of NH Psychiatric Service 1 (ULSS 16) in Padua and since 2000 she has been in charge of the rehabilitation service Linea Riabilitativa. Coordinated 4 structures 4 In-Patient Services (therapeutic communities and residential homes) and the development of residential rehabilitation pathways. Deals with training and supervision in therapeutic communities. Member of the staff of ALI 2010-11-13-14-16-17.

Co-Director and director of the activities: **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 and board member of "Mito & Realtà", OPUS member, staff member of GRC ALI since 2006. Founding member of the International Network Democratic Therapeutic Communities. Author of the book "Difficult Adolescents", Ed. Ananke. 2009.

Project Administrator: **Simona Masnata**

T.C. therapist, administrator of Il Biscione SCS Onlus, in charge of ECM Fenascop, organisational and management consultant, coach, member of GRC ALI staff from 2012 to 2015, partner of Il Nodo Group.

Associate Administrator: **Lili Valko**

Clinical psychologist training in group analysis. Is part of the therapeutic community Thalassa Ház in Budapest, Hungary for more than nine years in different roles, currently deputy manager.

Consultants will be chosen from the following:

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.

Gilad Ovadia

Clinical and Educational Psychologist - Supervisor, Organization consultant. Senior staff member and director (dim) of the Psychological Community Centre Hevel Eilot, Israel. Member of OFEK and of the The Tel Aviv Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis.

Giovanni Foresti

Consultant Psychiatrist and Visiting Professor at the Scuola di Specializzazione in Psichiatria, University of Milan-Bicocca, Giovanni Foresti works and lives in Pavia. Ordinary member of the Italian Psychoanalytic Society (SPI) and of the International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA), member of IL NODO Group, Turin, and an Associate of OPUS, London. He is also a supervisor and organisational consultant.

Scientific consultant (not attending the conference):

Robert Hinshelwood

Psychiatrist, Psychoanalyst, former director of the Cassel Hospital, London. Member of the British Psychoanalytic Council, fellow member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Professor at the Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies, University of Essex, UK.

TIME / ORARI

The residential International Working Conference will start on 20th October at 13.15 and will end on Sunday 22nd October at 15.15. We recommend that participants arrive on time on Friday for registration and allocation of rooms between 11.45 and 12.30. Lunch on Friday is not included. A snack will be available.

FEES / QUOTA DI PARTECIPAZIONE

The fee for the conference is € 540+vat for enrolment **by the 1st of October** and € 690+vat for enrolments from the 2nd of October. A few bursaries up to €100 are available to participants upon application, for which the deadline is 16th September. **Senior fee is € 560+VAT.** Discounts are available to participants from outside Italy and to affiliated organisations.



PLACE / IL LUOGO

Maccagno is a coastal village on Lake Maggiore. Due to its location at the estuary of the River Giona, the village is divided in two sections: Maccagno Superiore, North of the river and bordering with Vedasca Valley, and Maccagno Inferiore, South of the river, nestled within a natural, sheltered harbour along the coast.

VENUE / LA STRUTTURA

Casa Emmaus is surrounded by a park and a private parking area. It is conveniently located right by the lake shore, within a quiet, green residential area. The structure is made up of 7 independent units. It has a central hub for community activities including a conference hall, a large dining room, a kitchen and a leisure room. Guests may arrive the evening before, paying an extra 25 Euros.



Casa Emmaus: Via al Giona, 28 G
21010 Maccagno (VA). Tel. 0039 332 560582

USEFUL LINKS / SITI UTILI

<http://www.fondazioneemmasdinocusin.org>

<http://www.appartamentiemmaus.it>

<http://www.comune.maccagno.va.it>

THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION / SPONSOR PRINCIPALE

Il Nodo Group is a consortium formed by a diverse group of professional consultants, sharing a passion for an ethical and democratic approach to studying and working with group and organizational dynamics. Its central mission is to promote scientific cooperation between a variety of professionals in the health and welfare, corporate, education, charity and public administration sectors, in order to foster cross disciplinary competence and skills.

Since 1998 Il Nodo Group is the main sponsor and promoter of the annual residential Group Relations Conference "Authority, leadership and innovation" (ALI), in cooperation with the Tavistock institute of Human Relations. We have also promoted this GR event (LfA) and the international GRC ECW (Energy, creative collaboration and well-being in organisations).

Its Primary Task is to promote the exploration and understanding of conscious and unconscious relations in individual, groups, institutions and society, as instruments of change and support to the development and well-being.

PARTNERSHIP / CON LA COLLABORAZIONE DI

OPUS - www.opus.org.uk

Fondazione Rosa dei Venti Onlus - www.rosadeiventis.org

TCTC (ex ATC) - www.therapeuticcommunities.org

Mulberry Bush Organization - www.mulberrybush.org.uk

Mito & Realtà - www.mitoerealta.org

FENASCOP - www.fenascop.it

Laboratorio di Gruppoanalisi - www.laboratoriogrupoanalisi.com

Airsam

INDTC - www.indtc.org

CNCA - www.cnca.it

Thalassa House Comunità Terapeutica - www.thalassahaz.hu

FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION / PER INFORMAZIONI E ISCRIZIONI

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Tel. +39 011 5681238 / +39 011 5684423 - Fax + 39 011 505421
e-mail: lfa@ilnodogroup.it - Application Form: www.ilnodogroup.it
Project administrator: Simona Masnata: masnydue@gmail.com

The registration form can be downloaded online from the site www.ilnodogroup.it

PARTICIPANTS OF LFA HAVE SAID / TESTIMONIANZE

"I really fell in love with LFA. It was like seeing many of my most significant experiences merge and integrate; I suddenly saw the disclosure of a wholly new and revitalizing perspective from which I could watch several areas of my professional and personal life. As a consequence, my mind keeps coming up with new contributions I might give to such areas" **(D. Catullo, Psychotherapist/CT Coordinator).**

This experience represents a very effective method to learn about unconscious behaviour in groups and about one's own role in the group's behaviour. **(G. Bratko, a participant from the US).**

The key-word of the LFA Working Conference is then «real»: that is, a temporary organization which is, indeed, provisional, but not abstract/fictitious: it is, instead, immediate and concrete: precisely, real. **(G. Foresti, 2015 Staff Member).**

