

### 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



THE  
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SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL

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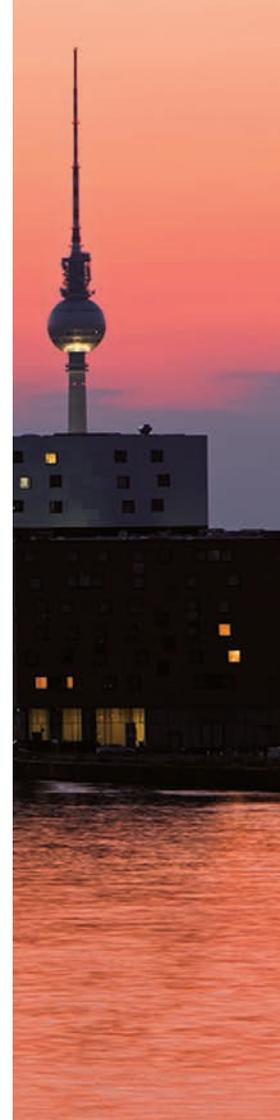
**Crossing  
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Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
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Group Analysis is based on mutual respect, inclusion and the space for reflection.

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One of the most important challenges today is to think about how to respond to the mass exodus of people crossing borders to escape war, poverty and the effects of globalisation. This Symposium is an opportunity to think about the changes we need to make to our cultural, social and clinical understanding within the context of this international crisis.

The Symposium will take place in the centre of Berlin, which has become, since the fall of the Berlin Wall, a lively and creative city. It attracts young people from all over the world and has a strongly multicultural city population interested in art, culture and history. It is a city filled with a difficult past and a promising future.

Berlin has a long historical tradition with migrants and, for example in the 17th century, one in five residents were French Huguenots. In the past Berlin was part of the Christian and Jewish cultural centre of Europe together with Krakow, Prague, Vienna and Lemberg. Berlin was the capital of Germany during the National Socialist dictatorship. It was a divided city during the Cold War but today, Berlin is now the capital of a reunited Germany. All these phases of history are mirrored in the very varied architecture of the city.

We look forward to welcoming a wide range of people to the Symposium. Colleagues from the former Eastern Europe, those involved in the crisis of the Eurozone and those involved with the vast numbers of refugees crossing borders at this time in our history. We hope that the Symposium will be a challenge for all grappling with these issues, whether group analysts or not. Whatever your participation, the Symposium will be enriched by your contributions to the academic and experiential program.

*English will be the official language. We will try to facilitate communication and comprehension for speakers of other languages.*

**Each day of the Symposium will approach the topic of Crossing Borders with a different emphasis:**

The different themes will be explored by participation in theoretical and experiential formats; through lectures, papers, panel presentation and workshops and work in small, median and large groups.

***Chairs:***

Gerda Winther, Kurt Husemann, 17th Symposium  
Gerda Winther, Pieter Hutz, Management Committee (MSC)  
Sue Einhorn, Hanna Reinhardt-Bork, Scientific Committee (SC)  
Kurt Husemann, Local Organizing Committee (LOC)  
Robi Friedman, President Group Analytic Society International

## Day 1 Migration and Memory

Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Konstanz.

Her specific interests cluster around the History of German Memory since 1945 and the Theories of Memory.

She has been working on a research project entitled *“The Past in the Present: Dimensions and Dynamics of Cultural Memory.”*

## Day 2 Inclusion and Exclusion – We and the Other

One of the human basic needs is to belong. This is the basis of setting up groups but also the basis of exclusion. There is no inclusion without exclusion.

### Professor Seyla Benhabib

She is a Turkish-American Philosopher, Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University, and Director of the program in Ethics, Politics and Economics.

Benhabib prefers a world without porous borders. She argues that political boundaries define some as members, but inevitably lock others out.

She has written: *“I think it is possible to have an empire without borders; I don’t think it is possible to have a democracy without borders.”*

## Day 3 Migration, Globalisation and Transnationalism

Our present time forces movements which cross national, cultural and social borders. This is an enormous chance for development but, at the same time, an enormous danger for those communities which have broken and can no longer support the people who depend upon them.

*The platform will be shared between:*

### Professor Elisabeth Rohr

Professor for Intercultural Education at the University of Marburg and a Group Analyst. Her scientific focus is on migration and she has worked extensively in Guatemala and Palestine.

### Mr. Dick Blackwell

He is a Consultant Group and Family Psychotherapist at the Baobab Centre in London for young survivors in exile and has worked clinically, for many years, with asylum seekers and people who have been tortured.

## Day 4 The Praxis of Group Analysis

How can our groups offer Therapeutic Work with displaced people who have been forced to leave their home, their country, and their social contexts, often suffering many different traumas at any one time?

*The platform will be shared between:*

### Dr. Catherine Gransard

She has a Doctorate in Psychology and works at the Centre Georges Devereux, in the field of Ethnopsychiatry with families. These are families who have had to leave their country are living between two countries, between two cultures and often between two religions as well.

### Ms Hanni Biran

She is a Group Analyst at the Israeli Institute of Group Analysis. She will address in her clinical lecture a topic related to the theme of the Symposium.

## Day 5 One Group Analysis or Many?

On our final day we will look at the different approaches to Group Analysis and cross the borders of our inherited ideas with those we are developing today.

But before borders can be crossed, they have to be established. Before differences can be negotiated, they have to be fixed. How is this decided? Who decides? What are the consequences for our group analytic community?

### Dr. Farhad Dalal

Is a Training Group Analyst who works in Exeter and Totnes, Devon. He is also visiting Professor at the PHD School, Open University of Holland.

Dr. Dalal has been developing group analytic theory for many years and will draw on themes from his last book : *“Thought Paralysis: The Virtues of discrimination.”*



### *Venue*

Maritim Hotel Berlin  
Stauffenbergstr. 26  
10785 Berlin, Germany  
www.maritim.de  
+49 (0) 30 20 65 – 0

Please use the code word “GASi-Symposium 2017” to book single rooms for a special price of € 119,-, doubles for € 159,-, until 19th June 2017

### *Registration*

Registration will be possible online through the website. Online registration will start September 2016.

### *Information and Contact*

Congress office:  
Congress-Organisation Geber + Reusch, Birgitta Geber  
Rheinparkstr. 2  
68163 Mannheim, Germany  
+49 (0) 621 82 66 11  
geber@t-online.de

For getting more information about the symposium please write an email to: [geber@t-online.de](mailto:geber@t-online.de)

### *Bursaries*

Bursaries will be available through application. For further information please go to the website.

### *Conference Fees*

You will find registration details and booking conditions on our website.

### *Homepage*

The website is under construction and the address will be launched as soon as possible. For information please google “Berlin-GASi-Symposium-2017”. It will be easily found.

### *Call for Papers*

We cordially invite participants of the symposium to submit proposals for papers, posters and other presentations for consideration by the Scientific Committee. Please indicate your interest by submitting a proposal via our website.



*Location of Maritim Hotel in Berlin, Tiergarten*

