

One, Two, Three...Groups

Dr. Joseph Triest

Exploring the tension between “[Psychoanalysis of] the individual” and “[Psychoanalysis of] the group”

(Carroll, 1999[1896], 13).

The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that she (Alice) had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well.

Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her, and to wonder what was going to happen next".



To the
source of
the Nile



The “Third Blow”

The dialectic nature of the psychoanalytic subject

The subject whose identity is constituted by its unconscious sexuality.

The cyclic pattern of the 'pendula' (Dialectics)

unconscious of itself, it inevitably requires the object as a mirror that could tell it what it is; but by its very nature as a subject, it cannot accept any definition that is not strictly 'internal' – and thus must sooner or later negate the object's external definition... ad infinitum.

Bion's "binocular perspective"

I am impressed, as a practicing psychoanalyst, by the fact that the psychoanalytic approach, through the individual, and the approach these papers describe, through the group, are dealing with different facets of the same phenomena. The two methods provide the practitioner with a rudimentary binocular vision.

*Thoughts in search
for Thinkers |

*Theories/Ideas and
Organizations

*Psychoanalysis and
Group Relations

*Psychoanalysis – and
Open System Theory



Spirituality - in; Psychoanalysis – out

Innovation, change and transformation- in; Tradition - out

Doing (the business)- in; Thinking theory – out

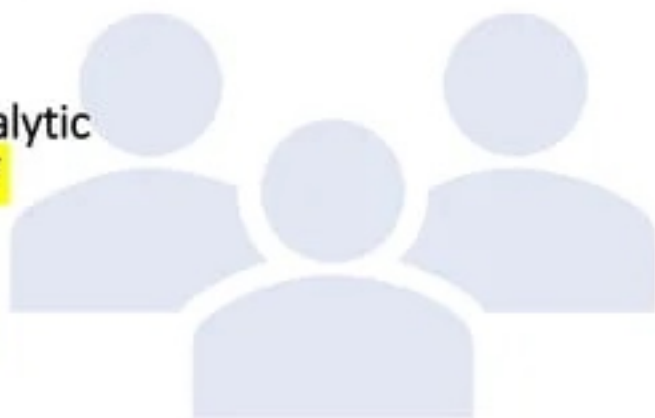
Integration and harmony of body-mind-soul – in; Conflict and dialectics - out

The structure of the Psychoanalytic movement



IPA - (The International Psychoanalytic Association) - the organization of analysts as individuals;

EPF - (European Psychoanalytic Federation) - an organization of groups (societies) only



Eric Trist

The major steps he took - writes Trist - were not only intellectual steps but action steps. They involved him in taking very considerable personal risks as regards his professional reputation, in incurring undeflectable public exposure (this on the part of the most private of men), and in having to endure on more than one occasion surprise attacks from colleagues he had considered friends. In 1949, during a conference the Tavistock Institute held at Gerrards Cross with the Research Center for Group Dynamics (University of Michigan) which represented the Lewinian tradition, he remarked to me while we were out swimming at a place called Black Lake, 'Why does it always have to be me who has to bear the brunt? I feel as though I have been in the front line unrelieved for ten years. I do not want to stay there another ten years.' Were feelings of this kind the reason why he left the field of groups?

The Odyssey of Exploring the Unconscious

The First Station (1895) – the unconscious as content

The Second Station (1913) – the unconscious as system

The third station - Projective Identification

The fourth station - the triad

The fifth station - group (whether large or small)

The sixth station - the Meta-group – is the Matrix

Le Bone (The Group Mind 1895)

“The most striking peculiarity presented by a psychological group is the following. Whoever be the individuals that compose it, however like or unlike be their mode of life, their occupations, their character, or their intelligence, the fact that they have been transformed into a group puts them in possession of a sort of collective mind which makes them feel, think, and act in a manner quite different from that in which each individual of them would feel, think, and act were he in a state of isolation” (Freud, 1921, p. 72-73; emphasis added - vrt

Foulks – The Matrix

“A web of communication and relationship in a given group. It is the common shared ground which ultimately determines the meaning and significance of all events and upon which all communications and interpretations, verbal and non-verbal, rest” (Foulkes, 1964, p. 292). The matrix’s communication channels are encoded by biology, anatomy and physiology alongside language, culture and social structures.

The iGroup

- A Diffused Notion of Boundaries (mostly space and time):
- Experiencing the Simultaneity of Existence
- A Blurred Distinction between Reality and Imagination
- The Externalization and Evacuation of Psychic Systems that ostensibly belong to the Inner World
- The Collapse of Representations of 'Parental' Authority (as the Subject-Supposed-to-Know)
- Gratifying Dependence Needs

*The Romeo and Juliette
Syndrom*

Globalization and Terrorism
*To make America (Israel?)
great again*

