

Authority, Emotion, and Exclusion

A Group Relations Conference and Screening Series in Philadelphia

In a moment defined by our collective inability to transcend simplistic conflict, the project of witnessing and reckoning with difference in groups is of the upmost urgency. This is a time to train a difficult but crucial skill: an ability to witness our social dynamics, and to speak to what we see. In speaking to even our most uncomfortable feelings and observations, we learn that the world does not fall apart, and instead accounts more fully for its complexity. The Authority, Emotion, and Exclusion project trains these skills for people involved in some way in shaping institutions of higher learning.

Institutions of higher learning often ignore the inequities that exist within their walls. These institutions like to imagine themselves as immune to the complex social realities that exist in their broader contexts. We know this is not true. The many overlapping communities that constitute a University or College are structurally entangled with one another, yet socially partitioned. Often, these divisions occur along class lines.

We call administrators, staff, students, professors, and neighbors that collectively make up our institutions of higher learning in Philadelphia to join together in a two-day Group Relations conference in the Tavistock tradition. We seek participants from all corners of the University so that we can collectively address something we know and rarely grapple with: that we are all reliant on and responsive to one another. This event invites participants to witness our personal and structural relationships, and in this witnessing, to experiment with how we can affect social change.

Film Screening Series

October 4, 2018: *Bloody Beans*

October 24, 2018: *Symbiopsychotaxiplasm*

November 16, 2018: *Ghost Hunting*

December 8, 2018: *Blue Tape*, *Them*,
Nothing Ventured

February 28, 2019: *The Task*, and
discussion with director Leigh Ledare

Group Relations Conference

January 26-27, 2019



Leading up to the conference, we will be screening a variety of films that look at the ways people and organizations experiment with their roles and their histories. The screening series concludes with a screening of Leigh Ledare's *The Task*, a Group Relations Conference that was organized by Ledare in order to shoot it as an art film. The screening of *The Task* will be followed with a discussion with Ledare. Please find more about our screening series [here](#) and more about Group Relations [here](#).

Thanks to generous funding from the Sachs Program for Arts Innovation, the conference is free for participants. Applicants to the conference are encouraged to attend the film series and will receive free admission to the films.

Screening Series

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October 4, 2018:

Bloody Beans

Directed by Narimane Mari

7:00 pm, Meyerson Hall B1 (basement)

Drawing from a long history of reflexive anthropological filmmaking, Algerian born director Narimane Mari Benamer conscripts a gaggle of children for an unorthodox collaboration. The game is to re-enact the Algerian Civil War of Independence, and the children concoct a menacing, dreamlike sequence of events, culminating in the kidnapping of a French soldier.

October 24, 2018:

Symbiopsychotaxiplasm

Directed by William Greaves

7:00 pm, Lightbox Film Center

Foregrounding the absurdity of the filmmaking process, William Greaves directs a stale scene between a husband and wife. Meanwhile, a documentary crew films the process of shooting, and yet a third crew films the entire tableau. As the ensemble attempts to interpret Greaves' vague directions, the crew mutinies, and continues to document everything (including their disobedience).



November 16, 2018:

Ghost Hunting

Directed by Raed Andoni

7:00 pm, Meyerson Hall, B1 (Basement)

Director Raed Andoni assembles a team of fellow Palestinians who have been detained by the Israeli Defense Forces, many in the same detention center in the West Bank. They collaborate on the design and reconstruction, from memory, of the interior of the detention center where they were detained. The actors role-play as their past selves and as the Israeli guards who imprisoned, tortured, and interrogated them.

December 8, 2018: Shorts

7:00 pm, Meyerson Hall, B1 (Basement)

Blue Tape

by Kathy Acker and Alan Sondheim

Sondheim and Acker perform a series of experiments on one another, testing how sexual desire and stimulation effect their attention and thought processes. (54 min)

Them

by Artur Zmijewski

Several groups: Communists, Christians, Jews, and Far-Right activists are invited to gather and represent their group identities in large graphic posters. Then, the groups are invited to modify each other's posters. A quiet war of images ensues. (28 min)

Nothing Ventured

by Harun Faroki

In his distinctive observational style, Faroki brings us into a venture capital negotiation, in which the roles are defined and the outcome depends on the players ability to maneuver within the rules of their occupation. (50 min)



February 28, 2019:

The Task

by Leigh Ledare

+ post-film discussion with Ledare

7:00 pm, LightBox Film Center

Twenty-eight strangers share a room on day three of a Group Relations Conference in Chicago, shortly after Donald Trump was elected president. They discuss their emergent interpersonal dynamics while a film crew documents them. Waves of hostility, humor, suspicion, and pain shake the group as the identities and histories of the participants are uncovered in real time.

Conference Director: Dr. Katherine Harding, PsyD. Founding owner of City Haven Counseling, Chicago, Illinois. President Elect of CCSGO, AKRI Member.

Associate Director: Janice Wagner is a Clinical Social Worker, Psychotherapist and Group Consultant. She worked for many years as a social worker, therapist, unit director and team leader in child welfare, criminal justice and psychiatric settings. Additionally, she worked for Boston University, Simmons College and Boston College as an Faculty Field Advisor for graduate social work students and Group Work instructor. She currently maintains a private psychotherapy and consulting practice and she volunteers with the Cambridge Legal Services and Counseling Center in the Asylum Program. She holds a BA from Simmons College, Boston MA, an MSW from Smith College School for Social Work, and a certificate in psychoanalytic psychotherapy from the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy. Member and former President of CSGSS, Boston and a member of AKRI.



Consultants: Andriana Hamm received her master's degree from Rosalind Franklin University in 2015 and worked for two years in community mental health in the greater Chicago and Philadelphia regions. In 2017, Andriana decided to go back to school at West Chester University of Pennsylvania to work towards her doctorate in Clinical Psychology with a focus on trauma and health psychology. She participated as a member in her first Tavistock conference in 2015 and has been on staff at Northwestern University's Annual Tavistock conference for the past three years.



Andres Bernal, MA is an Adjunct Professor of Urban Studies at Queens College and a Doctoral student of Public and Urban Policy at The New School for Public Engagement. His research focuses on the intersections of solidarity economy initiatives, social movements, and public policy. Andres is an independent leadership development coach and consultant as well as a New York City based social activist, organizer, and political adviser including work on the Alexandria Ocasio Cortez for Congress campaign. He is the founder of the New Society Institute, a progressive think tank dedicated to the theory and practice of social transformation. Andres is an immigrant to the United States from Bogota, Colombia.



Leigh Ledare, M.F.A. Artist, filmmaker and educator, lives and works in New York City. Ledare's artworks have been exhibited widely both nationally and internationally, and are in the public collections of The Museum of Modern Art, NY; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and The Museum of the Art Institute of Chicago. He has made multiple projects drawing from the lens of Group Relations, including most recently his film The Task (2017). He is a faculty member in the Visual Arts M.F.A. programs at Yale University; Columbia University; and New York University.



Jack Marmorstein has spent twenty years in leadership at a technology company and is president of the A.K. Rice Institute. He has published scholarly articles, journalism, and fiction, and holds seven patents. He is an experienced Group Relations Conference consultant and has graduate degrees in literature and psychology. He lives in Philadelphia.



Ian L. Pritchard, Ph.D. is a Clinical and Consulting Psychologist in Reno, NV. He is Vice President the A. K. Rice Institute for the Study of Social Systems (AKRI). Dr. Pritchard is also a member of the Board of Directors for Grex, the Westcoast Affiliate of AKRI. Before entering private practice, he worked as Senior Supervising Psychologist and Director of Clinical Training for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.



Sheri-Ann Cowie, Ph.D.: Sheri-Ann received her doctorate in Counseling Psychology from New York University (NYU). She is an adjunct professor at NYU's Department of Applied Psychology where she teaches group dynamics and individual counseling to graduate students in the school and mental health counseling programs. Sheri-Ann is the co-founder of Experience Laboratory, an experiential leadership program as well as the director of Children's Century LLC where she specializes in psychodynamic group work as a major modality in treatment. For the past year, she has run two weekly ongoing process groups focused on power dynamics and deepening relationships. She is an elected Board member at the A.K. Rice Institute for the Study of Social Systems and has consulted to small, large, and review and application groups at group relations conferences.



Associate Director for Administration: Leah Goldgar, MA, LPC - Assistant Director of Administration Masters in Counseling Psychology, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology; Administrator, Northwestern University Group Relations Conference; Member, American Group Psychotherapy Association.



Conference Organizers & Administrators: Netta Sadovsky is visual artist living in Philadelphia and pursuing an MFA from Tyler School of Art. Her artworks have been shown nationally and internationally at venues including Flux Factory, Chashama, Temp Art Space, and Wayfarers in New York, Fort Gondo, Des Lee, Los Caminos, and Museum Blue in St. Louis, Missouri, and Bunker Projects in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has curated exhibitions for Nurture Art and Wayfarers in New York, and The Luminary in St. Louis, Missouri.



Fred Schmidt-Arenales is an artist and filmmaker currently based in Philadelphia. He has presented performances and experimental video and audio works internationally, at venues including Künstlerhaus Halle für Kunst und Medien, Graz; Links Hall, Chicago; The Darling Foundry, Montreal; Triumph, Chicago; Pieter Performance Space, Los Angeles; and Kunsthalle, Vienna. Fred is a current MFA candidate at the University of Pennsylvania.

