

"Groups: Connecting Individuals, Communities and Cultures

## San Paolo - Brasile 2006

In a Panel, C. Merlo, M. Gasseau, R. de Polo, E. Ronchi, S. Corbella and A. Burlini will present report on Coirag's network and after will interact and discuss with the IAGP audience.

COIRAG was founded in 1982, [eleven associations of group analysts](#), psychodramatists and psychosocioanalists teach together in a [postgraduate School of psychotherapy](#) in a [Studies and Research Center](#), in a [Magazine](#) and in a [Learning Agency](#). COIRAG is a land where freudians, jungians, bionian and others analysts of group with different models research together with their passion and conflict in a Group of Groups.

### PANEL PROGRAM and ABSTRACTS

Chairperson: [Maurizio Gasseau, Claudio Merlo](#)

## **Fast social transformations and role of analytic-group culture (Papel Panel - 01)**

Claudio Merlo; Annamaria Burlini; Renato De Polo; Silvia Corbella; Maurizio Gasseau; Ermete Ronchi.

(Topics 11 - Conflict resolution; Theoretical Approach 01 - Psychodynamic)

Discussant:

- Frances Bonds-Withe
- Chairperson: Maurizio Gasseau e Claudio Merlo
- Presenters: Renato de Polo, Ermete Ronchi
  
- [Renato de Polo](#) (COIRAG President) **Social Transformation and Violence: function of group-analysis**
- Claudio Merlo (COIRAG Vice President) **Change, oniric though, integration**
- [Ermete Ronchi](#) (Director of Studies and Research COIRAG Center) **Dreaming and Organizations. A COIRAG Research project**

Annamaria Burlini and Silvia Corbella (CSR COIRAG Reserchers) have renounced to participate to the Congress and to present their report: [A Proposal for Integrated Psychoanalytical Approaches in Training](#)

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### **Other topics that will be presented by Confederate Organization of COIRAG, or COIRAG Members, during the sections for the 16th IAGP Congress**

- [Roberto Ghirardelli](#), The Fourth Basic Assumption. (Il Quarto assunto di base).
- [Ermete Ronchi](#), Italian psycho-socio-analytical model connecting individuals, groups, institutions and social-cultural emotions. (O modelo psico-socio-analitico italiano. *Um instrumento para conectar indivíduos, grupos, instituições e culturas*) Topics 04 - Work and Organizations, Theoretical Approach 10 - Organizational consulting.
- [Elisa Frigerio, Daniele Malus, Maria Michelazzo, Raffaella Faggioli, Chiara Andreatta, Claudio Merlo, Ermete Ronchi](#), Are our training teachers good? Could the evaluation of a training school be a point of integration of different perspectives? (PANEL - 22.2)
- Altre relazioni con abstract non pervenuto: A. Sordano

**Renato de Polo**

### **Social Transformation and Violence: function of group-analysis**

In this society where overwhelming processes of globalisation are contrasted by violent movements of differentiations, group-analysts could use their competence and help people and group in keeping the balance between globalisation and differentiation, between what is familiar and what is alien. The conservation of the preconscious area and the possibility of having spaces where emotional events are thought, are discussed in term of the contribution given to this process.

Key words: preconscious, globalisation, violence

**Ermete Ronchi**

### **Dreaming and organizations**

a Coirag research project

The Research "The Dream and the Organization", an Italian project carried out by COIRAG Center of Studies and Research ([www.coirag.org](http://www.coirag.org)), proposes an unusual methodology through the development of procedures by which collective subjects are treated.

This brings into use the on going expertises that are applicable on individuals, groups and organizations. When we accept the idea that a collective subject or even an entire professional institution can dream, does it change the quality of listening to our dreams?

Does it change the awareness of the self in relationship to the professional institution, whose very existence is dependent on our contribution to it? We spend a large part of our lives in organizational settings, or systems of groups. To donate dreams that are related to the context of a professional organization to a research group, and carefully listen to the dreams of the colleagues (carried out under clinical conditions), seems to activate a thought process directed towards the well-being of the individual and the professional institution, seen as a living subject.

Research has shown how the oneiric material that the dreamer considers in relation to their institutional context (which can be used to formulate some useful reflections) is copious and underestimated. In this paper, I will introduce some important aspects of the research and its current results.

Keywords: dream, organizations, research and clinical approach.

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**Ermete Ronchi\***

### **Sogno e istituzione**

PRIMI RISULTATI DI UNA RICERCA CSR COIRAG

La ricerca "Sogno e istituzione" – una ricerca italiana prodotta dal Centro Studi e Ricerche COIRAG ([www.coirag.org](http://www.coirag.org)) – propone una metodologia inusuale per sviluppare interventi in grado di prendersi cura di soggetti collettivi, favorendo lo sviluppo di competenze utilizzabili simultaneamente sul piano individuale, gruppale ed istituzionale.

Quando si assume che a sognare sia un soggetto collettivo, un'intera istituzione, cambia la qualità dell'ascolto dei nostri sogni? Cambia la percezione di noi stessi in relazione all'istituzione cui

concorriamo a dare vita? Nelle istituzioni, intese come sistemi di gruppi di lavoro trascorriamo infatti una parte significativa del nostro tempo di vita. Donare a un gruppo di ricerca, condotto con approccio clinico, sogni riferibili alla propria istituzione e prestare ascolto a quelli di altri colleghi sembra attivare processi di pensiero orientati allo sviluppo di maggiore benessere per gli individui e per l'istituzione stessa, intesa come soggetto vivente.

La ricerca ha mostrato come il materiale onirico che il sognatore considera essere in relazione con il suo contesto istituzionale di riferimento e dal quale trarre utili riflessioni è da un lato molto abbondante e dall'altro sottovalutato. Presenterò alcuni aspetti salienti della ricerca e dei suoi attuali esiti.

Parole chiave: sogno, istituzione, gruppo, ricerca ad approccio clinico.

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**Annamaria Burlini, Silvia Corbella**

### **A Proposal for Integrated Psychoanalytical Approaches in Training**

This research, of which the results and the modality of the process have not yet been made known, has been conducted by the C.S.R., (*Centro Studi e Ricerche*) of the C.O.I.R.A.G., (*Confederazione delle organizzazioni italiana per la ricerca analitica di gruppo*). The eleven associations that adhere to this confederation deal with groups and derive from different areas, but all have in common a psychoanalytical foundation. The aim of the research was to identify the members' diverse training modalities; all the members are group therapists. The attainment of the aim was achieved not only by objective data but also through highlighting and successive elaboration of emotive and cognitive difficulties that emerged throughout the research. This process has produced a project for training, resulting from the integration of the distinct professional areas and specifically addresses the work sphere.

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**Roberto Ghirardelli**

The Fourth Basic Assumption. (Il Quarto assunto di base).

Abstract:

The Fourth Basic Assumption – “Incohesion: Aggregation / Massification” – was introduced by Earl Hopper in 1989. As well as providing a sound means of understanding large social groups (state relations, social policy and large institutions such as Hospitals and businesses), it can also be applied successfully to small psychotherapeutic groups, particularly when internal or external traumas cause feelings of fear and anxiety and paralyze social cohesion. The aim of this paper is to outline several clinical examples.

Il Quarto Assunto di Base chiamato “ Incoesione: Aggregazione: Massificazione”, venne proposto da Earl Hopper a partire dal 1989, e rappresenta un buon strumento di lavoro per comprendere quanto avviene nei grandi gruppi sociali e istituzionali, ma può essere anche utilmente applicato nei piccoli gruppi . specie quando traumi esterni o interni provocano sentimenti di paura e di ansia che paralizzano le forze che tendono alla coesione grupppale. Nel presente lavoro vengono proposti alcuni esempi clinici.

**Abstract di Ermete Ronchi**

**ITALIAN PSYCHO-SOCIO-ANALYTICAL MODEL *connecting individuals, groups,***

## ***institutions and social-cultural emotions***

Every group is the outcome of its members growth or distress processes. We know that, when a group is able to turn from a distressed state into a situation where the group learns how to cope, non defensively, with its problems, this means that its members can approach distresses of life in a different manner.

This statement is true in an individual therapeutic context, in a group therapeutic context and in an organizational context when the consultant's approach is inspired by using a psycho-socio-analytical method.

In an individual and group context the coordinator (psychotherapist) directs his/her attention (and makes the "contract") on "internal groupality" and on internal issues. While doing that, the therapist has to help the group to connect the emotions that come out to the dynamic of the group and to the "external" context of life

In an organizational/social group context, the group coordinator (namely manager, consultant, trainer) directs his/her attention (and makes the "contract") to the "external" groupality and on the "external" emotive context and issues. While doing that, a psycho-socio-analytical oriented coordinator, will not forget the quality of life of the various levels (individual, groupal, organizational and social) and the connections among them.

In the psycho-socio-analytic approach the way in which the clinical instruments are used, e.g. interpretation, is very different in each different context (individuals, groups, institutions) even if the emotional languages are inter-connected.

When we deal with a system of groups, that is to say, an "institution" (organizational context) as-a-whole (subject), or with a system of institutions, such as a community, we deal with emotions at a cultural level.

By studying these distinctions, we can learn how to use the "group resources" in order to listen and understand emotions which link individual, communities and cultures.

This approach helps leaders and group members to distinguish

- a) individual emotions,
- b) group as-a-whole emotions,
- c) institutional emotions and their dynamical inter-actions that produces culture.

I will try to present some basics of the Italian psycho-socio-analytical model, which connects individual, group, institutional and socio-cultural emotions.

This approach, from my clinical experience, is an important opportunity for the study, the research and the operative use of the group as a suitable and very effective resource in different contexts.

Today, we know that we can learn how to use group skills not only as a treatment for pathology, but also for improving social health and real well-being, not obtained at the expense of other groups or cultures.

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1. COIRAG ([www.coirag.org](http://www.coirag.org)), Confederation of Italian Organizations for Analytical Research on Groups, is a crossroad where, in 1982, several Italian associations, psychoanalytically oriented (OC), decided to share and develop analytical study and research on groups.

## **gruppi, istituzioni e culture**

Ogni gruppo è l'esito dei processi di sviluppo o di regressione dei suoi membri. Sappiamo anche che, quando un gruppo è in grado di passare da uno stato di mal essere a uno stato emotivo in cui può affrontare in modo non difensivo i suoi problemi, i suoi membri sono in condizione di affrontare in modo diverso i problemi del vivere quotidiano.

In contesto psicoterapeutico individuale e gruppale chi ha la responsabilità terapeutica (fa contratto) pone attenzione alla "gruppalità interna" e alle tematiche di cambiamento "interno". Mentre fa questo, lo psicoterapeuta aiuta il gruppo a mettere in connessione le emozioni emergenti con la dinamica del gruppo e con i contesti di vita "esterni".

Viceversa, in contesto istituzionale e sociale, il coordinatore del gruppo (ad esempio un manager, un consulente, o un formatore) pone attenzione (e fa contratto) su aspetti delle gruppalità "esterne", e sulle tematiche emotive e di cambiamento "esterno". Mentre fa questo, un coordinatore psico-socio-analiticamente orientato, non dimentica di mantenere in connessione la qualità della vita ai vari livelli (individuale, gruppale e istituzionale).

In questo approccio, il modo di usare strumenti clinici, ed esempio l'interpretazione, è profondamente diverso nei diversi contesti (individuale, gruppale e istituzionale) mentre i linguaggi emotivi sottesi sono interconnessi.

Quando abbiamo a che fare con un sistema di gruppi, cioè con un soggetto istituzionale, con una comunità, entriamo in relazione con materiale emotivo di natura culturale.

Ogni livello emotivo ha un suo specifico linguaggio per esprimere i suoi specifici contenuti. Acquisendo abilità di studio e di apprendimento attorno a queste distinzioni possiamo usare la "risorsa gruppo" per ascoltare e comprendere le emozioni che tengono in connessione i soggetti, le comunità e le culture.

L'approccio psicosocioanalitico aiuta i leaders e i membri dei gruppi a distinguere

- a) le emozioni individuali,
- b) le emozioni dei soggetti gruppali e,
- c) le emozioni istituzionali e le loro interazioni dinamiche che producono una cultura.

Questo approccio, nella mia esperienza professionale, offre importanti opportunità di studio, di ricerca e di uso di modalità operative per far sì che il gruppo sia una risorsa economica e "giocabile" in differenti contesti. Oggi è infatti possibile apprendere a usare il gruppo non solo per curare patologie ma anche per produrre un tipo di ben essere che sia davvero tale a più livelli ossia che non debba essere ottenuto a spese di altri gruppi o culture.

**Elisa Frigerio, Daniele Malus, Maria Michelazzo, Raffaella Faggioli, Chiara Andreatta, Claudio Merlo, Ermete Ronchi**

**Are our training teachers good? Could the evaluation of a training school be a point of integration of different perspectives?**

Abstract:

COIRAG is a confederate of different associations: one of its activities is to train doctors in psychology as group-therapists. Every year about 400 students, divided into 7 institutes attend this school. In 2001 a group of students of the institute of Milan decided to start a research project looking at the quality of the training itself. At the beginning, our aim was to highlight negative variables that, in our view, were affecting the training: after a while, we started to spend more time analysing our group dynamics and institutional dynamics as well. We decided to work inside the organisation and we found support in some of our teachers and in the COIRAG Study Center. In this way it was possible to set up a project that has been developed along 4 years. The methodology has been quali- quantitative, including inventories, focus groups and large groups. Two different questionnaire were administered to the students: one at the end of every course and

one at the end of every year. 6-points Likert scale were used to allow parametric analysis, while open questions were analysed using textual analysis software such as Atlas-t and SPAD. Each year an average of 350 questionnaires have been collected. A discussion concerning the methodology used, our research group dynamics, and institutional dynamics is presented trying to focus on which variables might be important in evaluating a group-analytic training. The possibility to combine perspectives that comes from different "world" is also taken into account : is an evaluation planned and carried on by students different from one organised by teachers? And how is it possible to integrate these data? Some of the authors of this presentation are students, others are teachers and we will try to give some answer to these questions.