**Beyond Gallipoli: Bion and his Legacy:**

**Application and development of Bion’s ideas**

**to organisations today.**

**AAGP 14th November 2015.**

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In this short paper I explored the origins of Bion’s understanding of the dynamics of groups through his personal experiences of war and later of working in groups with the survivors of war. These experiences were a lens for Bion to make more visible not only the psychotic dimensions of war, but of the primitiveness of group processes and the realisation that ‘mind is inter-mind, self is inter-self’ (Souter 2005\*. His ideas have generated an understanding of group dynamics and of social organisation which have been applied in group relations conference learning.

Group relations conferences offer opportunities to learn about group, organisational and social dynamics; the exercise of authority and power; the interplay between tradition, innovation and change; and the relationship of organisations to their political and social environments (\*Tavistock Institute).

I also described some contemporary applications of Bion’s work, in particular the series of ‘Nazareth Conferences’ sponsored by PCCA (Partners in Confronting Collective Atrocities). These events take us full circle back to the battlefield, in the experiential exploration of themes like “European Victims and Perpetrators: Now and Then”. Other such conferences which explore notions of authority and leadership, have contributed to the vast field of contemporary organisation consulting.

**Here are a few links:**

Group Relations Australia: [www.grouprelations.org.au](http://www.grouprelations.org.au)

PCCA: “A House Divided Against Itself?

Identities and Cultures in Violent Conflict” April 6 – 11 2016, Kliczków Castle, Poland: <http://p-cca.org>

Authority and Leadership in Recovery from Mental Illness and Addiction: Hong Kong (18th-22nd May 2016), and Beijing (26th-29th May 2016) Conference: <http://www.grouprelationsconference.com>

Tavistock Institute and the Leicester Conference: <http://www.tavinstitute.org>

\* Souter, K M (2009) ‘*The War Memoirs:*  Some origins of the

thought of W R Bion. *Int J Psychoanalysis,* **90**:795-808

Tavistock Institute, London.

*www.tavinstitute.org/work/development/group\_relations.php*