



**AAGP 2020 SYDNEY OPEN DAY MEETING**

**THE SOCIAL UNCONSCIOUS**

- 8.30 - 8.50 Registration and coffee
- 8.50 - 10.00 *Social Dreaming*
- 10.15 - 11.00 *The Social Unconscious – the basis for group psychotherapy*  
**Antony Gleeson**
- 11.00 – 11.30 **Morning Tea**
- 11.30 - 12.15 *The Social in My Unconscious, and Being Part of a Social Unconscious.*  
**Anel Grobler**
- 12.15 - 13.15 **Lunch**
- 13.15 - 14.00 *The Social Unconscious in Organisational Life.* **Susan Long**
- 14.15 - 15.30 *Group Reflection on the Theme – involving presenters and attendees*

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**WHEN**                    **Saturday 21 March 2020**

**VENUE:**                **North Sydney Community Centre 220 Miller St Nth Sydney**  
*Located* 10 min walk from North Sydney station  
*Parking:* via Kelrose Lane (off McLaren St, North Sydney).

**REGISTRATION:**    [angle46@bigpond.com](mailto:angle46@bigpond.com) **by Mon 16 March) for catering etc**

**COST:**                    \$150 (Members & Associates \$120)  
**By Credit Card:** use the following link  
<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=600800&>  
OR  
**By Direct Deposit:** to AAGP, BSB 633-000, Ac 165278367 (NB new account)  
Use Code: "(Surname) Syd2020" and confirm to [angle46@bigpond.com](mailto:angle46@bigpond.com)

**PD CERTIFICATES** will be available at the Meeting

## **Notes on the Theme, Structure, Content and Presenters**

**The Conference theme** – this Open Day is the first in a series ‘Taking Groupwork Seriously’ devoted to exploring the theoretical and practical underpinnings of group psychotherapy and other applications.

**The Conference Structure** allows for short breaks between each presentation in order to reserve in-depth discussion, comment and reflection for the Reflections Group

**Social Dreaming** is a conducted event enabling an exploration of the social unconscious through dreams. Conference participants are invited to report, listen to and associate to (not interpret!) their dreams. Chairs for this session are arranged randomly within the room.

**Reflections Group** is a conducted event wherein conference participants may pose their questions, reflections, associations and learning on content and theme of the conference.

**Mr Antony Gleeson** *is a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist with 40 years’ experience working with individuals, couples, families and groups. He has worked in hospitals, community health settings, justice systems and privately. He trained with NSWIPP and has been a long-standing member of AAGP, occupying executive positions including president. Now retired from clinical practice, he has remained active in the AAGP, in the training program and other activities. He is occupied otherwise by grand-parenting, music and working with wood.*

This presentation explores the ‘social unconscious’ as a notion arising from an understanding of the social nature of the human being. The notion of social unconscious is placed squarely within the genesis and development of psychoanalytic thinking. Psychotherapies based on the primacy of ‘individual’ and intrapsychic processes are distinguished from those based on the primacy of the ‘social’ and interpsychic. The ‘fit’ and complementarity of those modalities is offered by understanding the social unconscious.

**Ms Anel Grobler** *is a Group Analyst, living and working in Canberra. She graduated from the University of Pretoria as an Occupational Therapist before starting her career in the UK where she was introduced to Group Analysis. On return to South Africa she was involved at Ububele (Education and Psychotherapy Trust), where she did her group training in post-apartheid South Africa. She later joined faculty to participate in training of group psychotherapists, as well as group workers from all walks of life. Ububele is uniquely positioned in society to facilitate transformational contact that is unique in this traumatised society, through small and large group membership. This work shaped her understanding of the social essence of man.*

In this paper I will explore with the help of clinical material, the concept of the social unconscious. I will use 3 different clinical examples to look at how we, as social animals, internalise our social context and carry this in our internal world, often on an unconscious level; how elements of our foundation matrix filter through into the group mind and manifest in material in the group, and lastly how trauma in a society “lives” and gets activated in the here and now.

**Dr Susan Long** *is a Melbourne based organisational consultant and executive coach. Previously Professor of Creative and Sustainable Organisation at RMIT University, she is now Director of Research and Scholarship at the National Institute for Organisation Dynamics Australia (NIODA). She is an associate of the University of Melbourne Executive Programs and teaches at INSEAD in Singapore and the University of Divinity in Melbourne. She has consulted to organisational change in the health and justice sectors and coached senior*

*executives across many sectors. She has worked with executives from many different nationalities and from diverse industries, having taught or consulted in the UK, the USA, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, Russia, Israel, Thailand and Singapore. She also works as a supervisor and coach for organisational development professionals in Australia and Singapore. She has over 35 years of experience with Group Relations, having been on staff or directed many conferences. Susan has been in a leadership position in many professional organisations: President of the PSAA (2010-2015), past president of ISPSO (the International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organizations), Inaugural President of Group Relations Australia, and President of the Gordon Lawrence Foundation. She has published ten books and many articles in books and scholarly journals, is General Editor of the journal Socioanalysis and Associate Editor with Organisational and Social Dynamics. She is member of the Advisory Board for Mental Health at Work with Comcare and a past member of the Board of the Judicial College of Victoria (2011-2016)*

Foulkes' idea of the social unconscious puts the social context at the forefront, following Eric Fromm who claimed that: "each society determines which thoughts and feelings shall be permitted to arrive at the level of awareness and which have to remain unconscious. Just as there is a social character, there is also a "social unconscious" (Fromm 1962, chapter IX p. 1)." Much of the individual's unconscious is regarded as introjected from the group. In this paper I will argue that unconscious elements in an organisational culture have a pronounced effect on the way people take up their organisational roles. This may be destructive or productive for the organisation and its members alike. Case study material will be used in support of this.