



AAGP
*Australian Association
of Group Psychotherapists*

*the group can achieve
more than the sum
of its parts*

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

MELBOURNE OPEN DAY

Saturday, 18 November 2017

The VAPP Building, 18 Erin Street, Richmond VIC

***“Civilizing and De–Civilizing Influences, Refugees and the Disincentives Towards
Relating Humanely to Our Global Relations”***

Navigating the personal, social, political and cultural upheavals of our modern era.

Can we take for granted that Civilization as we know it will survive? What are the influences operating? The plight of refugees is a cruel reminder of the scale of the challenges facing us in the 21st century. Increasingly the question may be put “Will or can we survive as a species?” Events around the world that are relevant to consider include: Forced mass migration, the election of Donald Trump, the Brexit vote in the UK, the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, the rise of China, Islamic terrorism, Climate Change and global warming to name a few.

PROGRAM

9.00am REGISTRATION

9.30-10.15am Dr Paul Coombe

***“The processes or mechanisms that are associated with the development
and breakdown of civilizing connections between people”***

This will include a consideration of the work of Norbert Elias in the twentieth century, hearkening back to Freud and looking forwards to the present state globally with more and more developed countries withdrawing from interdependence and choosing island state functions and directions.

10.15-10.45am Discussion

10.45-11.15am MORNING TEA



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PROGRAM cont'd

11.15-12.00noon Professor Suresh Sundram

“Reflections on the psychological and moral landscape of asylum seeking”

In a time of globally unprecedented mass movements of people, concepts of altruism, equality and fraternity are challenged by the context of the nation state. Personal moral assumptions need to be examined in the light of perceived existential threats which introduce relativism into individual, community and national discourses. The moral ambiguity created exposes fundamental psychological tensions.

12.00-12.30pm Discussion

12.30pm LUNCH – served on site

1.30-2.15pm Ms Mary Good

“Why Do We Fear Refugees and Migrants?”

This short workshop will explore the ideas of Elisabeth Rohr, and bring us back to our own difficulties. In August 2017 along with other AAGP members, Mary attended the Group Analytic Society International Symposium in Berlin 'Crossing Borders: Social, Cultural and Clinical Challenges' where Professor Rohr gave a keynote address on the emotional impact of mass migration.

2.15-2.45 pm Discussion

2.45-3.00pm AFTERNOON TEA

3.00-4.00pm Discussion of all 3 papers



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SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr Paul Coombe is a psychiatrist and individual and group psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice. Overseas Senior Registrar in Psychotherapy at the Cassel Hospital, London 1990 to 1993. Past President of the Australian Association of Group Psychotherapists and member of the Victorian Association of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists. He has published widely in local and international journals including in the areas of family therapy, psychoanalytic aspects of eating disorders, small and large analytic groups, Munchausen's Syndrome by proxy (and as a chapter in a book) and the works of William Shakespeare and recently the nature of Truth.

Professor Suresh Sundram is unit head for adult psychiatry at Monash Medical Centre and is in the Department of Psychiatry, School of Clinical Sciences, Monash University. He trained as a psychiatrist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, completed a PhD with the University of Melbourne in biological psychiatry and trained as a group psychoanalyst with the AAGP (Vic branch). He has been involved for over a decade in asylum seeker mental health and mental health service system development in low and middle income countries and sits on the executive of the World Psychiatric Association section on developing countries. He currently chairs the Health sub-committee of the Joint Advisory Committee for the Governments of Australia and Nauru on Nauruan regional processing of asylum seekers. He ran the psychiatry clinic at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre for over a decade providing pro bono psychiatric services to asylum seekers and in 2016 with Cabrini established, the Cabrini Asylum Seeker and Refugee Health Hub. In addition, he is an expert consultant to the UNHCR and has provided expert advice to the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection and non-government organisations. He has published and presented widely nationally and internationally in this area. His other key focus of research is in psychiatric neuroscience where he focuses on psychotic disorders in particular schizophrenia using a broad translational approach.

Ms Mary Good is a Psychologist and Psychotherapist. She is a member of the AAGP. She trained earlier as a Psychodramatist. She has a Master of Fine Art and is working on a series of illustrations of Dante's Divine Comedy. Her current preoccupation is how the work of Melanie Klein relates to Dantes journey.



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FINAL DETAILS

Venue: VAPP building, 18 Erin Street, Richmond Vic
Date: Saturday 18th November 2017
Time: 9am for registration – program begins 9.30am
Cost: \$75 non-members
RSVP: maryana@melbpsychcentre.com for catering

REGISTRATION

To register please email your details ie name, organisation and contact number, to Maryana Podreka at maryana@melbpsychcentre.com

Payment of \$75 (non members only) to be made by Friday 10 November by EFT – reference “[SURNAME] MEL17” – to:

BSB: 063165

Account Number: 10136603

Account Name: AAGP Incorporated

Members are also invited to attend on the morning Sunday 19 November when the Annual General Meeting of the AAGP will take place - a separate notice will be sent.