



Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society

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2017 Annual Conference
New York City

November 17 & 18 of 2017

Undying Promise, Undying Peril: Welcoming Vulnerability in Group

Openness to emotional engagement---the willingness to unveil ourselves in the presence of others *and* the readiness to absorb the responses we evoke---very often deepens self-knowledge and fosters meaningful relationships.

In a vibrant group, however, there is a risk that such exposure will stimulate complex and troubling reactions in others and us. These reactions are *complex* because they may be tied to painful memories or distorted perceptions and *troubling* because they may be negative, repetitive and intense. As a result, group members (and group leaders) may shrink from the valuable learning that might otherwise occur when heightened currents of feeling elicit unsettling disclosures and problematic feedback.

This year's Annual Conference asks you to consider the role of *vulnerability* in your groups. How do you, as group leaders and group educators, work with this potent dynamic? How do you create and sustain an interactive setting where it is *safe enough to risk* and *risky enough to nurture* the expressive *and* receptive capacity necessary for a transformational group experience?

We welcome submissions by mental health and group practitioners from all backgrounds and group approaches. As we review the submitted proposals, we will give preference to those that reflect the theme of the Conference.

Michael Altshuler, LCSW, CGP
Eva Fyer, LCSW
2017 EGPS Annual Conference Co-Chairs

Email your complete proposal by April 21 to the EGPS Office at info@egps.org. *Submissions must include ALL of the following information in order to be considered.*

1. **Name, degree, email, address, phone, fax, and primary affiliation** of each presenter (i.e. private practice, agency affiliation – up to two affiliations can be listed.) *All requested information needs to be provided for each presenter.*
2. **Title of Presentation**
3. **Length of Presentation:** Half-day Workshop or Full-day Workshop
4. **50 word description** of presentation
5. **Designation of Approach:** Experiential, Didactic, Sharing of Experience –please prioritize
6. **Participant Level of Experience:** i.e. Open to all levels; less than 5 years experience; over ten years of experience, etc.
7. **CV** for each presenter
8. **Three learning objectives** that you expect participants to achieve. Use verbs such as: identify, compare; describe, experience, etc.
9. **Five true/false or multiple choice questions** (with answers) that reflect what you expect the participants to learn
10. **Two statements of why this workshop/institute would be relevant to mental health professionals**

Please check to make sure that ALL the above information is included in your proposal!

- **Proposals should reflect the theme of the Conference. Those that do will be given preference in the selection process.**
- **ALL information requested must be submitted in order for your submission to be considered.**
- Presenters from the tri-state area **MUST** be members of EGPS in good-standing. (For those not currently EGPS members, a Membership Form can be found on the EGPS website at www.egps.org.)
- While you are welcome to submit as many proposals as you like, only one proposal can be accepted for presentation. The Program Sub-Committee will choose from among your proposals in order to put together a varied and balanced program.
- All Conference Presenters must register for the Conference. The reduced registration fee includes attending workshops of your choice (on a first-come, first-served basis).
- **Presenters are responsible for providing any audio or visual equipment for their presentation.**

Proposal Deadline: April 21, 2017

(completed submissions must be received by this date in order to be considered)

All proposals must be submitted as a Word document by email to: info@egps.org

If you have questions or would like consultation with preparing your proposal please contact Program Sub-Committee Co-Chairs Lynn Pearl at lynnpearlphd@gmail.com or Marie Rothschild at mhr158@aol.com.