

EASTERN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

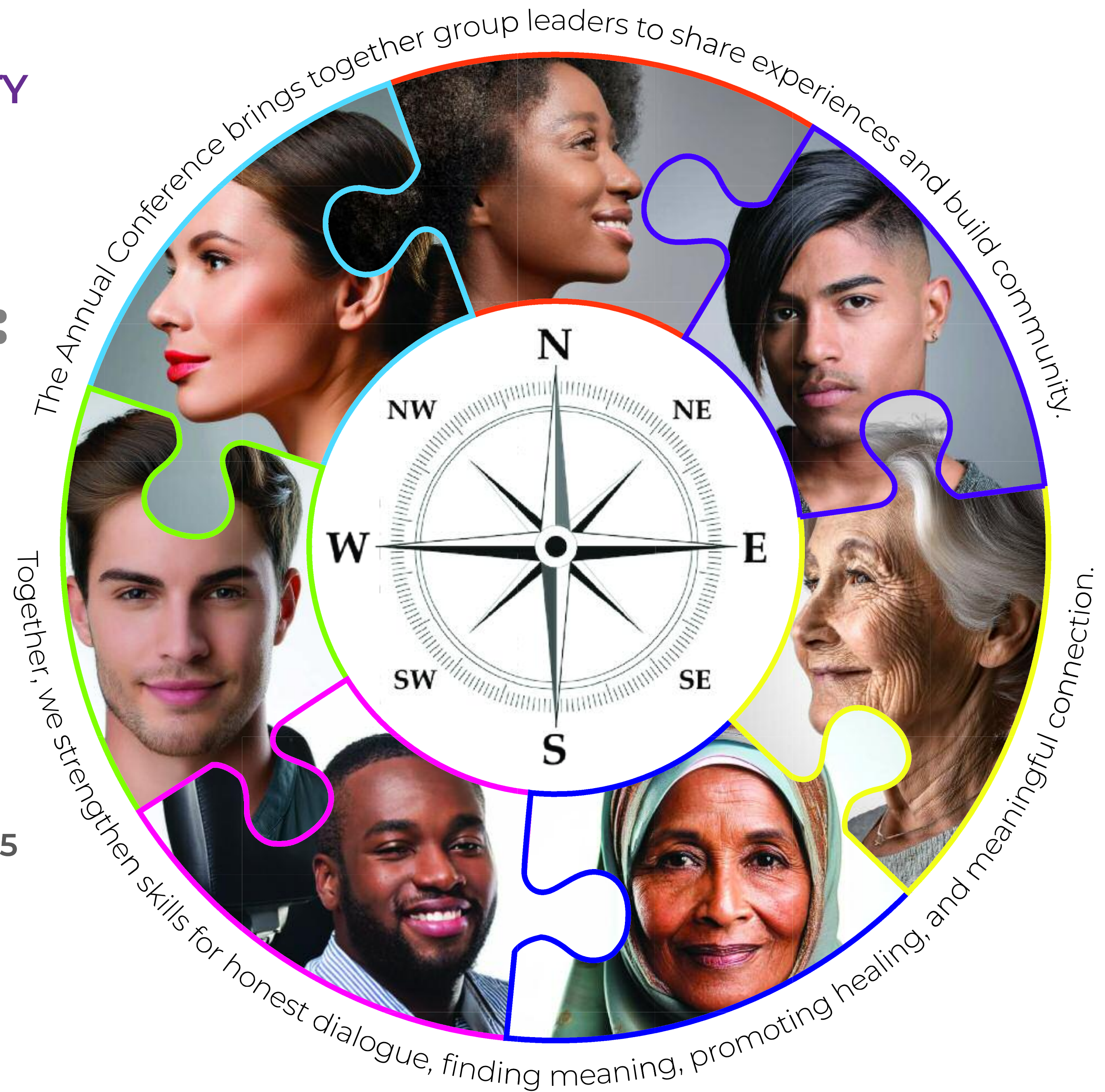
NAVIGATING DIFFERENCES: AUTHENTICITY, SELF EXPRESSION AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN GROUPS

Plenary, Thursday, November 13 (Online)

Online: Friday, November 14

In-Person at The Riverside Church: Saturday, November 15

WWW.EGPS.ORG



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW AND THEME

2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

A Multi-day, Multi-modality Event
Thursday, November 13, 2025
Plenary, Live Online, 7:00 – 9:30 PM
Friday, November 14, 2025
Live Online Event - Worldwide (Eastern US Time)
AND
Saturday, November 15, 2025
In-Person at The Riverside Church, New York City

Navigating Differences: Authenticity, Self Expression and Restorative Practices in Groups

In today’s climate of cultural and social division, differences within groups can spark disconnection, tension, and misunderstanding. Yet, when approached with openness and reflection, these challenges can become powerful gateways to healing, connection, and growth.

Group work offers a vital space to transform conflict into curiosity and division into dialogue. As group leaders, we are called to hold complexity: encouraging authentic expression while honoring safety and boundaries. Through restorative practices and compassionate accountability, we create containers where members can explore hard truths, deepen relationships, and remain grounded in integrity and care.

Together we will deepen our understanding of how group process supports movement through fear, repair of relational ruptures, and greater tolerance for difference. We will explore how cultivating empathy, active listening, and emotional honesty creates space for people to feel seen, heard, and understood, building a framework for both personal insight and collective transformation.

Conference Learning Objectives:

- Participants will acquire skills to:
- Identify and describe group concepts and processes;
 - Compare and contrast varied approaches to group assessment and intervention;
 - Integrate and apply newly learned group skills in professional practice.

Continuing Education Credits available: See the EGPS website (www.egps.org) for details.

Chairperson
Aisha M. Mabarak, LMHC, CGP

First-Time Attendee Coordinator
Jonathan Lebolt, PhD, LCSW, CGP

Plenary Subcommittee Co-Chairs
Nardia Brooks, Psychoanalyst, LCSW-R
Hilary Levine, PhD

Program Subcommittee Co-Chairs
Brooke Greene, PhD
Fanita Henderson, PhD, LMHC, NCC, CCMHC

Program Subcommittee
Nardia Brooks, Psychoanalyst, LCSW-R
Ed Elder, MDiv, LMFT, LMHC
Miriam Nkrumah, LCSW
Lynn Pearl, PhD
Judith White, LCSW, CGP, CST, CST-S

Scholarship Subcommittee Co-Chair
Amy Kossoy, BA

Site Volunteers Subcommittee
Elyse Blake, MA
Claire Julian, BA

EGPS
PO Box 867, Maywood, NJ 07607
201-880-4773 ♦ fax 631-223-1726
info@egps.org ♦ www.egps.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society (EGPS), an affiliate of the American Group Psychotherapy Association, is a multidisciplinary, multicultural, multiracial, professional organization. We advance group approaches to the delivery of human services through training, community, scholarship, and advocacy. Recognizing that multiple communities have been marginalized and unjustly treated, including within our professions, EGPS aspires to be intentionally anti-oppressive to all people. The Society welcomes members and event attendees from diverse educational and professional backgrounds and offers a wide variety of benefits to its members.

Not a member? Complete a membership application at the time you register for the Annual Conference and attend the Conference at member rates! For more information contact the EGPS office at info@egps.org.

EGPS Conference Scholarship Fund: EGPS makes available partial scholarships to individuals who have financial constraints for attending, coupled with a sincere desire to advance their knowledge of group dynamics.

- ◆ To apply for a scholarship please contact the EGPS office at info@egps.org or 201 880-4773.
- ◆ The EGPS Conference Scholarship Fund is completely funded by donations. Please see the registration form to contribute to the fund, or contact the EGPS office at info@egps.org or 201 880-4773. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Racial Equity Rate: Consistent with EGPS’ mission to be an organization that advances racial equity, and in acknowledgement of EGPS’ complicity in white supremacist practices, we offer a Racial Equity Rate for this Conference that acknowledges past and current discrimination against Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color. The Racial Equity Rate is available to Conference participants (both EGPS members and non-members) who identify as members of racial and ethnic groups that have historically been denied equal access to education and training. If you so identify, regardless of financial need, we invite you to choose the Racial Equity Rate at check-out.

Contact EGPS: Phone: 201-880-4773 • info@egps.org • www.egps.org

EGPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Joseph Hovey, LCSW

Treasurer

David A. Burks, MBA

Secretary

Fanita Henderson, PhD, LMHC, NCC, CCMHC

Immediate Past President

Christine Schmidt, LCSW

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Jacqueline Ambrosini, LCSW	April Harvin, LCSW
Nardia Brooks, Psychoanalyst, LCSW-R	Aisha M. Mabarak, LMHC, CGP
Kyle Brown, LCSW	Martha Rose, MBA
Susan Convery, LCSW	Virginia Seewaldt, PhD
Keith Fadelici, LCSW, CGP	Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT, LCAT

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Annual Conference

Aisha M. Mabarak, LMHC, CGP

Budget & Finance

David A. Burks, MBA

Journal GROUP

Keith Fadelici, LCSW, CGP

Membership Committee

Kyle Brown, LCSW
Jonathan Lebolt, PhD, LCSW, CGP

Seminar Series

Jacqueline Ambrosini, LCSW
Nardia Brooks, Psychoanalyst, LCSW-R

Spring Event

Aisha M. Mabarak, LMHC, CGP

Keith Fadelici, LCSW, CGP

Training Program

Virginia Seewaldt, PhD
Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT

Website

Ed Elder, MDiv, LMFT, LMHC
Libby O’Connor, LCSW

Work Group for Racial Equity


Chris Dolin, LCSW
April Harvin, LCSW

Administrator

Jan I. Vadell
PO Box 867, Maywood, NJ 07607
201-880-4773 • Fax 631-223-1726
info@egps.org • www.egps.org

FACULTY INDEX

Ambrosini, Jacqueline, C26	Klebanoff, Nina, D35
Anderson, Julie, B16	Kramer, Yair, B14
Arcudi, Louis, B16	Legendy, Mineko Anne, C25
Bender, Philip, C38	Levine, Hilary, B19
Bulman, Alison, A2	Levine, Ronnie, D32
Bowman, Joanne, B20	Lutz, John, A5
Brooks, Nardia, D36	Lynch, Joseph, C27
Burks, David A., B12	Mack, Dianne, C24
Charis-Buchman, Mette, B20	McRae, Mary, C28
Chen, Daniel, A4	Merton, E., C22/D31
Coleman, Shaina, B12	Metz, Oona, C29
Convery, Susan, B20	Nathanson, Terry, B18
Cooper, Marty, A10	Nisco, Laurie, C27
Dehili, Vincent, C22/D31	Oxman, Alan, D37
Diamond, Daniel, B21	Perlo, Evan, B11
Dolin, Chris, A8	Roldan, Aaron, A1
Eig, Andrew, C23	Rust, Jonathan, C25
Fadelici, Keith, A5	Sasso, Scott, D39
Friedman, Howard, C25	Schmidt, Christine, A3
Gardner-Schuster, Erica, B14	Seewaldt, Virginia, D34
Gaztambide, Daniel Jose, Plenary, C30	Sharf, Jennie, B15
Gerson, Cheryl, A10	Sharp, Deborah, B13
Grover, Sean, D33	Smith, LaTasha, B19
Grundy, Dominick, A6	Solomita, Teresa, C26
Harvin, April, C24	Stern, Lisa, B17
Henderson, Fanita, A8	Tesema, Christian, D36
Hovey, Joe, A9	Walker, Martin, B20
Isaac-Campbell, Kathleen, A7	Wittig, Joan, D34

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW		PLENARY PRESENTATION	
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 (Included with all registrations, both In Person and/or Online)		Thursday, November 13, 7:00 – 9:30 PM LIVE ONLINE	
Plenary will be held Live Online 6:30 – 6:45 PM Socializing Time 6:45 – 7:00 PM Welcome & Introductions 7:00 - 9:30 PM Plenary		<div>  <div> A Decolonial Approach to Psychoanalytically Informed Developmental Theory, Case Formulation and Treatment Daniel Jose Gaztambide, PsyD </div> <p>Most approaches to relational therapy depend on some theory of development to inform how clinicians think about the patient's difficulties, guiding case formulation and treatment. This focus, however, sometimes chafes with recent thinking on the role of sociocultural and political factors in psychotherapy. This presentation will bridge this gap through a theory and research-grounded review of the decolonial psychoanalytic perspective, offering pragmatic tools for thinking about the relational/developmental and social/political as a matter of course.</p> </div>	
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 LIVE ONLINE		Learning Objectives As a result of this presentation, participants will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the history and theory of the decolonial psychoanalytic perspective; • Distinguish between psychological systems oriented around attachment, relatedness, and connection, and those oriented around status, identity, and power; • Integrate considerations of culture, race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, gender orientation, and identity into case formulation and treatment; • Identify the sociogenesis (social determinants) of everyday clinical phenomena and presenting problems; • Consider how to bridge therapeutic action with political action as part of their work. 	
8:30 – 9:00 AM Social Gathering 9:00 – 11:30 AM “A” Workshops 11:45 – 1:15 PM Theatre of the Oppressed Open to all attendees 1:15 – 2:30 PM Lunch Break 2:30 – 5:00 PM “B” Workshops 5:10 – 6:00 PM Affinity Groups 6:00 – 6:45 PM Social Gathering		Daniel José Gaztambide, PsyD , is assistant professor of psychology at Queens College, where he is the director of the Frantz Fanon Lab for Decolonial Psychology, and a faculty member in the Department of Critical Psychology at the CUNY Graduate Center. He is the author of the books A People's History of Psychoanalysis: From Freud to Liberation Psychology, and the recent Decolonizing Psychoanalytic Technique: Putting Freud on Fanon’s Couch, which received a 2024 Gradiva Award for Best Book. He is in analytic training at the NYU Post-Doctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, and is the recipient of multiple fellowships including a Mellon Foundation Fellowship and a Miranda Family Fellowship for his research on colonial mentality and the application of psychoanalytic treatment to diverse populations. His recent paper, “Standing against racial capitalism: Reconsidering psychology’s role in dismantling systemic racism,” was published in a recent special issue in American Psychologist on addressing racism in psychology. This work is an extension of his service as a Taskforce member at the APA’s Taskforce on Strategies for the Elimination of Racism, Discrimination, and Hate, for which he received a presidential citation for his work.	
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 In Person at The Riverside Church, Manhattan			
8:15 – 9:00 AM Registration and Coffee 9:00 – 11:30 AM “C” Workshops 11:45 – 1:15 PM Theatre of the Oppressed Open to all attendees 1:15 – 2:30 PM Lunch Break 2:30 – 5:00 PM “D” Workshops 5:10 – 6:00 PM Affinity Groups 6:00 – 7:30 PM Social Time/Reception			

Theater of the Oppressed NYC

Friday, November 14 and/or Saturday, November 15
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM



Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) is an interactive, hands-on approach that uses theatre as a rehearsal space for real-life change. Developed by Brazilian theatre-maker Augusto Boal, TO invites participants to investigate situations of injustice & conflict, rehearse creative interventions, and imagine new possibilities for action. Through games, improvisation, and collaborative scene work, participants become “spect-actors” — active problem-solvers instead of passive observers.

In the context of group work, TO creates space for reflection, healing, and connection while uncovering hard truths about the systems, communities, and group dynamics we navigate. This method supports group leaders in fostering solidarity, strengthening their own capacity for authentic self-expression, and engaging in collective transformation for both themselves and their group members. By blending embodied play with critical reflection, TO helps groups develop the “muscle memory” to confront challenges and co-create more equitable futures. Absolutely no theatre experience is necessary — every person is already an actor in their own life.



AFFINITY GROUPS AT THE EGPS CONFERENCE

What is an Affinity Group?

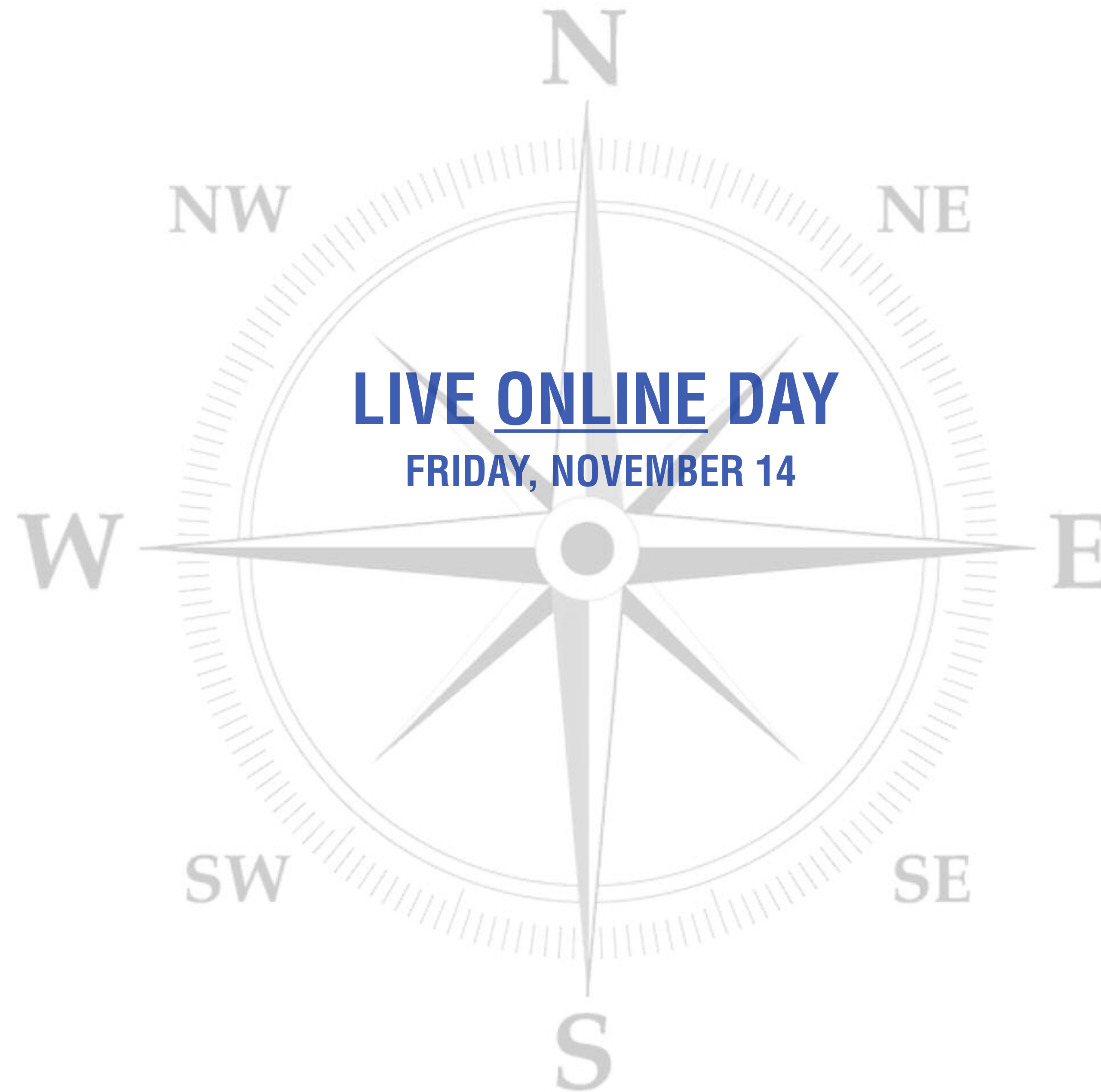
An Affinity Group is a space where individuals who share an element of their identity gather to explore, process, and share their experiences around that identity. It is a group where, together, members can reflect on their realities given their shared identity.

Why Affinity Groups at the Conference?

The EGPS Annual Conference offers attendees opportunities to learn about their work and themselves as individuals and group leaders. As we navigate and explore alongside others, many emotions and reactions arise. We can be harmed and harm others, especially when considering the inevitable enactments of microaggressions, racism, oppression, and white supremacy. We offer Affinity Groups as a space to welcome, hold, contain, and collectively process these experiences within a shared identity.

Why join an Affinity Group?

We invite you to join an Affinity Group and use it in the way that will be the most helpful for you. This can be to process emotions in an interaction, share thoughts about a workshop, express opinions, and be amongst others with whom you share an identity. The Affinity Group leaders are committed to creating a welcoming space to talk and make meaning of emotions and reactions to any aspects of the Conference: the Plenary, Large Group, Workshops, Social Spaces, and anything in between. We recognize that identities are multi-faceted and intersectional. We invite attendees to choose the group that fits the identity that has been the most salient throughout experiences at the conference.



LIVE ONLINE DAY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

“A” WORKSHOPS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 9:00 – 11:30 AM
LIVE ONLINE

WORKSHOP A1

Group Intervention: Marginalized Therapist Identity & Presence
Aaron Roldan, ASW, SUDCC, Soul Centric Counseling
Participants will explore the inherent impact of a group facilitator's marginalized identity and presence on group dynamics and treatment outcomes. The presenter will share a case vignette illustrating the use of "self" as a group intervention within a predominantly white, cisgender eating disorder treatment center. Broader implications of using the self as an intervention within the current sociopolitical climate will also be discussed.
Open to All Levels of Experience
Didactic – Sharing Experience – Group Process

WORKSHOP A2

Lovitation to Elevate Group Communication
Alison Bulman, LCSW, Private Practice
In a time when misunderstanding and polarization often dominate our interactions, this workshop introduces Lovitation, a mindfulness-based communication practice rooted in the principles of Circling. Designed to help groups "resist and confront the pull of vilification," Lovitation guides participants to shift their focus from analysis, judgment, or fixing, to fully inhabiting the present moment with one another. Through structured yet organic group processes, participants will learn to attune to the here-and-now emotional impact of connection, while sustaining a meditative group awareness.
Open to All Levels of Experience
Didactic – Experiential – Group Process – Sharing Experience

WORKSHOP A3

Social Aspects of a Working Group in Group Psychotherapy
Christine Schmidt, MSW, CGP, Private Practice
This workshop will examine the leader's role in co-constructing a container for a psychotherapy process group. Zoom softened traditional group boundaries that could not be reversed by simply returning to in-person work. How does the group psychotherapist respond to interpersonal desires, requests, and demands without compromising the therapeutic integrity of the group? Workshop participants will engage with examples that highlight group psychotherapists' choices and the impact of these choices on client outcomes.
Open to All Levels of Experience
Experiential – Didactic – Sharing Experience – Group Process

WORKSHOP A4

Individualism vs Collectivism: Beyond the Culture
Daniel Chen, MHC-LP, Private Practice
This workshop will explore the impact of an individual's culture and how it scaffolds their every decision especially when they are in a group setting. Each participant will share where they fall on the spectrum of individual/collective culture and highlight how this has impacted their work or presence in groups.
Open to those with Introductory Experience or Early Career Professionals
Sharing Experience – Group Process – Experiential – Didactic

WORKSHOP A5

Taking Our Shoes Off: Navigating Difference Through Empathic Practice
Keith Fadelici, LCSW, CGP, Private Practice and **John Lutz, PhD**, Long Island University; Webb Institute of Naval Architecture
This workshop is designed to deepen our understanding of empathy, not as a quality-of-person, but as a lived practice and a valuable clinical skillset. Central to navigating difference is our ability to privilege the experience of the other over our own world view, allowing for the creation of an empathic connection by setting aside (not denying or erasing) the biases that block us from understanding. The workshop will begin with a didactic exploration of the characteristics of empathy and the obstacles to its practice, as seen within the context of current events. A process group will demonstrate empathic practice followed by concluding discussion.
Open to All Levels of Experience
Group Process – Didactic – Experiential - Sharing Experience

WORKSHOP A6

Roads Not Taken: Mistakes or New Opportunities for Reflection?
Dominick Grundy, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F, Private Practice
As we look back, we may imagine other roads we could have taken. What if? We must come to terms with consequences and take responsibility for our share of harm to ourselves or others. In this workshop, in which there will be some writing, we will develop a sympathetic de-idealized understanding of who we were then, including the social circumstances and intellectual milieu. This is especially applicable for work with older adults.
Open to All Levels of Experience
Experiential – Sharing Experience – Group Process – Didactic

“A” WORKSHOPS (con’t) FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 9:00 – 11:30 AM LIVE ONLINE		“B” WORKSHOPS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2:30 – 5:00 PM LIVE ONLINE
WORKSHOP A7	WORKSHOP A9	WORKSHOP B11
<p>Whose Safety Is It Anyway? What We Can Learn from Affinity Spaces Kathleen Isaac-Campbell, PhD, CGP, Langone Health; HEAL'D Therapy & Consulting Intergenerational trauma can challenge our capacity to relate to ourselves and others. We are currently living through a time when the stories we hold about ourselves and others can create disconnection rather than community. Racial affinity spaces offer a unique opportunity to explore individual and collective experiences in a safe environment. This workshop will help us understand why these spaces are important and why they should be protected and not feared. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Didactic – Experiential – Group Process – Sharing of Experience</p>	<p>Navigating Differences Differently with SAVI® Joseph Hovey, LCSW, CGP, Private Practice Every relationship – strangers, loved ones, group members – involves differences. From thoughts and feelings; to religious and political beliefs; to lived experiences and identities. Sometimes we work to understand each other's differences, sometimes we try to transform them, sometimes we fight or avoid them. In this workshop we'll learn about SAVI (the System for Analyzing Verbal Interaction) and through experiential application, see how it might help us navigate differences differently, in our groups, relationships and world. We will close with reflection on the themes provided. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Experiential – Didactic – Sharing Experience – Group Process</p>	<p>Joining and Delighting: Cultivating Group Cohesion and Attachment Security Evan Perlo, MA, LMFT, CGP, Private Practice; GPALA This workshop explores two complementary concepts from Modern Psychoanalysis and applied Attachment Theory that foster belonging and mattering in groups. Attendees will learn how joining addresses early anxieties and resistances, and how expressing delight promotes a felt sense of mattering. Through didactic teaching and a demonstration group, participants will learn to use interventions that cultivate inclusivity, cohesion, and positive self-regard across the developmental phases of a group. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Group Process – Didactic – Sharing Experience</p>
WORKSHOP A8	WORKSHOP A10	WORKSHOP B12
<p>Navigating Cultural Diversity in Process Groups Fanita Henderson, PhD, LMHC, NCC, CCMHC, New York Institute of Technology; Private Practice & Chris Dolin, LCSW, Private Practice This workshop explores the dynamics of racially and culturally diverse process groups, focusing on how intersecting identities impact group dynamics. Drawing on our experiences as group leaders of racially mixed groups, we will address how social processes manifest in groups, the challenges of hierarchical racial dynamics, and how mindfulness techniques can facilitate brave communication across racial and cultural differences. Participants will learn practical strategies for navigating difficult emotions and fostering transformative dialogue about race in group settings. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Didactic – Experiential – Group Process – Sharing Experience</p>	<p>Developing Authenticity and Self-Expression Through Writing Marty Cooper, PhD, SUNY Old Westbury; NYU Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, and Cheryl Gerson, LCSW, BCD, Private Practice The "use of self" is one of the most important skills in leading a group. A leader who is unaware of their own biases will flounder when a group hits a "rough" spot, such as creating a scapegoat or dysfunctional subgrouping. Writing, whether shared or not, can help us stay honest with ourselves. It can help us explore those things that we might not want to share with others and add language to those things that we do share. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Didactic – Sharing of Experience – Experiential – Group Process</p>	<p>DASH Sequence: What Do YOU Bring to Every Group? Shaina Coleman , David & Shaina, Inc. and David A. Burks, MBA, David & Shaina, Inc. There's one constant in every group you're in—you. The DASH Sequence is a framework for exploring how your default settings, assumptions, strengths, and values shape your presence as a group leader. Through reflection, shared experience, and group process, participants will examine how personal patterns influence group dynamics and leadership choices. This session will support more intentional, equity-minded facilitation by helping leaders align their principles with their practice and produce better patient outcomes. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Sharing Experience – Didactic – Group Process</p>

<div>“B” WORKSHOPS</div> <div>FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2:30 – 5:00 PM</div> <div>LIVE ONLINE</div>		
WORKSHOP B13	WORKSHOP B15	WORKSHOP B17
<div>Marginality and the Stages of Group Development</div> <div>Deborah Sharp, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F, Private Practice</div> <div>The stages of group development are useful for the group leader in accurately assessing group dynamics and crafting appropriate interventions. We will explore two models of group development and their impact on marginalized group members. Workshop attendees will explore the risks and benefits of the two models and experience their differences via a demonstration group.</div> <div><i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i></div> <div>Didactic – Group Process – Experiential – Sharing of Experience</div>	<div>Can We Agree to Disagree? Reducing Dropout Risk in Group Psychotherapy</div> <div>Jennie Sharf, PhD, Private Practice</div> <div>Misattunement and disagreement between group participants (and leaders) are risk factors for dropout. Yet recovering from misattunement and disagreement are essential to group participants' personal growth. How do we balance creating a safe-enough group space with the need to express challenging, and sometimes hurtful, differences? This experiential group will highlight interventions that have been correlated with reduced dropout risk, such as aligning participant and leader expectations, repairing ruptures in the therapeutic alliance, and addressing microaggressions.</div> <div><i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i></div> <div>Group Process – Experiential – Didactic – Sharing Experience</div>	<div>At the Interface of Intrapsychic and Social Trauma</div> <div>Lisa Stern, PhD, CGP, ABGP, Private Practice; Adelphi University</div> <div>Our relationship to difference develops in the context of our original group/family and internalized intergenerational "enigmatic messages." These messages govern our capacity to be open to others and shackle us in fear that others will not accept us in our difference. This workshop is an invitation to reflect on those earliest messages in order to make meaning of how we suffer differences, rejection, and miss out on loving invitations to reciprocal enrichment.</div> <div><i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i></div> <div>Group Process – Experiential – Sharing Experience – Didactic</div>
WORKSHOP B14	WORKSHOP B16	WORKSHOP B18
<div>Reparenting the Parentified Child</div> <div>Erica Gardner-Schuster, PhD, Private Practice; The New School for Social Research, and Yair Kramer, PsyD, Private Practice</div> <div>This workshop will explore how many therapists come to the work shaped by early experiences of parentification—being placed in developmentally inappropriate caregiver roles as children. Together, we'll examine how these roles can unconsciously influence our adult relationships, clinical work, and sense of self. We'll consider what it takes to recognize and disrupt the impacts of parentification and reparent ourselves in service of greater freedom, authenticity, and connection, as well as in the service of greater clinical effectiveness.</div> <div><i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i></div> <div>Group Process – Experiential – Sharing of Experience</div>	<div>Embracing Contrast: Exploring Connection Across Differences</div> <div>Julie Anderson, PhD, CGP, Private Practice; Brookline Community Center for Mental Health, and Louis Arcudi, MA, LMHC, Private Practice; Brookline Community Center for Mental Health</div> <div>This group experience will explore the timely challenge of relating to others who are different from us. We will emphasize awareness of projection and expectations vs curiosity about others and note the ways we may protect against feeling vulnerable. We will invite discussion of defensive patterns that serve to keep our connections limited, or safe.</div> <div><i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i></div> <div>Experiential - Group Process – Didactic - Sharing Experience</div>	<div>What Online Sessions Have Taught Us About Working “In Person.” Reclaiming Spatial Wonder, Innocence, and Group Attunement</div> <div>Terry Nathanson, LCSW, Private Practice; NYU Sliver School of Social Work</div> <div>This interactive online workshop welcomes participants to explore how capacities developed in virtual group facilitation - such as spatial attunement and embodied presence - can enhance “in person” group therapy. Participants will deepen their ability to work with groups through spatially-oriented exercises and small group practices including energetic tracking, work with place-attachment, and sensory informed seeing and listening. We'll engage the spatial and perceptual opportunities cultivated online, translating these resources into more resonant group dynamics across all therapeutic settings.</div> <div><i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i></div> <div>Experiential – Group Process – Sharing Experience – Didactic</div>

“B” WORKSHOPS (con’t)
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2:30 – 5:00 PM
LIVE ONLINE

WORKSHOP B19

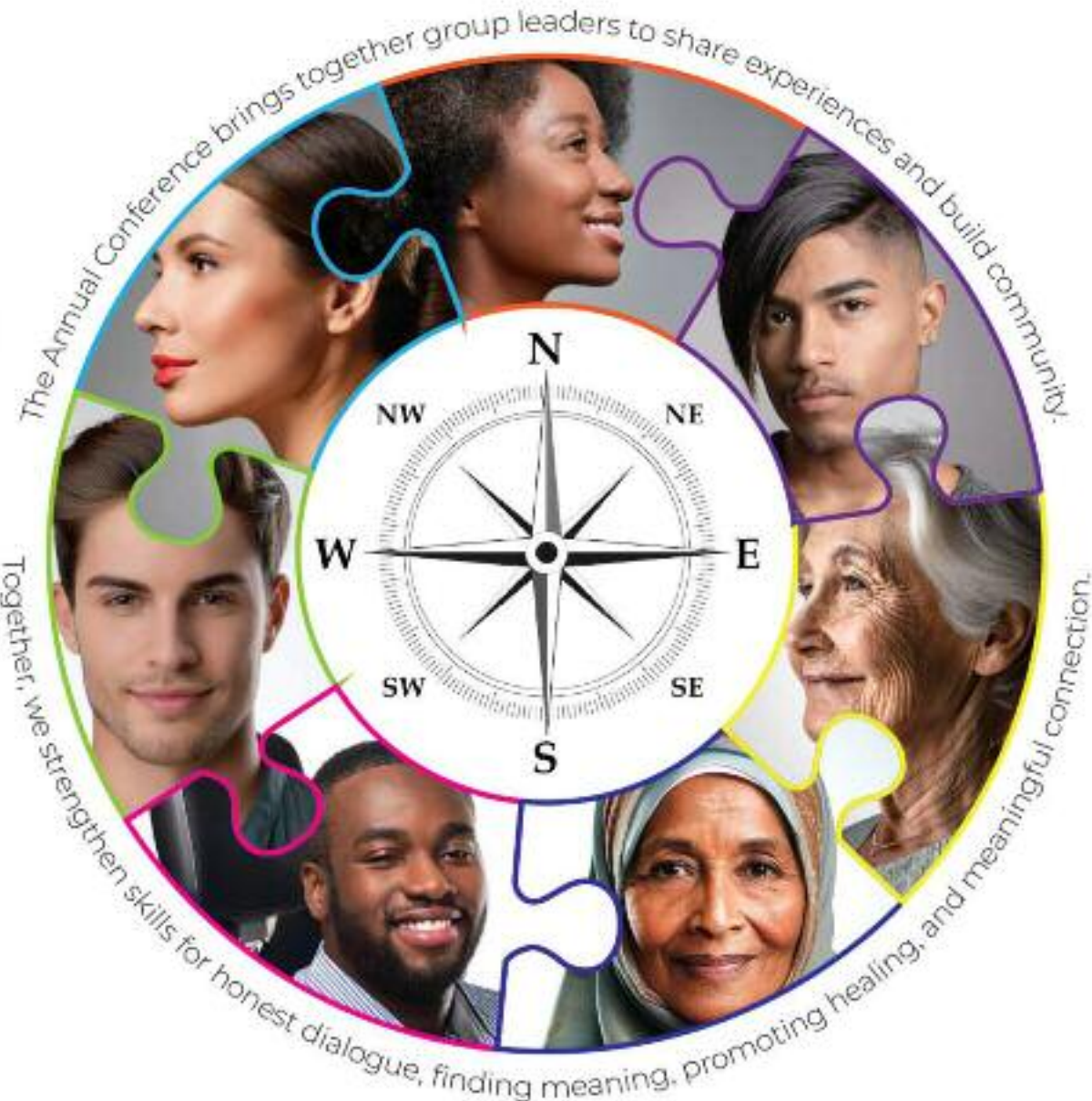
Belonging Begins Here: Challenging Imposter Dynamics in Group
LaTasha Smith, PhD, LCSW, CGP, Loyola University of Chicago; Private Practice and **Hilary Levine, PhD, CGP**, CCNY; Private Practice
The imposter dynamic refers to a phenomenon that is ever changing and morphs in different ways but is based on a core belief that we are not as smart and competent as others see us to be. The persistent fear of being exposed as a fraud despite clear evidence to the contrary is rooted in real-life, formative experiences, both familial and socio-cultural. Secrecy, shame and experiential avoidance fuel the imposter syndrome. This workshop invites you to explore how imposter dynamics manifest in your life and to learn how groups can detoxify their impact.
Open to All Levels of Experience
Experiential – Group Process – Sharing Experience – Didactic

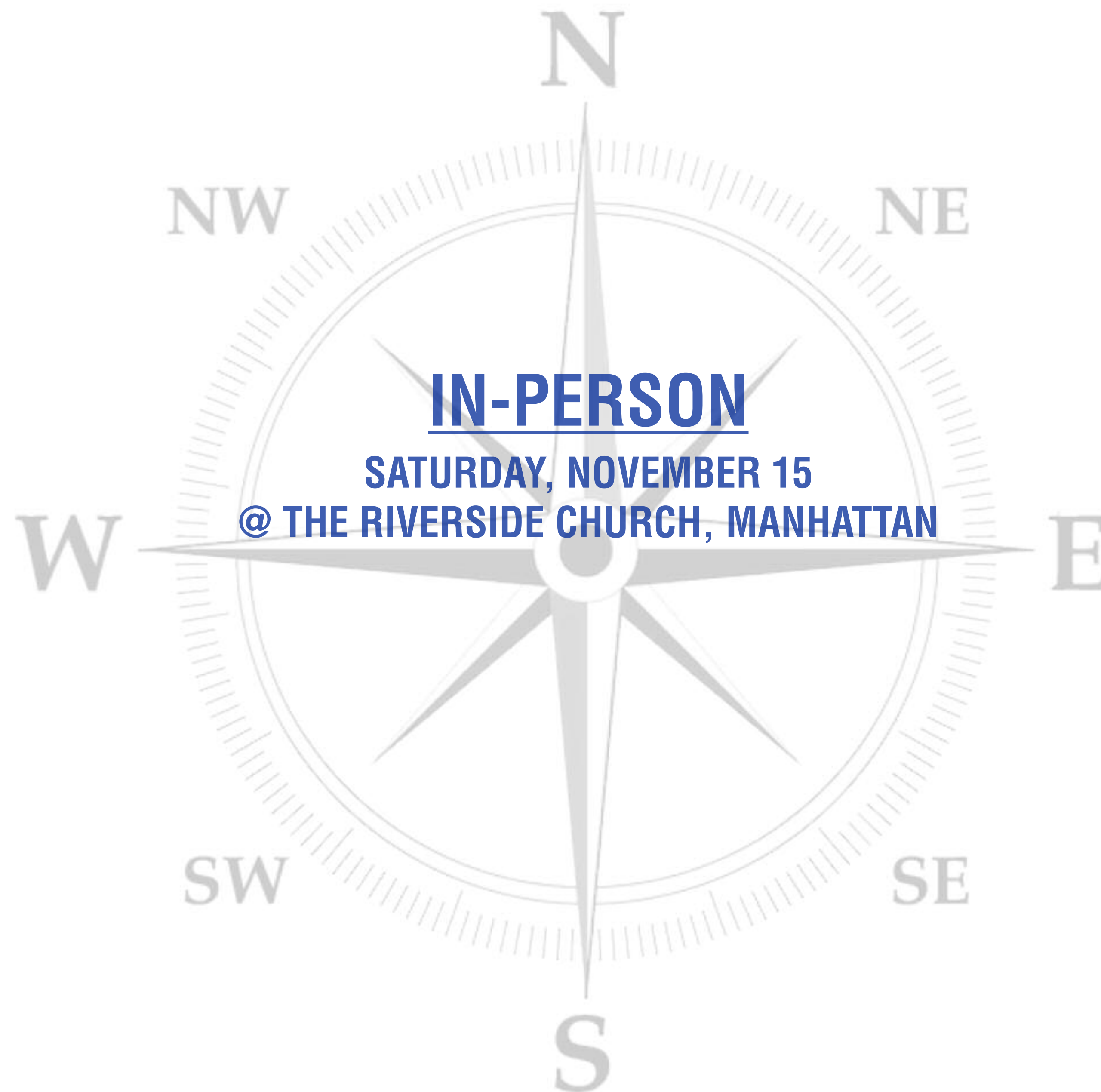
WORKSHOP B20

Social Dreaming: A Method of Fostering Connection
Susan Convery, LCSW, New York Center for the Study of Groups, Organizations and Social Systems; Private Practice; **Joanne Bowman, MA, CHWC**, New York Center for the Study of Groups, Organizations and Social Systems; The International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organizations (ISPSO) **Martin Walker, PhD, YA500**, New York Center for the Study of Groups, Organizations and Social Systems; William Alanson White Institute for Psychiatry, Psychology, and Psychoanalysis **Mette Charis-Buchman, MA, Org.Psy.M., PhD Candidate**, New York Center for the Study of Groups, Organizations and Social Systems; The National Institute of Organisation Dynamics Australia (NIODA)
Social dreaming offers connections across physical, cultural, and language boundaries. Through the sharing of dreams and free associations without interpretation, we will examine the infinite unconscious in the group, the EGPS Conference and our larger world. This session will offer an introduction to social dreaming, the experience of two matrices, personal reflection and discussion of themes and applications. All dreamers and dreams are welcome! No prior experience required.
Open to All Levels of Experience
Didactic – Sharing Experience – Experiential

WORKSHOP B21

Igniting Connection: Group as Campfire
Daniel Diamond, LCSW, Private Practice
Participants will learn the process of communal fire-building, and reflect on its warmth, function, and danger. We will use this knowledge to understand our tasks, desires, and fears when it comes to joining a process group. Using the metaphor of the campfire, participants will track the development and progress of the group in the here-and-now. (No literal fires will be made in this session, but participants will be prepared to help build one in the future.)
Open to All Levels of Experience
Experiential – Group Process – Didactic – Sharing Experience





IN-PERSON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

@ THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH, MANHATTAN

“C /D” WORKSHOP SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 9:00 – 11:30 AM & 2:30 – 5:00 IN-PERSON @THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH, MANHATTAN		
WORKSHOP C22/D31	WORKSHOP C24	WORKSHOP C26
<p>Roll for Insight: Using Collaborative Roleplaying Integrative Therapy (CRIT) in Group Work Vincent Dehili, PhD, CGP, ABPP, AGPA-F, Vassar College; Change the Narrative Counseling, LLC and E Merten, LICSW, Advance Psychotherapy Practice</p> <p>This full-day, experiential workshop introduces CRIT—Collaborative Roleplaying Integrative Therapy—a transtheoretical framework merging group therapy with tabletop roleplaying games like Dungeons & Dragons. Grounded in nine dialectical therapeutic factors, CRIT offers a novel approach to identity exploration, relational repair, and systemic insight. Through two live demonstration groups, didactic content, and process reflection, participants will develop tools to support co-facilitation, psychological flexibility, inclusivity, and narrative healing through roleplay-based group therapy.</p> <p>Participants must register for both sessions of this two-part Workshop <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Experiential – Group Process – Didactic – Sharing of Experience</p>	<p>We are *HERE: BIPOC Persons' Journey to Authentic Self-Expression in Groups. *Healing, Existing, Resilient, Empowered April Harvin, MSW, LCSW, Private Practice, ARH Soulutions LLC and Dianne Mack, PhD, LCSW, MSW, Private Practice</p> <p>Through didactic, small-group, reflective exercises, and group process, participants will explore how unconscious biases, cultural assumptions, and interpersonal, institutional, systemic, and anti-black racism shape authentic self-expression for BIPOC members and leaders, and how these forces impact relational ruptures and opportunities for repair in groups. This workshop will center the experiences of attendees who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color. <i>(POC includes Latino/a/x/e, Asian, Pacific Islander, MENA [Middle Eastern, North African], and multi-racial identities.)</i> <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Experiential – Group Process – Didactic – Sharing of Experience</p>	<p>Gender - Why Can't We All Get Along! Jacqueline Ambrosini, LCSW-R, Certificate in Psychoanalysis, Private Practice; Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies and Teresa Solomita, LCSW-R, NCPsyA, Center for Group Studies; Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies</p> <p>Interdependence refers to the mutual reliance and interconnectedness between individuals, groups, or systems within a larger context. It describes how the actions and well-being of one entity are influenced by and dependent on the actions and well-being of others, creating a web of reciprocal relationships. How do we create a more healthy, interdependent relationship between men, women and gender non-conforming persons? How do we move from patriarchy to mutuality? What's possible in a group? Our group workshop will explore interdependence through didactic and group process. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Experiential – Group Process – Didactic – Sharing Experience</p>
“C “ WORKSHOPS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 9:00 – 11:30 AM IN-PERSON @THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH, MANHATTAN	WORKSHOP C25	WORKSHOP C27
WORKSHOP C23	<p>Leadership Authority Repair in Groups and Organizations Howard Friedman, PhD, Private Practice; Mineko Anne Legendy, PhD, Private Practice and Jonathan Rust, PhD, Associate Professor, SUNY New Paltz</p> <p>In the life of groups and organizations adverse experiences occur. Repair becomes a necessary part of processing these experiences. Leadership with both formal and informal authority are components of the repair process. Using a group relations lens, along with small groups and a large group, participants will have an opportunity to explore their thoughts and feelings connected to this theme. A brief didactic presentation and a de-brief are included. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Experiential – Sharing Experience – Group Process – Didactic</p>	<p>The Unconscious Power of the Parental Voice: An Exploration of this Influence on the Male Therapist and His Clients Joseph Lynch, PhD, Private Practice and Laurie Nisco, PhD, Private Practice</p> <p>The male therapist brings into the room the internalized voices and his lived experience of his parents/parental figures, and these inevitably influence his work and impact his clients, whether consciously or not. Does the internalized father or mother predominate? Does the parent manifest in the therapist's tone, facial expression, body language or experience of others? Is sexuality, competitiveness, and aggression avoided or overemphasized? In this experiential workshop, we will explore these and other aspects of the internalized parental voice and their impact on client care. <i>This Workshop is Open to Men/those who identify as Male</i> <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Sharing Experience – Group Process – Experiential – Didactic</p>

“C” WORKSHOPS (Con't) SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 9:00 – 11:30 IN-PERSON @THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH, MANHATTAN		“D” WORKSHOPS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2:30 – 5:00 IN-PERSON @THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH, MANHATTAN
WORKSHOP C28	WORKSHOP C30	WORKSHOP D32
<p>Let's Talk About Our Differences Mary McRae, EdD, William Alanson White Institute; Private Practice In this workshop, we will look at some video clips of a group working with some of their differences. We will share observations and interpretations of the racial and cultural dynamics in the video group. We will then form a small group that will engage in a here-and-now experience of the differences that exist in group members. There will then be time for review and application of experiences to those in current lives. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Didactic – Sharing Experience – Experiential – Group Process</p>	<p>Identity Politics, Cultural Competence, and our Lived Clinical Practice Daniel Jose Gaztambide, PsyD, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and Director of the Frantz Fanon Lab for Decolonial Psychology, Queens College; Department of Critical Psychology at the CUNY Graduate Center. Much has been written about the role of cultural competence in the clinical setting, yet growing confusion abounds about the application of these principles in an open, experience-near and practical fashion. This workshop will engage attendees in reflecting on their training on cultural competence principles, and how they can both help and hinder their clinical practice. Attention will be given to how we discuss identity in our work, to articulate a more inclusive approach. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Didactic – Sharing of Experience – Experiential</p>	<p>Becoming Comfortable with Uncomfortable Group Feelings Ronnie Levine, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-DF, Faculty, Center for Group Studies Creating a group culture of inclusion requires the group therapist to live through and work with feelings that are difficult to contain and hold. Among the most difficult group feelings to bear are the leader's (and group's) feelings of shameful badness, following painful misattunements, while also finding ways to remain open, curious, and available so that all feelings can be invited and explored. This workshop will explore how the leader can develop transformative exploration. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Group Process – Didactic – Sharing Experience</p>
WORKSHOP C29		WORKSHOP D33
<p>Building a Group One Word at a Time Oona Metz, LICSW, CGP, AGPA-F, Private Practice; Founder, Beacon Group Fellowship In this dynamic workshop we will build a group using both written and spoken words. We will investigate the use of unconscious process to build cohesion, foster connection and deepen insight. Through a series of brief, guided, creative writing exercises, participants will use the page as a space to observe and express emotions, experiences and desires, learning more fully about themselves and each other. No writing experience needed. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Didactic – Group Process – Sharing Experience – Experiential</p>		<p>Essential Leadership Skills for Adolescent Groups Sean Grover, LCSW, Private Practice Adolescent groups offer clinicians the rare opportunity to help teens heal from familial, social, and cultural injuries. This workshop will use both didactic and experiential methods to train participants in creating an inclusive environment through effective adolescent group leadership. By fostering peer solidarity and acceptance, group leaders help teenagers rewrite their painful histories and honor their authentic selves. <i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Didactic - Group Process – Experiential - Sharing Experience</p>

“D” WORKSHOPS (Con’t) SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2:30 – 5:00 IN-PERSON @THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH, MANHATTAN		
WORKSHOP D34	WORKSHOP D36	WORKSHOP D38
<p>Help! How Do I Run a Group: Fundamentals of Group Psychotherapy Virginia Seewaldt, PhD, Private Practice and Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT, LCAT, Pratt Institute</p> <p>This workshop introduces essential components of beginning a group in agencies, hospitals, and private practice. Topics include assessment, preparation, establishing group boundaries and norms, the therapist's role in early sessions, transference/countertransference, and therapist interventions in challenging situations. Participants will learn when and why group work is useful and will be introduced to the importance of social identities in developing cohesion in groups. The workshop will include both didactic and experiential components.</p> <p><i>This is an Introductory Workshop</i> Didactic – Experiential – Group Process – Sharing Experience</p>	<p>Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? Nardia Brooks, LCSW-R, Private Practice; Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies & Christian Tesema, Psychoanalyst, Private Practice</p> <p>In June 2023 the Holmes Commission published a report that confirmed a history of racism in psychoanalysis. In pondering the implications of its findings for the future, the Commission quoted MLK: “where do we go from here, chaos or community?” Accordingly, this workshop aims to engage in restorative and authentic conversations about structural racism with a hope of healing and change. We will confront, address enactments and attempt to move from chaos to community.</p> <p><i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Experiential – Didactic</p>	<p>Interpersonal Meets Existential: Autonomy and Powerlessness in Group Philip Bender, PhD, CGP, Private Practice,</p> <p>Many of our group members' interpersonal complaints stem from their desire to change others, which is often impossible. We'll discuss an existential approach to group therapy and how it can help encourage acceptance of the painful differences and disappointments that members experience from other people in their lives. This will be followed by a process group experience, with special attention to these themes.</p> <p><i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Experiential – Group Process – Didactic</p>
WORKSHOP D35	WORKSHOP D37	WORKSHOP D39
<p>Money: Clinical Issues Nina Klebanoff, EdM, LCSW, CGP, Licensed Systems-Centered Practitioner, Private Practice</p> <p>The therapist's relationship to their own financial issues has a direct impact on their work with clients. Using a Systems-Centered approach, this workshop will explore these issues for the therapist and their effect on their work.</p> <p><i>Open to those with an Intermediate Level of Experience</i> Experiential – Group Process – Sharing Experience - Didactic</p>	<p>Do I Matter Here? Navigating Differences Through the Lens of Mattering in Group Psychotherapy Alan Oxman, LCSW, DSW, Private Practice</p> <p>This workshop explores how group therapists can use the psychology of mattering to foster authenticity, deepen emotional connection, and address ruptures within diverse group settings. Using modern analytic theory, participants will learn how to identify and intervene in dynamics of mattering and anti-mattering to support restorative processes, navigate cultural and interpersonal differences, and promote relational safety. Clinical examples, experiential learning, and theoretical grounding will guide participants in cultivating meaningful, reparative group experiences.</p> <p><i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Experiential – Group Process – Sharing Experience - Didactic</p>	<p>What to Do About It Now? Adult Patients and Present-day Relationship with Their Parents Scott Sasso, PhD, CGP, ABPP, Private Practice; Long Island University</p> <p>Adult patients frequently speak about their ongoing relationships with their parents in individual and group psychotherapy contexts. Existing literature examines childhood circumstances and longstanding patterns but is sparse regarding machinations of current conflicts. This workshop will examine ways for patients to take direct real-world action as well as work through conflicts internally or symbolically. The workshop will also elucidate common group scenarios and effective group management when this topic arises.</p> <p><i>Open to All Levels of Experience</i> Group Process – Experiential – Didactic – Sharing Experience</p>

Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society
2025 Multi-day, Multi-modality Annual Conference
Registration Information

Friday, November 14, 2025, Live Online
And/or

Saturday, November 15, 2025, In-Person at The Riverside Church, Manhattan

You can register for the **FULL Conference** which **includes BOTH** the **In Person day** at The Riverside Church **AND the Live Online day,**
OR PARTIAL Conference which would include **EITHER** the In-person day or the Live Online day.

The Live Online Plenary is included with all registrations. (It will be held Live Online, Thursday evening November 13.)
All Workshops have limited registration and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

FEES:
BY November 3rd:

FULL CONFERENCE - Both Live Online and In Person

Members: \$380
Nonmembers: \$500
Students/Residents: \$190

ONE CONFERENCE DAY - Either In-person or Live Online

Members: \$260
Nonmembers: \$350
Students/Residents: \$130

Plenary Only for those who would like to ONLY attend the Plenary session on Thursday evening.

Members: \$130
Nonmembers: \$175
Students/Residents: \$60

AFTER November 3rd:

FULL CONFERENCE - Both Live Online and In Person)

Members: \$480
Nonmembers: \$630
Students/Residents: \$240

ONE CONFERENCE DAY - Either In-person or Live Online

Members: \$315
Nonmembers: \$420
Students/Residents: \$160

Members: \$155
Nonmembers: \$210
Students/Residents: \$75

2025 Racial Equity Rate

Consistent with EGPS' mission to be an organization that advances racial equity, and in acknowledgement of EGPS' complicity in white supremacist practices, we offer a Racial Equity Rate for this Conference that acknowledges past and current discrimination against Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color. The Racial Equity Rate is available to Conference participants (both EGPS members and nonmembers) who identify as members of racial and ethnic groups that have historically been denied equal access to education and training. If you so identify, regardless of financial need, we invite you to choose the Racial Equity Rate at check-out.

Continuing Education Credits: For those requesting CEUs there is an additional \$30 fee.

Conference Scholarships are available. For information: info@egps.org. Donations to the Conference Scholarship Fund are greatly appreciated.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations received prior to November 3rd will be assessed a \$50 fee. There are no refunds for cancellations received after November 3rd.

Discounted Rates for groups of registrants from the same organization (5 or more people). Contact info@egps.org for more information.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)