EGPS

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FIRE *in the* CIRCLE:

Leading through Fear, Desire, Turbulence, and Division

Conference Overview & Theme

A Multi-day, Multi-modality Event

- Thursday, November 12, 2026 Plenary, Live Online, 7:00 – 9:30 PM
- Friday, November 13, 2026 Live Online Event - Worldwide (Eastern US Time)
- Saturday, November 14, 2026 In-Person at The Riverside Church - 91 Claremont Avenue. New York, NY

Fire in the Circle: Leading through Fear, Desire, Turbulence, and Division

Groups have long been understood as circles—spaces of gathering, reflection, desire, and shared meaning-making. Yet circles are rarely calm or stable for long. At times, they hold heat: conflict, urgency, fear, and the intensity of difference. In the current moment, many groups find themselves organized around these very forces, as polarization, mistrust, and social fracture permeate clinical, organizational, and public life.

What does it mean to lead when the circle is on fire?

This conference explores the challenges of leadership in groups charged with anxiety, division, and moral tension. Leaders today are called not only to facilitate dialogue, but to withstand and work within powerful affective currents. These dynamics often contribute to harm and defensive processes such as splitting, scapegoating, withdrawal, and the hardening of positions that foreclose curiosity and mutual recognition.

At the same time, difference—of identity, experience, power, and perspective—remains both a source of vitality and a site of profound strain within groups. How do leaders engage difference without either collapsing it into false consensus or amplifying it into irreparable rupture? How can conflict be worked with rather than extinguished or inflamed? What capacities are required to remain present, thoughtful, and ethically grounded when the group itself feels volatile or combustible?

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.

2026 Conference Committee

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Hilary Levine, PhD, CGP
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First-Time Attendee Coordinator

Elyse Blake, PhD

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!*

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. 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. 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.

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Judith White, LCSW
Jacob Winkler, LCSW, CGP
Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT, LCAT
Tingli Zhou, Consultant

Conference Schedule Overview

Thursday November 12

Live Online Plenary

- 6:30-6:45 PM Socializing Time
- 6:45-7:00 PM Introductions
- **7:00-9:30 PM Plenary**

Friday November 13

Live Online Day

- 8:15 – 8:30 AM Social Gathering
- **8:30–11:00 AM "A" Workshops**
- **11:15–1:45 PM "B" Workshops**
- 1:45 – 2:45 PM Lunch
- **2:45–5:15 PM "C" Workshops**
- 5:30 – 6:30 PM Affinity Groups
- 6:30 – 6:45 PM Social Gathering

Saturday November 14

In Person at The Riverside Church

- 8:00 – 8:30 AM Registration and Coffee
- **8:30–11:00 AM "D" Workshops**
- **11:15–1:45 PM "E" Workshops**
- 1:45 – 2:45 PM Lunch
- **2:45–5:15 PM "F" Workshops**
- 5:30 – 6:30 PM Affinity Groups
- 6:30 – 7:30 PM Social Time/Reception

Conference

PLENARY

Thursday November 12 @ 7:00PM on Zoom

"What does it mean to lead when the circle is on fire?
Group Leadership Across Division

A Panel from Three Perspectives

Sometimes group leaders surface conflict so we can wrestle with it, but sometimes conflict descends on us unannounced. The plenary brings together leaders with diverse approaches, perspectives, identities, and experiences to challenge our thinking about conflict and differences, inclusion and exclusion. How do we approach this dynamic produced in our relationships with others? How do leaders foster connection and inclusion while also creating space for difference, conflict, desire, and dissent? Come. Consider. Experience. Learn.

HOWARD FRIEDMAN

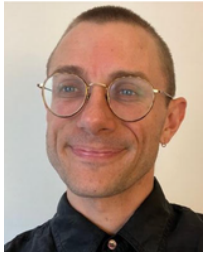
PhD

Howard A. Friedman is a psychologist/psychotherapist in private practice, working with teens, adults, and families. He is a member of EGPS and a Fellow of the A.K.Rice Institute for the Study of Social Systems (AKRI), having directed conferences and programs for the NY Center of AKRI. Howard worked in the NYC school system for 32 years, helping to start and develop alternative high schools, serving as a teacher, change consultant for the Chancellor's Office, psychologist and counselor working with a diverse group of students individually and in groups. Howard blends systems and psychodynamic approaches to his leadership in groups. This enables him to connect the unconscious processes in the group-as-a-whole with the unconscious processes of individual members. He is a lifelong New Yorker.

JACOB WINKLER

LCSW, CGP

Jacob Winkler is the leading provider of group-focused continuing education in the state of New Jersey. In his training programs, he empowers clinicians from all over the world to engage productively with people with differing politics. He is a graduate of the Center for Group Studies in NYC.



JJ MULL

LCSW, LICSW

J.J. Mull is a clinical social worker and therapist in private practice based in Brooklyn, NY. He has practiced clinically in a wide range of contexts, having spent the majority of his clinical life working in hospital settings. In addition to being a clinician, he is also a poet, writer, organizer, and an adjunct professor of clinical theory and practice at Smith College School for Social Work. His writing and research interests include historical materialism, Marxism, and leftist histories of clinical practice. He is a member of Groups Group, a collective of clinicians, writers, and organizers interested in the unconscious group dynamics of radical social movements.

LIVE ONLINE

"A" Workshops - Friday November 13 on Zoom - 8:30AM - 11:00AM

A1. DASH Sequence: Who You Are When the Heat Rises

David Burks, MBA, David & Shaina, Inc.
Shaina Coleman, Speaker, Advocate, Storyteller, Co-Creator of the DASH Sequence

When groups become charged with fear, conflict, or difference, leaders do not simply manage the fire; they bring themselves into it. The DASH Sequence offers a framework for examining how personal defaults, aspirations, shadows, and habits shape leadership identity, bias, and group presence. Through didactic teaching, reflection, and process-oriented experience, participants will assess how their internal patterns influence facilitation choices, group dynamics, and possibilities for repair.

Open to All Levels of Experience
Experiential - Group Process - Didactic - Sharing of Experience

Note: There is an optional second-part workshop available in the "B" Workshops for which participants can register.

A2. Drinking the Fire: The Leader's Inner Life and the Practice of Emotional Resonance

Paul Callister, PhD, CMHC, CGP, Private Practice

What does it cost a leader to truly resonate with a group — to take its disturbance in rather than manage it from a distance? This workshop explores that question through the inner practice of emotional resonance: giving up the map, being subsumed by the group's unthought known, and trusting the self enough to survive it. An extended experiential process group, framed by reflective reading and discussion, embodies this practice, including across the tensions of social difference.

Open to All Levels of Experience
Group Process - Experiential - Sharing of Experience - Didactic

A3. Desktop Seduction: What It Is—and How to Work With It

Terry Nathanson, LCSW, Private Practice and NYU Silver School of Social Work

What has the spell of the screen done to online group therapy—and what happens when it becomes more compelling than the group itself? This experiential workshop explores how the two-dimensional Zoom frame flattens perception and obscures the group's spatial, embodied life. We'll practice rebuilding an online container sturdy enough for connection, conflict, aggression, and polarization—deepening the felt sense of a shared room beyond the screen. And we'll discover that the medium itself is an ally.

Open to All Levels of Experience
Experiential - Group Process - Sharing of Experience - Didactic

LIVE ONLINE

"A" Workshops - Friday November 13 on Zoom - 8:30AM - 11:00AM

A4. When the family is on fire: growing up in a family system with a psychotic member

Yair Kramer, PsyD, Private Practice
Amy Kossoy, BA, Mount Sinai
Judith White, LCSW, Private Practice
Linda Akucewicz Pinzon, Ph.D., LMHC, LPC
Elizabeth (Libby) O'Connor, LCSW, NYU Silver School of Social Work

Growing up with a family member experiencing psychosis can profoundly shape family relationships and influence how individuals experience belonging, responsibility, authority, and vulnerability in groups. This workshop explores the developmental and interpersonal impact of being raised in a family system affected by a member's psychosis, recognizing that these experiences vary across families and are influenced by intersectional factors such as race, culture, and class. Participants will identify common relational themes among individuals who grew up with a psychotic family member and learn interventions that help members explore these patterns in the here-and-now.

Open to All Levels of Experience
Experiential - Group Process - Sharing of Experience - Didactic

A5. Interrupting Unconscious Processes in Groups That Reinforce Racist Societal Norms

Fanita Henderson, PhD, LMHC - Faculty, NYIT, Private Practice;
Chris Dolin, LCSW-R - Private Practice

This workshop analyzes how unconscious racial bias develops, becomes normalized within social structures, and manifests in group dynamics. Presenters will discuss the formation of implicit racial bias and its influence on interpersonal interactions. Using clinical case examples, participants will consider both effective interventions and missed opportunities, underscoring the importance of group leaders' ability to recognize and interrupt subtle, normalized expressions of unconscious racism in real time.

Open to All Levels of Experience
Didactic - Group Process - Sharing of Experience - Experiential

LIVE ONLINE

"B" Workshops - Friday November 13 on Zoom - 11:15AM - 1:45PM

B6. Approaching the unapproachable: Working with anxiety about the end of life in ourselves and others

Dominick Grundy, Ph.D., CGP, AGPA-F

Starting with a brief comic video, this workshop uses a creative way to access a painful topic, the end of life. Cultures have euphemisms for death because it causes fear and turbulence in groups and society. Therapists working with older patients must face their own defenses in order to provide effective treatment. Through group process, we will examine our coping strategies for dealing with anxiety about our physical end.

Open to all experience levels

Sharing of Experience - Group Process - Experiential - Didactic

B7. Writing Together: going deeper through the page

Joe Hovey, LCSW, CGP, Private Practice

Creative clinical and personal writing has the potential to deepen and enrich our understandings and our relationships with ourselves, each other, and our clients. Writing also has the potential to facilitate difficult explorations and conversations, finding and sharing our words in more effective ways. Participants will be invited into a live experience of writing, about themselves and our differences, coupled with sharing and exploring together in an experiential process group.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Experiential - Group Process - Sharing of Experience - Didactic

B8. DASH Sequence II: Working the Fire Without Getting Burned

David Burks, MBA, David & Shaina, Inc.

Shaina Coleman, Speaker, Advocate, Storyteller, Co-Creator of the DASH Sequence

When a group becomes volatile, insight alone is not enough. Leaders must translate self-awareness into timely, ethical intervention. This applied DASH Sequence workshop focuses on real-time leadership choices in moments of rupture, polarization, aggression, withdrawal, and repair. Participants will practice using their defaults, aspirations, shadows, and habits as clinical data, developing strategies to remain grounded while supporting accountability, dialogue, and connection across difference.

Open to Intermediate and Advanced Levels of Experience

Experiential - Group Process - Didactic - Sharing of Experience

LIVE ONLINE

"B" Workshops - Friday November 13 on Zoom - 11:15AM - 1:45PM

B9. Dreaming in the Fire: Social Dreaming and Leadership Under Conditions of Uncertainty

Mette Buchman, MA, Consultant
Marianne Gunther, MPS, ATR-BC, LCAT
Martin Walker, PhD
Tingli Zhou, Consultant

This experiential session introduces Social Dreaming through theory, practice, and reflection. In a Social Dreaming Matrix, participants share dreams and associations not for individual interpretation but as expressions of the wider social field. As anxiety, fear, desire, division, and uncertainty shape group life, dreams may reveal what is difficult to think, speak, or know. Through collective dreaming and dialogue, participants will explore how staying with what emerges can strengthen our capacity to lead, think, and remain connected in the presence of emotional intensity, complexity, and difference.

Open to All Levels of Experience
Experiential - Group Process - Didactic - Sharing of Experience

B10. Dragons in the Storm: Adolescent Conflict in Group Settings

Rachel Mitchell, Ph.D., SUNY Upstate Medical University
Robin Dean, Psy.D., M.S.Ed., Perspective Insight Psychological Consultancy, Director;
SUNY Upstate Medical University

This workshop will use a case example to explore conflict and aggression in groups. Presenters will discuss the challenges within an adolescent role-play-based therapy group, describe how repeated conflict eventually escalated into a significant rupture, and explain how group leaders worked to repair and restore safety within the group. Through didactic presentation and group discussion, participants will delve with us into the storm of adolescent group therapy.

Open to all experience levels
Group Process - Didactic - Experiential - Sharing Experience

DOUBLE SESSION

B11/C16. Enriching Interpersonal Process Groups with Skills and Resources from Intergroup Dialogue

Isa Iboko, M.Ed., LMHC, Prism Counseling & Advocacy, Villanova University

This presentation will introduce Intergroup Dialogue (a modality of social justice education used to build skills for conversations across differences of experiences, privilege, and oppression) and show ways that it can be used in tandem with Interpersonal Process Groups. If you are looking to enrich engagements with oppression, privilege and communication skills across (power) difference while moving towards improved client outcomes, this workshop might be for you!

Open to All Levels of Experience
Experiential - Didactic - Group Process
Note: You must register for both sessions of this double-session experience.

LIVE ONLINE

"C" Workshops - Friday November 13 on Zoom - 2:45PM - 5:15PM

C12. Tending the Fire: Conversational Leadership Through Fear, Desire, and Division

Yoon Im Kane, LCSW, Mindful Psychotherapy Services, LCSW, The Mindful Group LLC

When a group is inflamed, leaders feel compelled to act rather than hold the discomfort. The capacity to stay in the heat of uncertainty and conflict is at the heart of effective leadership. This workshop invites leaders to remain present with conflict, vulnerability, and resistance rather than trying to manage the group. Participants will learn the four thresholds of the Conversation Circle: contracting, welcoming resistance, joining defenses, and honoring differences—and how to use conversational leadership practices to guide groups through challenge, connection, and transformation. Attention will be given to how identity, power, privilege, and social location shape group dynamics and the conversations that emerge.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Didactic - Group Process - Experiential - Sharing of Experience

C13. Fire Alarm? What Fire Alarm? Safetyism and Viewpoint Diversity

Jacob Winkler, MSW/LCSW, Private Practice

What is Safetyism, and how does it shape our clinical, educational, and social environments? How can we promote viewpoint diversity while remaining attuned to power, inclusion, and emotional safety? As this year's conference explores engaging differences, participants will examine tensions between polarization and dialogue, consider the impact on group process and professional practice, and explore what these cultural shifts mean for mental health professionals and the communities they serve.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Didactic - Experiential - Sharing of Experience - Group Process

C14. Overcoming Resistances to Professional Writing

Lee Kassan, MA, LP, LMHC, CGP, AGPA-LF, Private Practice

Many of us think about writing an article, or even a book, but most of us don't do it, even though writing is a valuable skill that can deepen our thinking and improve our clinical work. This workshop will help people who want to write identify and confront the fears that stop them from writing. Participants should bring an idea they have for an article or book, even if nascent.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Sharing of Experience - Group Process – Didactic

LIVE ONLINE

"C" Workshops - Friday November 13 on Zoom - 2:45PM - 5:15PM

C15 - Zoinks, It's Dark in Here: Shining A Light on What Scares the Leader

Daniel Diamond, LCSW, Private Practice

The fears that we carry as group leaders can constrict our imagination and flexibility just when we need them most. In this imagination-forward workshop, we identify these fears and explore ways in which they distort our leadership and limit our effectiveness. Through a brief drawing exercise (absolutely no artistic talent required), we will give our fears a kind of monstrous form, with size, shape, and other characteristics. We will invite our fear-monsters to join us in a process group.

Attendees should have access to a drawing utensil and paper during this workshop.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Group Process - Sharing of Experience - Experiential

DOUBLE SESSION

B11/C16. Enriching Interpersonal Process Groups with Skills and Resources from Intergroup Dialogue

Isa Iboko, M.Ed., LMHC, Prism Counseling & Advocacy, Villanova University

This presentation will introduce Intergroup Dialogue (modality of social justice education used to build skills for conversations across differences of experiences, privilege, and oppression) and show ways that it can be used in tandem with Interpersonal Process Groups. If you are looking to enrich engagements with oppression, privilege and communication skills across (power) difference while moving towards improved client outcomes, this workshop might be for you!

Open to All Levels of Experience

Experiential - Didactic - Group Process

Note: You must register for both sessions of this double-session experience.

IN PERSON

"D" Workshops - Saturday, November 14 in NYC - 8:30AM - 11:00AM

D17. Sideways: A parts work role playing game

Ilana Simons, PhD, Private Practice, Parts Work Therapy LLC,

In this experiential session, we will do a role-playing game, "Sideways," that invites members to risk playing out parts of the self that feel disruptive or dangerous. Participants randomly select character parts — such as "Arrogance" or "Flirt" — and play out a conversation from that part. We will create a safe container to "light controlled fires" and trace what happens in the nervous system, and what it costs to express what often goes unexpressed. This session is helpful for learning experiential parts work games, testing your own boundaries of self-expression, and learning more about conflict and projection in the room to ultimately show up as a more effective group leader.

Open to All Levels of Experience
Experiential - Group Process - Sharing of Experience - Didactic

D18. Dealing with the Destructive in Group

Ariel Mozeson, LCSW, Private Practice
Shari Nevins, LCSW, Private Practice

Tension in groups often triggers complex feelings too difficult to put into words. When faced with conflicts of understanding and belief in group, it can feel as though the gap between ourselves and others is insurmountable. How do we expand our capacity to stay grounded in the midst of all of this pain and fear? This workshop invites experiential and some didactic exploration into this aspect of our groups and ourselves
in order to deepen group work and improve participant outcomes.

Open to All Levels of Experience
Group Process - Experiential - Sharing of Experience - Didactic

D19. The Unconscious Power of the Parental Voice: An Exploration of this Influence on the Male Therapist

Joseph Lynch, PhD, Private Practice
Laurie Nisco, PhD, Private Practice

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, whether consciously or not. His parents' level of emotional maturity, their unresolved conflicts, past traumas, and unmet needs inevitably impact the parent-child relationship and the development of their sense of self. Does the internalized father or mother predominate? Does the parent manifest in the therapist's tone, facial expression, body language or experience of others? Are sexuality, competitiveness, and aggression avoided or overemphasized? In this experiential workshop, we will explore these and other aspects of the internalized parent and consider their impact on clinical effectiveness.
This workshop is open to men and those who identify as male.

Open to All Levels of Experience
Sharing of Experience - Group Process - Experiential - Didactic

IN PERSON

"D" Workshops - Saturday, November 14 in NYC - 8:30AM - 11:00AM

D20. Help! How Do I Run a Group? Fundamentals of Group Psychotherapy

Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT, LCAT, Private Practice, Pratt Institute

Virginia Seewaldt, PhD, Private Practice

This workshop introduces essential components of beginning group in agencies, hospitals, and private practice. Topics include assessment, preparation, establishing group boundaries and norms, the therapist's role in early sessions, transference/counter-transference, 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.

Beginner Level of Experience

Didactic - Experiential - Group Process - Sharing of Experience

D21. Group Leader Failures: A Systems-Centered® Perspective

Susan Beren, Ph.D., Private Practice; Licensed Systems Centered Practitioner/Trainer

As group leaders, we experience "failures" all the time. If we take them only personally, they are painful; when we shift to a systems perspective, we learn about ourselves and our groups. We will explore our failures together and find out what happens when we shift to seeing them through a systems-centered lens. We will also explore the opportunities that failures provide us as group leaders – including the opportunity for repairs.

Open to all experience levels

Experiential - Sharing of Experience - Group Process - Didactic

D22. Becoming a Conscious Senior: Ignoring the Fire Could Burn Down the House

Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, SEP, AGPA-LF, Retired from Private Practice

Chera Finnis, PsyD, CGP, AGPA-LF, Private Practice

Addressing the fears, implicit opportunities, and challenges of our elder years presents choices about how to age with dignity and consciousness. We will examine issues of aging, including evolving physical and mental capabilities, ethical responsibilities to one's clients, and considerations for maintaining a practice or choosing to retire in our elder years. Within this group exploration, we will consider how our decisions impact all those we encounter, bringing awareness to issues of difference and diversity.

Open to all experience levels

Sharing of Experience – Experiential - Group Process

IN PERSON

"E" Workshops - Saturday, November 14 in NYC - 11:15AM - 1:45PM

E23. Embodied Ethical Decision-Making

Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT, LCAT, Private Practice, Pratt Institute

Ethical decision-making is usually a disembodied and rationalized procedure based on ethical codes and a collective understanding of right and wrong. Hervey (2007) notes that these codes and styles were shaped mostly by White theorists and clinicians. In this workshop we will explore an embodied approach to ethical decision-making developed by Dance/Movement Therapist Lenore Hervey. Hervey's approach encourages therapists to reside in their bodies when navigating ethical dilemmas, to support bridging cultural differences in clinical settings, and to allow for more clinically relevant ethical decision making.

Open to all experience levels

Experiential - Didactic - Sharing of Experience

E24. The Psychology of Prejudice in Groups

Jason Marx, Psy.D., LCSW, CGP, Midtown NYC Therapists

This workshop is based on my doctoral dissertation for which I received a Psy.D. in 2025. The workshop proposes that through an understanding of dynamic systems theory, attachment theory, and developmental theory, "fires in the circle" can enhance for each individual member a richer appreciation of self, other, and self with other. A didactic introduction of the theories proposed followed by a group experience explores and demonstrates the impact of these theories.

Open to all experience levels

Experiential - Group Process - Didactic - Sharing of Experience

E25. Tense and Tender: Connecting While Different

Jeff Muller, PhD, Private Practice

We will explore the human potential for tension in connection through the practice of "Circling," a here and now processing experience that focuses on "being with another in their world." There will be a brief introduction to the 5 Circling principles, followed by an experiential process, rooted in the question, "What am I called to do?" This workshop offers tools to expand your capacity to be present with your clients in ways that will enhance the work.

Open to all experience levels

Group Process - Experiential - Sharing of Experience - Didactic

E26. Unconventional Interventions in Group Therapy

Robert Pepper, Ph.D., LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F, Long Island Institute for Mental Health, Private Practice

Emotions are not of the intellect. Interpretations don't work with our most challenging group members. Using Ormont's concept of progressive emotional communication and the modern analytic techniques he developed, such as joining, bridging, confronting, mirroring, matching, and out-crazying, attendees learn to resolve resistance to emotional intimacy, thereby improving patient outcomes.

Open to all experience levels

Group Process - Experiential - Sharing Experience –Didactic

IN PERSON

"E" Workshops - Saturday, November 14 in NYC - 11:15AM - 1:45PM

DOUBLE SESSION

E27/F33. Through the Fire: Leadership, Liberation, and WHOLENESS™ in Fractured Groups

April Harvin, LCSW, Private Practice, CEO, ARH Soulutions LLC

In a fractured world, groups often organize around fear, survival, polarization, and oppressive dynamics. This experiential and didactic workshop explores how individuals and groups navigate rupture, conflict, scapegoating, and "the fire" in ways that support rootedness, authentic connection, collective repair, liberation, and WHOLENESS™. Integrating psychodynamic, group relations, anti-oppressive, restorative, and liberation-centered frameworks, participants will examine leadership practices that help groups move beyond survival toward resilience, accountability, healing, and sustainable connection.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Group Process - Didactic - Experiential - Sharing of Experience

Note: You must register for both sessions of this double-session experience.

DOUBLE SESSION

E28/F34. Mattering and Envy in Group Therapy: Working with Intensity, Difference, and Recognition

Alan Oxman, LCSW, DSW, Private Practice

This workshop focuses on how mattering and envy emerge and shape experience within the therapy group. Drawing from modern analytic and Kleinian theories, we examine how feeling unseen or unimportant can give rise to envy, and how envy, in turn, defends against the vulnerability of wanting to matter. Through experiential and theoretical group work, participants consider how these dynamics influence group process and how leaders can work with them in conditions of intensity and difference.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Experiential - Group Process - Didactic - Sharing of Experience

Note: You must register for both sessions of this double-session experience.

DOUBLE SESSION

E29/F35. Playing with Fire and Shadow: Utilizing Collaborative Roleplaying Integrative Therapy to Integrate Parts in Group Work

Vincent Dehili, PhD, CGP, ABPP, AGPA-F, Vassar College, Change the Narrative Counseling, LLC

E. Merten, LCSW, Advanced Psychotherapy Practice, Springfield College

This one-day experiential workshop introduces Collaborative Roleplaying Integrative Therapy (CRIT), a framework integrating group psychotherapy with tabletop roleplaying games such as Dungeons & Dragons. Through collaborative storytelling, rotating leadership, dyadic "shadow" pairings, and immersive roleplay within the co-created setting, participants will explore projection, splitting, grief, fear, desire, and relational repair within group process. Didactic discussion, experiential gameplay, and reflective processing will illustrate how CRIT can support psychological flexibility, symbolic exploration, and integration of disowned aspects of self in group work.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Experiential - Group Process - Sharing of Experience - Didactic

Note: You must register for both sessions of this double-session experience.

IN PERSON

"F" Workshops - Saturday, November 14 in NYC - 2:45PM - 5:15PM

F30. Women & Money: An Experiential Group Workshop

Susan Convery, LCSW, Private Practice
Phuong Bui, LCSW, Private Practice

Money conversations often evoke shame, desire, silence, envy, caregiving expectations, and conflicts around visibility, authority, and self-worth. This experiential workshop explores how women's relationships to money are shaped by relational, cultural, and social experience, and how these dynamics emerge within group process. Through reflective prompts, small-group dialogue, and whole-group process, participants will explore emotionally charged dynamics related to money, identity, difference, and belonging. Participants will leave better equipped to navigate money-related issues emerging in clinical and group contexts. This workshop is open to those who self-identify as women.

Open to all experience levels
Group Process - Experiential - Didactic - Sharing of Experience

F31. Group and the Meaning of Life: Existential Work in the Therapy Group

Philip Bender, PhD, CGP, Private Practice

All group therapy is existential. By helping members encounter themselves and each other in the moment, we grapple with what it means to be human. Discord demands interrogation of our individual and collective humanity, and our craving for meaning in tumultuous, alienating times. We'll engage in a collaborative discussion about these topics, and what they mean for responding to group conflict, then have a demo process group to put our themes to the test.

Open to all experience levels
Experiential - Didactic - Group Process

F32. Becoming Comfortable with Uncomfortable Group Feelings

Ronnie Levine, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, AGPA-DF, Center for Group Studies, Private Practice

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.

Open to All Levels of Experience
Group Process – Didactic - Sharing of Experience

IN PERSON

"F" Workshops - Saturday, November 14 in NYC - 2:45PM - 5:15PM

DOUBLE SESSION

E27/F33. Through the Fire: Leadership, Liberation, and WHOLENESS™ in Fractured Groups

April Harvin, LCSW, Private Practice, CEO, ARH Soulutions LLC

In a fractured world, groups often organize around fear, survival, polarization, and oppressive dynamics. This experiential and didactic workshop explores how individuals and groups navigate rupture, conflict, scapegoating, and "the fire" in ways that support rootedness, authentic connection, collective repair, liberation, and WHOLENESS™. Integrating psychodynamic, group relations, anti-oppressive, restorative, and liberation-centered frameworks, participants will examine leadership practices that help groups move beyond survival toward resilience, accountability, healing, and sustainable connection.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Group Process - Didactic - Experiential - Sharing of Experience

Note: You must register for both sessions of this double-session experience.

DOUBLE SESSION

E28/F34. Mattering and Envy in Group Therapy: Working with Intensity, Difference, and Recognition

Alan Oxman, LCSW, DSW, Private Practice

This workshop focuses on how mattering and envy emerge and shape experience within the therapy group. Drawing from modern analytic and Kleinian theories, we examine how feeling unseen or unimportant can give rise to envy, and how envy, in turn, defends against the vulnerability of wanting to matter. Through experiential and theoretical group work, participants consider how these dynamics influence group process and how leaders can work with them in conditions of intensity and difference.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Experiential - Group Process - Didactic - Sharing of Experience

Note: You must register for both sessions of this double-session experience.

DOUBLE SESSION

E29/F35. Playing with Fire and Shadow: Utilizing Collaborative Roleplaying Integrative Therapy to Integrate Parts in Group Work

Vincent Dehili, PhD, CGP, ABPP, AGPA-F, Vassar College, Change the Narrative Counseling, LLC

E. Merten, LCSW, Advanced Psychotherapy Practice, Springfield College

This one-day experiential workshop introduces Collaborative Roleplaying Integrative Therapy (CRIT), a framework integrating group psychotherapy with tabletop roleplaying games such as Dungeons & Dragons. Through collaborative storytelling, rotating leadership, dyadic "shadow" pairings, and immersive roleplay within the co-created setting, participants will explore projection, splitting, grief, fear, desire, and relational repair within group process. Didactic discussion, experiential gameplay, and reflective processing will illustrate how CRIT can support psychological flexibility, symbolic exploration, and integration of disowned aspects of self in group work.

Open to All Levels of Experience

Experiential - Group Process - Sharing of Experience - Didactic

Note: You must register for both sessions of this double-session experience.

Other Conference Opportunities

AFFINITY GROUPS

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, Workshops, Social Spaces, and anything in between.

We recognize that identities are multi-faceted and intersectional. We invite attendees to choose the group that best reflects the identity most salient throughout their conference experience.

ONLINE SOCIAL GATHERING

Wind down and connect with fellow attendees at our zoom social gathering at the end of the online conference day. This is our space to kick back, say hello, and catch up with familiar faces and meet new people from across our community. There's no agenda, no presentations, and no pressure, just an open, friendly space to share a few laughs and swap takeaways from the day. Bring your favorite beverage, drop in and out whenever you're ready, and enjoy some easy conversation!

IN-PERSON RECEPTION

After a full day of in-person workshops, join us to catch up with old friends, meet new people, and build lasting community connections. We'll share light bites and drinks while we mingle! Whether you want to discuss your favorite conference moments or simply unwind with great company before the conference concludes, we look forward to seeing you there!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Plenary is included with all registrations.
All workshops have limited registration.

BY October 30:
FULL CONFERENCE - Both Live Online and In Person
Members: $380
Nonmembers: $500
Students/Residents: $190

ONE CONFERENCE DAY - Either In-person or Online
Members: $260
Nonmembers: $350
Students/Residents: $130

AFTER October 30:
FULL CONFERENCE - Both Live Online and In Person
Members: $480
Nonmembers: $630
Students/Residents: $240

ONE CONFERENCE DAY - Either In-person or Online
Members: $315
Nonmembers: $420
Students/Residents: $160

PLENARY ONLY
Members: $130 Nonmembers: $175 Students/Residents: $60

Racial Equity Rate

Consistent with EGPS' mission to be an organization that advances racial equity, and in acknowledgement of EGPS' complicity in oppresive 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 identify this way, regardless of financial need, we invite you to choose the Racial Equity Rate at check-out.

Continuing Education Credits: For those requesting CE Credits there is an additional $30 fee. A maximum of 17.5 hours of CE Credits are available to Psychologists, Social Workers, MHCs, and MFTs. Click here for details.
Conference Scholarships are available. If you have financial need, select either a 25% or 50% scholarship during registration. We appreciate the continued generosity of our members, supporting scholarship funding.
Cancellation Policy: Cancellations received prior to November 5th will be incur a $50 fee. There are no refunds for cancellations received after November 5th.
Discounted Rates for groups of registrants from the same organization (5 or more people). Contact conference@egps.org for more information.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

CONFERENCE@EGPS.ORG | WWW.EGPS.ORG