



Group Analytic Society Belgrade - GAS Belgrade

Full member of: EGATIN, EFPP, EAPTI

EFPP Newsletter

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About IGAB – GASB History and Actual Activities

The IGA Belgrade was founded by the first generation of group analysts who finished the Overseas diploma course conducted by IGA London from 1987 to 1992. As it was happening in 1992, when the war in ex-Yu had already started, as well as the UN sanctions, the last two blocks of our training (The Clinical Course and second Introductory Course) were finished with difficulties, and only thanks to the courage and devotion of our teachers Ane Morgan and George Renton. At that time it was obvious that for many years ahead, because of situation in our country, the collaboration with London Institute would not be possible. So, after few years of hesitations and negotiations we decided to start to conduct training on our own.

The first Introductory Course started 1994. It was attended by 35 motivated young professionals, psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers, working in institutions or in different NGO-s, helping the refugees and traumatized people. This first experience was very satisfying for all participants, probably representing an island of learning and connectedness in the atmosphere of isolation and war. Encouraged by that, we decided to organize the first Clinical Course, and that was the beginning of Belgrade Institute (1996), being an essential part of GASB established in 1996.

Since then several generations of candidates completed the whole education and qualified as group analysts. We have 20 full members, among them eight training group analysts, and 20 associate members of GASB. Now we have the Introductory Course starting every 2 years, and about 30 candidates in different levels of training in the Clinical Course. The training curriculum of the Clinical Course is in accordance with EGATIN essential standards. Belgrade Institute is member of EGATIN since 1997, and became full member in 2009. Our GASB became full member of EFPP in 2008. Concerning training in group analysis, after the Introductory Course students are joining the patient groups for personal therapy (4-5 years), and they have supervision, and theory seminars on a weekly basis. The last step to qualification is the Clinical Paper, and its acceptance by Training Committee. In order to help our unemployed students to make groups for supervision we made contracts with some Psychiatric Clinics, where they can conduct groups as volunteers.

Very soon after starting the education in Belgrade we organized a block system training at first in Novi Sad (North part of Serbia, Vojvodina), then in Banja Luka in Republica Srpska, Bosnia. We just finished one Block Training Introductory Course in Belgrade, and in near future we plan to start a Block Training Clinical Course in Belgrade, for students from different parts of the country.

Beside regular training activities our GASB-IGAB is organizing traditional clinical workshops twice a year for members, candidates, and professionals from similar fields, with lecture, discussions and clinical presentations. We also have library evenings 2-3 times a year, where new books are presented by candidates or young colleagues.

Psycho-Social Section of GASB

Psychoanalytic and Group-Analytic Approach to Understanding of the Psychodynamics of Institutions, Organizations and Society

Psycho-Social Section was established in 2008.

Section is lead by Marina Mojović, Jelica Satarić a deputy, assistant Slavoljub Milojević

The primary task of the Section: Development in the area *'of the psychoanalytic and group-analytic approach to understanding of the psychodynamics of institutions, organizations and society'* by the members of GAS Belgrade, by other colleagues trained in the field of psychoanalytic psychotherapy or other psychotherapy modalities, as well as in the wider society.

Activities of the Section

1. Training in the field
2. Communication with international associations and experts in the field
3. Organizing lectures in professional and public institutions
4. Regular workshops in GAS Belgrade convened by the Section
5. Organizing workshops in the field – Serbian, regional and international
6. Listening Posts Workshops – organizing and convening workshops every January as part of an international network of workshops which started in Serbia in 2005.
7. Development of Social Dreaming in theory and practice in workshops, organizations and public areas. Marina Mojović is associate of the Gordon Lawrence Foundation, launched at the ISPSO Meeting in Oxford in June 2013.

8. Development of the Serbian Reflective Citizens Project, including training for conveners of reflective citizens workshops in Belgrade and other cities across Serbia and the region.
9. Development in the field of the '*Social Unconscious*'
10. Development of conferences and workshops in the Group Relation Tradition (Group Relation Conferences) in Serbia.
11. Organizing conditions for meeting and dialogue between various psychoanalytic group fields like Foulkesian Group Analysis, Group Relation Tradition (Bion), Latin American Group-analytic Tradition (Pichon Riviere), Transitional Approach of Harold Bridger, etc.
12. Establishing communication and dialogue with organizational dynamic trainings and other activities within GAS of other countries.
13. Informing members of GAS Belgrade and others engaged in this or related fields of section activities.

The Section actively communicates with related professional organisations:

- OPUS - Organization for Promoting Understanding of Society www.opus.org.uk whose national representative is Marina Mojović
- ISPS International Society for Psychoanalytic Studies for Society of www.isps.org
- EATGA European Trans Cultural Group Analysis
- IAGP International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes
- AGPA American Group Psychotherapy Association
- Psycho-social or organizational dynamics sections of GAS in other countries

Psycho-Social Training set up in 2010: Introductory Courses level 1 and 2, Intermediate Courses level 1 and 2, Final Courses, all with three part model (theory, supervision, self- experiential work in small, median and large group analytic groups)

Section held a series of lectures and workshops within GASB, national and international congresses and symposia

Future Events of GASB

- **6–9 August 2013 GASI International summer school in Group Analysis "Learning across borders", organized by Group Analytic**

Society International and Group Analytic Society Belgrade; Summer School Organisers: Tija Despotovic, Ivanka Dunjic, David Glyn, Marina Mojovic and Regine Scholz. Additional members of staff: Sue Einhorn, Bessy Karagianni, Slavica Pavlovic, Kevin Power, Vida Rakic Glisic

- **3-6 October 2013 International Event on Social Trauma and Identity** with the staff from Israel, Germany and Serbia : Jona Rosenfeld, Veronika Gruneisen, Hanni Birani, Marina Mojović, Tija Despotović, Ivanka Dunjić, Jelica Satarčić.
- **October 2013, Third Serbian Psychotherapeutic Congress**
- **11-12 December 2013, Belgrade, Conference People Speak – Group psychotherapy, Key Lecture Malcom Pines**
- **25 – 27 April 2014 EGATIN Study Days & AGM – Belgrade.**
- **May 2014 Group Relation Conference directed by Bob Hinshelwood**

Past Events of GASB

- **26–29 June 2013 Workshop: Studies of Large Groups and Social Unconscious. Foulkes and Pichon Riviere Connecting Citizens and Society.** (organized by our Psycho-Social Section)
Conveners: Carla Penna, psychoanalyst, and training group analyst, and Marina Mojovic, MD, psychiatrist, training group analyst and organizational consultant with the staff of experts in the field Göran Ahlin, Tija Despotovic, Martha Gilmore, Jelica Sataric, Gila Ofer, Svein Tjelta, Reyna de Tubert and Juan Tubert-Oklander, Haim Weinberg and Earl Hopper.
- **19 May 2013 Workshop: Reflective Citizens** (organized by our Section for applying psychoanalytic and group analytic approach to understanding the psychodynamics of institutions, organizations and society).
Conveners: Marina Mojovic, MD, psychiatrist, training group analyst and organizational consultant, and Jelica Sataric, MD, psychiatrist, training group analyst, Tija Despotovic, MD, psychiatrist, Training group analyst, psychoanalyst.
- **18 May 2013 Workshop: Empathy and the group analytic psychotherapy**
Lecturer: Slavica Pavlovic, psychologist and training group analyst
- **12-14 April 2013 Workshop: Dreams in search of a dreamer** (organized by our Section for applying psychoanalytic and group analytic approach to understanding the psychodynamics of institutions, organizations and society)
Conveners: Angela Eden, organizational consultant and visiting Lecturer at Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, and Marina Mojovic, MD, psychiatrist, training group analyst and organizational consultant;
- **23 March 2013 Workshop: Relational approach to social trauma in the group relations field and in group analysis**

Lecturer: Marina Mojovic, MD, psychiatrist, training group analyst and organizational consultant, and Jelica Sataric, MD, psychiatrist, group analyst

- **10 November 2012 Workshop: Psychopathology of revenge in group analysis, psychoanalysis and in a society.**
Lecturer: Vida Rakic Glisic, MD, psychiatrist, training psychoanalyst, and training group analyst
- **20 May 2012 Expert meeting: Report from E.G.A.T.I.N. Study Days „Love, Passion, and Intimacy in Group Analysis and in Training“**
Speakers: Tija Despotovic, MD, psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and training group analyst; Marina Mojovic, MD, psychiatrist, training group analyst and organizational consultant; Jelica Sataric, MD, psychiatrist, group analyst
- **19 May 2012 Workshop: Therapeutic process and psychological change in psychoanalytic psychotherapy and in group analytic psychotherapy**
Lecturer: Ivanka Jovanovic Dunjic, MD, psychiatrist, training psychoanalyst, and training group analyst
- **9 May 2012 Book discussion club:** Review of the book “Staring at the Sun: Overcoming the Terror of Death” by Irvin Yalom
Speaker: Miljana Bajic, psychologist and group analyst
- **10–11 February 2012 Workshop: Dreams in group analysis (first day), Relational disorders (second day)**
Lecturer: Dr. Robi Friedman, clinical psychologist and group analyst
- **7 December 2011 Book discussion club:** Review of the book “The Social Unconscious in Persons, Groups and Societies, Volume 1”, Editors Earl Hopper & Heim Weinberg.
Speaker: Marina Mojovic, MD, psychiatrist, training group analyst and organizational consultant, and the author of the chapter “Manifestations of psychic retreats in social systems”
- **13 November 2011 Expert meeting: Dreams in group analysis, part two**
Lecturer: Jelena Ristic, psychologist and group analyst
- **12 November 2011 Workshop: Loss, mourning and reparation in small and large groups**
Lecturer: Tija Despotovic, MD, psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and training group analyst
- **5 June 2011 Expert meeting: Dreams in group analysis, part one**
Lecturer: Dr Snezana Kecojevic Miljevic, MD, psychiatrist, training group analyst
- **4 June 2011 Workshop: Clinical application of the concept of psychic retreats in group analysis**
Lecturer: Marina Mojovic, MD, psychiatrist, training group analyst and organizational consultant

- **16 March 2011 Book discussion club:** Review of the book "The Anti-group: Destructive Forces in the Group and their creative potential", by Morris Nitsun
Speaker: Bojana Mitrovic, psychologist and group analyst
- **6 November 2010. Workshop: Trauma in group analytic psychotherapeutic space**
Lecturer: Jovanka Cvetkovic, MD, psychiatrist, training group analyst
- **29 May 2010. Workshop: Treatment of difficult clients in group analytic psychotherapy**
Lecturer: Jelica Sataric, MD, psychiatrist, group analyst

Group Analysis in Belgrade

GASB: Our stance / group analytic approach to group analysis

As we in Belgrade were trained by the IGA London, group analysis developed here, as a group-centered approach of both therapeutic and non-therapeutic groups, from the foundational work of S. H. Foulkes. Although based S.H.Foulkesian tradition in treating individuals in the group, and by the group, our training curriculum was also open to other group analytic approaches and schools, including British object relation theories and works of W.R. Bion on groups.

There was another obvious reason for focusing on the group-as-a-whole vs. individual psychodynamics, quickly and naturally: those were the pre-war and war years in former Yugoslavia. Group analysis was very helpful to all of us in understanding the intertwining of the external and internal realities and the influence of war related issues on our groups, patients as well as on our own experiences. The collapse of former Yugoslavia together with complicated political, cultural, historical, social, religious circumstances constituted impactful events that affected our large group identity. We could say that during all those years of our training and practice, those traumatizing external events caused by confrontation of large political groups led by revengeful ideologies, were our realities. At that time we discovered group analysis as an optimal context for understanding the relation between the subjectivity of the parties - personal, interpersonal, political, social aspects of unconscious object relations within the group matrix.

As group conductors we learned to let the group to develop its own dynamics – as we deeply value it, its own autonomy, pace, orientation, moving from being the leader **of** the group to being the leader **in** the group, as Foulkes put it, the leader who assists, facilitates, encourages, model, by the deep communication of the social and political dimension, as well as personal and interpersonal conflicts.

Now, in a small country like Serbia group analysis is very present in the whole community of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and related professionals. Our field of study (group analysis as a field theory) includes very deep social and historical influences that have to be taken into account (the outer world is in the inner world, and the inner world is in the outer world), culture and developmental studies.

The practice of the group is based upon theory – we do not separate the two - that the social is very deeply embedded in each person, that the group will develop

norms, which move it towards the healthy and away from the unhealthy, that there isn't a strict theoretical technique, that what matters in the group is that people should learn to communicate deeply, from deep within themselves to deep within another person; we listen for the underlying meaning of what is being conveyed, trying to get more in touch with the deep elements in the society. We are also glad to observe that through the work of Hans Loewald, some relational psychologists and self psychologists psychoanalysis and group analysis are moving closer to each other. We see the group analyst as a helper in the process of reaching and formulating the underlying deep experience that people are potentially having in the group.

All through our training we struggled and still have struggled not to collude, but to understand and make the unconscious influences of our large group conscious. We became very attracted to group analytic frame of reference as we could observe how the group dynamics in therapy groups reflected our personal, inter subjective as well as wider societal dynamics. Thus, *large groups* - and the idea of letting the conference/meeting/workshop speak for itself - are an intrinsic part of our work.

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