

GASi Autumn Workshop 2025

LARGE GROUPS: APPLICATIONS, PRACTICES AND CONTEXTS

Online

Thor Kristian Island M.D.

The Group Analytic Large Group
– A Ritual or an Arena for
Meaningful Dialogue? What is
the purpose of the Large Group,
and how to achieve it?

Dr. Roberta Mineo, PhD

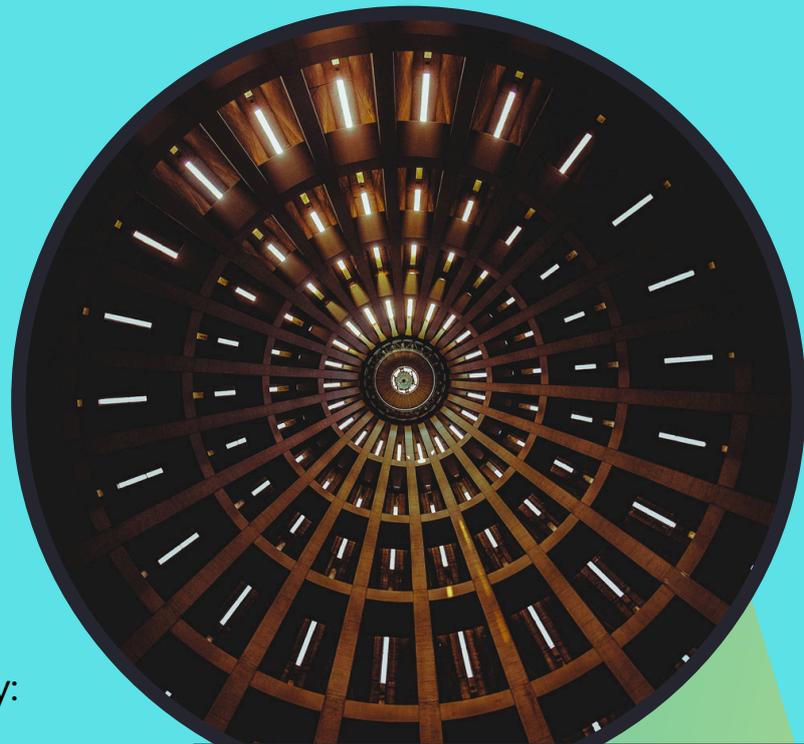
From Ritual to Reflection: The
Large Group as a Clinical-
Educational Space for Identity,
Role, and Values

Large Group conducted by:
Konstantinos Liolios

**Saturday, 8th November 2025
& Sunday, 9th November 2025
3.00 pm – 7.00 pm (UK
time) both days**

Cost:

**£15.00 GASi and/or IAGP members
£25.00 non-members**



Chaired by:
Earl Hopper, PhD

Register Now

Registration Link

<https://groupanalyticsociety.co.uk>

Saturday, 8th November 2025

Thor Kristian Island M.D.



The Group Analytic Large Group – A Ritual or an Arena for Meaningful Dialogue? What is the purpose of the Large Group, and how to achieve it?

Traditionally, at group analytic meetings, symposia and conferences the daily Large Group (LG) has been an integral part of the program. While the small group to some extent reflects the family, dealing

with the dynamic unconscious of the individual and the group, the social unconscious in LGs pertains to wider mostly unconscious aspects of society, as carried by the individuals within it.

Thus, the social unconscious emerges through stories, myths, fantasies, dreams, anxieties and metaphors shared by individuals, which can be understood, through the skilled facilitation of the group conductor, as expressions of something beyond a specific person or group, signalling unconscious layers of the society, culture and organization of which we are a part. In this workshop we will discuss the group analytic large group in different contexts, the different purposes of the large groups and how to achieve them, and not least, the role of the conductor to reach these goals.

Sunday, 9th November 2025

Dr. Roberta Mineo, PhD



From Ritual to Reflection: The Large Group as a Clinical-Educational Space for Identity, Role, and Values

The group analytic Large Group (LG) has long been a central yet contested element of clinical and educational practice. Too often perceived as a ritual, the LG in fact provides a unique arena for exploring the social unconscious as it manifests within institutions and organizations. In educational contexts, its clinical significance becomes particularly evident, functioning as a reflective space in which unconscious processes shape identity formation, role challenges,

and value systems. Drawing on my own experience in universities and organizations, I will present examples where the LG has been applied as a training tool to surface generational anxieties, especially among Gen Z participants navigating recruitment and workplace entry, and to help educators confront their role dilemmas in contexts of authority and knowledge transmission (Mineo, 2021). I will also address the conductor's position when holding multiple roles simultaneously (teacher, facilitator, advisor), a task that highlights the tension between neutrality and authority (Mineo & Hofstede, 2020). This contribution argues that the LG in educational settings retains its full clinical depth: it is not merely an exercise in dialogue, but a means of accessing unconscious dynamics that shape collective learning, professional identity, and organizational belonging.

Schedule for Saturday and Sunday, 8th & 9th November 2025

- 3.00 p.m.** Speaker (1 hr)
- 4.00 p.m.** Discussion (30 mins)
- 4.30 p.m.** Break (15 mins)
- 4.45 p.m.** Small leaderless group (45 mins)
- 5.30 p.m.** Break (5 mins)
- 5.35 p.m.** Large Group (1 ½ hrs)
- 7.05 p.m.** End

About the Speakers

Thor-Kristian Island M.D

Email: island@iga.no

Thor-Kristian Island is a psychiatrist, psychotherapist and group analyst from Oslo, Norway. He is co-founder and previous director of Institute of Group Analysis (Norway). He was also co-founder of the Norwegian Group Psychotherapy Association (NGPF), where he is now honorary member. He has been training group analyst, supervisor and theory lecturer, as well as one of the large group conductors at the group analytic training program in Norway for more than 25 years.

He is honorary member of the European Group Analytic Training Institutions Network (EGATIN), and he has been member of the management committee of Group Analytic Society International (GAS).

He was member of the Board of Directors of International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes (IAGP) from 2000-2009, and from 2016-2022. He was co-chair of the pre-congress at the IAGP congress in Cartagena, Colombia in 2012. He is editor of the IAGP Globeletter, and chair of the IAGP Fellowship Awards Committee. He has also been involved in the IAGP group psychotherapy training project in Ramallah, Palestine. He is current teacher and trainer at the Chinese-Norwegian advanced training program in psychoanalytic and group psychotherapy in Beijing, China. He has been lecturer at numerous international congresses, and he has published papers on Large Groups and on group analytic training.

Dr. Roberta Mineo, PhD

Email: rmineo@unimore.it

Dr Mineo is Tenured researcher at the Department of Humanities (Unimore), serving as Chair of the International Relations. Teaching Clinical Psychology and Group Processes. Program Chair of the PhD in Reggio Childhood Studies, designer of group relations conferences, NGOs' advisor, and researcher at international educational institutions. Co-Chair of the Scientific Congress "Groups and Global Crises" in Japan Aug. 2025, President of the International Association of Group Psychotherapies and Group Processes 2025-2028.

As a graduate in Labor and Organizational Psychology, with a PhD in Clinical Psychology and a post-Doc degree in Human Rights, she is a designer of international conferences like Ryla (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) and FLAM (Femininity, Leadership, Authority, Masculinity), an NGOs' advisor (like CISS Morocco), and a researcher at international institutions (such as the Rakhawy Institute for Research and Training in Cairo).

Her recent publications are in the field of youth resilience, teen dating violence, mental health and stigma, creativity and group processes, physical and symbolic space in large group settings: her scientific interest is mainly on group and psychoanalysis applied to educational and political settings. Co-Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal Forum for Group Psychotherapies and Processes, Co-Chair of the Scientific Congress "Groups and Global Crises" in Japan 2025.