13.06.2017

Dear Participants, Dear Colleagues,

The Symposium is coming closer and closer and people realize that it will be soon. Up to now we have registered approx 550 participants – we are sure there will be more, perhaps about 600!

Yesterday evening we had a joint meeting between the Scientific Committee and some members of the Management Sub Committee and we were very happy about the quality of the Scientific and the Social programme – it is great! You made it possible with all your interesting contributions and the Scientific Committee has done a great job in compiling it into a very rich and well designed Scientific Programme. Now, you can see the content on the website…. And at the end of June you will be able to see the complete programme with all abstracts. Mind the date please!

And please keep in your mind the hotel contingent with special rates for our participants closes on June 19th, 2017.

There are two extraordinary projects on our programme we want to highlight here because they start before the Conference and prearrangement is therefore necessary to participate:

I. Crossing Language (and Other) Borders in a Continuous Online Group

By Robert Hsiung, MD; Vincenzo Sinisi, MA, CGP; Jeffrey D. Roth, MD, CGP, FAGPA

From: US; South Africa; US

The contact Email is: bob@dr-bob.org

Type of Proposal: workshop (w) online

www.berlin-gasi-symposium2017.de
Abstract

The Continuous Online Group (COG) is an opportunity to experience and learn about online group dynamics. With automated translation, members may post in, and have messages from others translated into, the language of their choice. Technology helps us to cross language (and other) barriers.

The event shares commonalities, e.g., the appearance of broader social themes, with unstructured large groups. Members may repeat personal patterns, be surprised by the strength of their reactions and connections, and develop a sense of how the online medium can both facilitate and restrain group and member development.

Online groups also differ from groups that meet in person members have more control over how they present themselves (for example, they may participate under pseudonyms or even "lurk" invisibly) and may be disinhibited (for example, they may self-disclose or act out more), interaction is "asynchronous" (not in real time) and "threaded" (about multiple topics at the same time), and a transcript is automatically generated and available for analysis during the group.

The group is convened 24/7 from 7 Aug through 24 Aug. It is open to GASi, BIG, and D3G members even if they do not come to Berlin and to previous COG participants even if they are not members of GASi, BIG, or D3G. It thus allows also for an exploration of being distant, having a subgroup come together for the Symposium, and separating.

Interaction is text-based and takes place online, either by e-mail or on a web site. Group members may use any computer on the Internet, or any smartphone, from anywhere in the world. Technical sophistication is not required. Internet access in the Maritim Hotel Berlin is free only for overnight guests. Members are required to agree to respect the privacy of other members.

To participate, contact Robert Hsiung directly at bob@dr-bob.org as soon as possible.
II. Bike and Hike the Wall

By Dale C Godby, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA—Bike
From Dallas, Texas United States
Email Address: dchandes@gmail.com

By Julie Howley, MSc in Leadership and Management Development RCSI; Diploma in Group Analysis IGA
London; Diploma in Social Work CCETSW, Diploma in Child Care (Distinction)
NCEA—Hike
From Dublin, Ireland
Email Address: jhowley05@gmail.com

Type of Proposal: Pre-Symposium cycling and hiking tour
Social dreaming matrix and median group

Keywords
Borders, Inclusion-Exclusion. Leaky Containers

Abstract
In concert with the Symposium’s theme of crossing borders we have organized a 3-day bike and hike expedition around the Berlin Wall. The Wall is a symbol of the consequences of failed dialogue. We will practice dialogue on our expedition around the Wall with a group of international colleagues. Each day we will begin with a social dreaming matrix and end with a median group that will be co-convened by Dale Godby from the USA and Teresa von Sommaruga Howard from New Zealand and England. See the attached information on how to enroll. Correspond through the email addresses above with Dale Godby for the biking and Julie Howley for the hiking.

References


Fareed Zakaria, [www.fareedzakaria.com](http://www.fareedzakaria.com). Former managing editor of *Foreign Affairs*, host of *Global Public Square*, (GPS)—a TV international news show, and a *Washington Post* columnist.

Best wishes

Gerda Winther, Pieter Hutz
(Chairs of the MSC)