

GROUP RELATIONS CONFERENCE

Authority, Leadership and Role:

Bringing Mind and Body to Work

June 21-25, 2017

Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Campus
2710 S Country Clubs Rd, Woodstock, IL 60098



Conference Director:
Barney Straus, LCSW

Associate Director:
Dannielle Kennedy, LICSW, PhD

Assistant Director for Administration:
Olga Konyakova, BS

SPONSORED BY
Loyola University Chicago,
School of Social Work (Host)

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

- The AK Rice Institute
- Illinois Group Psychotherapy Society
- Roosevelt University Department of Psychology
- Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association
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- Intl. Association of Social Workers with Groups
- Working Sobriety
- Mind Body Co-Op

EMAIL US AT
loyolagrc@gmail.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.grouprelationsconference.com

An experiential conference in the Tavistock tradition offering a unique opportunity to study group dynamics by integrating challenge course events into the traditional GRC conference structure.

STRUCTURE & METHOD

THIS CONFERENCE is designed for individuals who wish to study the exercise of authority in groups and understand more about their own responses to exercising and encountering authority. The Conference is organized as a sequence of group and inter-group interactions. Events include experiences in:

- SMALL GROUP STUDY— examines the life of an eight- to ten- member group as it unfolds. A consultant assists the group with its task.
- LARGE GROUP STUDY— consists of all conference members with a team of consultants and meets to study its own behavior in the here-and-now. This simulates processes and dynamics of larger social systems as they struggle with the problems of formation, transition and rapid change.
- INSTITUTIONAL EVENT — members form their own groups to interact with other member groups and with staff. The primary task of the Institutional Event is to study authority, leadership, and overt/covert processes as groups evolve and interact in the here-and-now.
- CHALLENGE COURSE EVENTS — Members will engage in a series of physical problem-solving initiatives in groups of 12-14 members each. These events will offer an opportunity to explore how roles may shift as a group focuses on accomplishing physical tasks. These events will be co-led by a challenge course facilitator and a consultant, to assist the group in addressing concrete and intangible aspects of the group's work.
- REVIEW/APPLICATION GROUP — consists of five to seven members with one or two consultants; provides opportunities for members to further reflect on their experiences and roles in the different conference events and relate them to their work roles in community and institutional settings.

Please note: The conference is designed to provide an integrated experience. Learning occurs not only during individual conference events but also from their sequence and relationship to one another; therefore, membership entails a commitment to attend all events.

RATIONALE & AIMS: LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

Effective leadership and the meaningful exercise of authority require more than intellectual and technical understanding. The Group Relations model in the Tavistock tradition provides a well-defined context within which to examine group-level forces and dynamics as they occur in the here-and-now. As people work in groups, families and other social systems, their participation takes on many different meanings — influencing thoughts, feelings and action. The confluence of individual meanings powerfully affects the identities, roles and authority we take on in groups, schools, organizations, institutions, communities and society.

MEMBERS OF A GROUP RELATIONS CONFERENCE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DIRECTLY EXPERIENCE

- How people join and engage in group work, delegate and resist authority, and develop roles and reputations.
- How people contribute to and obstruct getting the group's work accomplished.
- How members of a group exercise authority, power and influence in meaningful and appropriate ways — both as leaders and as followers.
- Group collusion in the creation and enabling of maladaptive roles.
- Group cooperation in the creation and enabling of adaptive roles.

In applying the learning from group relations conferences, having two or more people from the same organization attend the conference together is often useful.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY June 21	FRIDAY June 23	SATURDAY June 24	SUNDAY June 25
Registration & Check In 5:00-6:30 PM	Breakfast 7:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast 7:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast 7:00-8:00 AM
Dinner 6:30-7:30 PM	Small Group Study 3 8:30-9:45 AM	Institutional Event 4 8:30-9:30 AM	Small Group Study 5 8:30-9:45 AM
Opening Plenary 8:00-8:30 PM	Challenge Course 2 10:15-12:00 PM	Institutional Event 5 9:45-10:45 AM	Challenge Course 4 10:15-12:00 PM
THURSDAY June 22	Lunch 12:00-1:00 PM	Institutional Event Plenary Review 11:00-12:00 PM	Lunch 12:00-1:00 PM
Breakfast 7:00-8:00 AM	Large Group Study 3 1:15-2:30 PM	Lunch 12:00-1:00 PM	Conference Review 1:15-2:15 PM
Small Group Study 1 8:30-9:45 AM	Institutional Plenary and Event 1 3:00-4:00 PM	Small Group Study 4 1:15-2:30 PM	Review/Application Group 4 2:45-3:45 PM
Challenge Course 1 10:15-12:00 PM	Institutional Event 2 4:15-5:15 PM	Challenge Course 3 3:00-4:45 PM	Member and Staff Social Time 4:00-4:30 PM
Lunch 12:00-1:00 PM	Institutional Event 3 5:30-6:30 PM	Large Group Study 4 5:15-6:30 PM	
Large Group Study 1 1:15-2:30 PM	Dinner 6:30-7:30 PM	Dinner 6:30-7:30 PM	
Small Group Study 2 3:00-4:15 PM	Review/Application Group 2 8:00-9:00 PM	Review/Application Group 3 8:00-9:00 PM	
Large Group Study 2 4:45 -6:00pm			
Dinner 6:30-7:30 PM			
Review/Application Group 1 8:00-9:00 PM			

REGISTRATION

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES

Enrollment will be limited to 40 members; early registration is advised. The Conference is offered at reduced fees for faculty, students and employees of the host and sponsoring institutions, for students in general and for those able to register early.

WITHDRAWALS AND CANCELLATIONS

Withdrawals after June 1, 2017 will not be refunded unless the position can be filled by someone on a waiting list. A \$30.00 registration fee will be withheld to cover administrative costs in the event of cancellation.

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED MEMBERS

The staff at the Conference is committed to meeting the needs of physically challenged members to every extent possible. Please advise the Assistant Director for Administration of special needs. NOTE: No special athletic ability is required for challenge course events.

REFERENCE LETTER

Experiential learning can sometimes be stressful. Therefore, individuals who are ill or experiencing a period of significant personal difficulty should forego attendance at this time. In addition to the completed Conference Registration Form, available at the conference web site, each applicant must provide a letter of reference from someone who can vouch for his or her capacity to participate in an intensive learning experience. The applicant is responsible for seeing that this letter is submitted before June 1, 2017. Letters should be sent via e-mail to the conference email address: loyolagrc@gmail.com.

LODGING

Conference registration includes four nights lodging and all meals from dinner on Wednesday, June 21 through lunch on Sunday, June 25. Rooms are single occupancy, dormitory-style with shared bathrooms. Linens and towels will be provided.

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Email addresses of members will be shared with sponsoring organizations unless a member explicitly requests not to have his/her email address shared.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

PAYMENT OF FEES

Registration should be submitted online at www.grouprelationsconference.com. Payment may be made by credit card. For alternative payment options, please contact us at loyolagrc@gmail.com

EARLY REGISTRATION FEE = \$900
(Before April 1, 2017)

REGULAR REGISTRATION FEE = \$950

Faculty and affiliates of sponsoring institutions may register **before April 1, 2017 for \$800 and for \$850 after that.**

Students from the host institution may register for \$500.00. Students from other institutions may register for \$600.00.

CEU'S

30 CEU's for social workers will be awarded by Loyola University Chicago. 24 CEU's will be awarded by IAODAPCA for first-time members. Others may receive certificates of attendance. Please sign up for CEU's at the registration desk.



AUTHORITY FOR THE CONFERENCE

SPONSORS

This conference is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Groups and Social Systems (CSGSS-AKRI) of the A.K. Rice Institute and by Loyola University, Department of Social Work, Roosevelt University Department of Psychology, Illinois Group Psychotherapy Society, Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association, International Association of Social Workers with Groups, Illinois Chapter, National Association of Social Work, Illinois Chapter, Mind Body Co-op, and Working Sobriety.

The principles and methods of this Conference originated at the Center for Applied Social Research, Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, London, England under the leadership of the late A.K. Rice. The Washington School of Psychiatry and the Department of Psychiatry of Yale University Medical School introduced conferences using these principles and methods to the United States in 1965. The A.K. Rice Institute for the Study of Social Systems, a not-for-profit organization, was established in 1970 to advance knowledge of the dynamics of groups, organizations and social systems.

The Group Relations conference is an educational event whose primary task is to provide opportunities to study the exercise of authority through interpersonal, intergroup, and institutional relations that develop within the conference itself as a temporary educational social system.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE SITE

Loyola University Chicago's Retreat and Ecology Campus located in Woodstock, IL on 100 acres of prairies, savannas, woodlands, wetlands, and ponds. LUREC is a great place for solitude and getting in touch with nature. It provides quiet walking trails surrounded by oak and pine trees, a labyrinth, and a place for a campfire. Furthermore, the meals are prepared using produce grown on LUREC's farm.

PLEASE NOTE:

- For an additional fee, if you would like help arranging a shared ride from O'Hare Airport, please contact the conference administration at loyolagrc@gmail.com prior to May 15th.
- LUREC is a no alcohol use facility.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From downtown Chicago and O'Hare airport: Take Route 90 West 23 miles past O'Hare to Route 31 North. Take Route 31 North 12 miles to Route 14 West. Take Route 14 West 4.3 miles to Ridgefield Road. Take a right on Ridgefield Road and travel 1.2 miles to Country Club Rd. Turn right and go 1.6 miles and The Loyola Retreat and Conference Center will be on your right.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

Take the Metra Northwest Line from Chicago to Woodstock. A cab can be taken from the station to the Conference Center, which is 5 miles away. From O'Hare, take the Blue Line "L" 4 stops to Jefferson Park. From there you can switch to the outbound Northwest Metra line. There is a train that leaves Jefferson Park at 4:24 p.m., and arrives at Woodstock at 5:46 P.M. On Sunday, a train leaves Woodstock at 4:48 p.m. This will get you to O'Hare by 6:30 p.m. (switch to Blue Line L at Jefferson Park station).

CONFERENCE STAFF ROLES

- Act collectively as management
- Take responsibility and authority to provide the boundary conditions to engage in the primary task of the conference
- Play specific directorial, administrative and consultant roles
- Offer interpretations and working hypotheses about what is happening during the here-and-now events
- Contribute in whatever ways they believe will advance the work

The way staff exercise their authority and roles is explicitly available for study by Conference participants.

STAFF BIOS

DIRECTOR:

Barney Straus, LCSW: Private Practice, Working Sobriety, Chicago; Adjunct Faculty, Loyola University Chicago, School of Social Work and Roosevelt University, Chicago and Schaumburg, IL; Member, CCSGO; Associate, AKRI

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:

Dannielle Kennedy, LICSW, PhD: Principal, *WORKLAB*, Organizational and Leadership Consulting; Psychotherapist, Private Practice, Cambridge, MA; Co-Director, Hauser Grant for Group Relations at Harvard University; Former President and Board Member, Center for the Study of Groups and Social Systems, Boston; Associate, AKRI

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION:

Olga Konyakova, BS: MSW student at Loyola University focusing on CADC and IPRY, Chicago; Teambuilding facilitator, Chicago area; Member AK Rice Institute, CCSGO.

CONSULTING STAFF:

Barney Straus, LCSW

Dannielle Kennedy, LICSW, PhD

Clive Hazell, PhD, DN, NCC, LCPC.: Counseling Psychologist at Body and Mind, Chicago; Author; Member AK Rice Institute, CCSGO, Association of American Geographers.

Suma Jacob, MD, PhD: Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics; Neuroscientist and Board Certified Adult, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist; Director of Autism Research at University of Minnesota; Adjunct faculty at Mayo Clinic and University of Illinois at Chicago, Associate, AKRI

Keith Lequay, Ph.D.: Organizational Psychologist and OD Consultant; Co-Founder and Past President, Trinidad & Tobago Association of Psychologists; Associate, AKRI.

Mo Sook Park (Consultant Candidate), M.Ed.: Consultant, i-D Leadership Consulting, Chicago, IL; Certified Immunity to Change Exercise Facilitator; Member, CSGO; Associate, AKRI; Training and Consultant Candidate, AKRI.

Jeffrey D. Roth, MD, FAGPA, FASAM, FAKRI: Lecturer, Psychiatry, University of Chicago Medical Center; Adjunct Faculty, Chicago School of Professional Psychology; Editor, Journal of Groups in Addiction and Recovery; Medical Director, Working Sobriety; Private Practice; Member and Past President, CCSGO; Fellow, AKRI

ADMINISTRATIVE & CHALLENGE COURSE STAFF:

Olga Konyakova, BS (Head)

Esteban Colon, AA: Author, Experiential Educator, and Public Speaker; Challenge Course Facilitator, Loyola University Chicago and Corporate Learning Institute; ACCT Level II Challenge Course Facilitator, ACCT Challenge Course Manager.

William Johnson, BA: MCT (Masters in Corporate Treasury); Licensed Illinois Secondary Teacher with Highly Qualified Status; ACCT Level II Challenge Course Facilitator; Challenge Course Facilitator at Loyola University; Partner at Social Learning Adventures Inc.

Rachel Murray, MS: Program Coordinator, Outdoor Experiential Education, Loyola University Chicago; Member, Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT); Member, Association for Experiential Education; ACCT Level II Challenge Course

