



AAGP
*Australian Association
of Group Psychotherapists*

ANALYSIS AND THE POLITICAL

AAGP invites you to a Large Group to explore the theme

Seeking Asylum

This year's theme is provoked by recent and ongoing scenes of the mass movement of people from the Middle East and North Africa seeking asylum in Europe and elsewhere. There are currently millions of displaced people around the world - some of whom arrive on our shores. Displacement of people follows not only war, persecution and dire economic circumstance, but also the colonisation of indigenous lands and ongoing post-colonial practices. It follows natural disasters like bushfire, flood or drought and climate change. In our own communities, domestic violence, unemployment, homelessness, and mental ill-health create dislocation and seekers of asylum (safe haven). Witnessing asylum seeking is overwhelming and disturbing. Politically and socially divisive passions are aroused. Personally, we might wonder what we would do if faced with untenable conditions, states of mind or being. There are times when any of us can be alienated from loved ones and friends, from professional colleagues, from our communities, from country.

Being able to seek asylum may arouse relief and/or shame.

Not being able to seek asylum can provoke desperation and/or despair.

What do we make of this? How does asylum seeking affect our own lives? What can be said or shared about this? What can be understood through dialogue?

The Large Group is a structured, experiential forum that seeks to reveal and understand both personal and social processes, usually outside of conscious awareness, that drive socio-political forces. The large group provides a medium for dialogue and reflection in ways that are not usually available in everyday life. Through the process of reflecting on personal experiences and dialogue with others, participants may access and recognise the forces at work within themselves, in their workplaces, in their communities and the wider society.

The Large Group in this event will be conducted by **Teresa von Sommaruga Howard**.

Teresa has many cultural influences in her personal and professional background. Born in England of a German refugee father and British mother, she immigrated to New Zealand as a child. She is a registered architect, systemic family therapist and has developed expertise conducting median and large groups. Teresa has applied these three disciplines: architecture, systemic practice, and group analysis in larger settings in various contexts around the world. Increasingly Teresa has focussed on the way unrecognised trauma resulting from socio-political upheaval transmitted through generations, reveals itself in the large group. She has written extensively about her work with large groups and co-authored *Design through Dialogue: A Guide for Clients and Architects* (Wiley, 2010). She is an honorary member of the Institute of Group Analysis and currently an Executive Member and Treasurer of the International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes (IAGP) and co-editor of the journal *Forum*.

Who Should Attend: This workshop is open to all members of the community from all walks of life with an interest in exploring the theme as it emerges in the 'here & now' of the large group.

Please note that learning from this event will be experientially-derived and participants will be expected to commit to attend the whole event.

PROGRAM DETAILS for AAGP LARGE GROUP EVENT 2016

WHERE: **LEVEL 4, CAMERAYGAL BUILDING, The North Sydney Institute, St Leonards,**
213 Pacific Hwy (cnr Westbourne St) St Leonards (Gore Hill).
<http://www.nsi.tafensw.edu.au/campus/StLeonards/Default.aspx>

WHEN: **Please Note that attendance at the whole Workshop is expected.**

Friday May 27 18.30 - 19.30 Registration, Supper, Introduction.
 19.30 - 21.00 Large Group Session 1

Saturday May 28 09.00 - 10.30 Large Group Session 2
 11.00 - 12.30 Large Group Session 3
 13.30 - 15.00 Large Group Session 4
 15.30 - 17.00 Large Group Session 5

DIRECTIONS: **Public Transport recommended.** Use Tripview App (free) and find Trains to St Leonards and walk 15-20 mins thru RNS Hospital &/or Buses on Pacific Hwy to Westbourne St, Gore Hill.

Parking: On campus Fri evening (by arrangement – advise as below) and Sat - enter from Westbourne St. Metered Parking on Westbourne St also available.

ACCOMMODATION: There are several nearby options. Negotiated rate with:
Best Western Twin Towers, 260 Pacific Hwy, Artarmon. 02 9439 1388
<http://www.bestwestern.com.au/sydney/hotels/best-western-twin-towers-inn/>
Negotiated rate \$135 (\$145 w breakfast). Quote "AAGP rate" on booking.

COST: **\$250 Early Bird before May 6**, AAGP Members and Associates
\$275 After May 6 2016
(GST free; includes Fri supper, Sat lunch and refreshments)
All Registrations before Friday May 20, 2016

REGISTER: **Registration assumes attendance at whole event**

Receipts and PD Certificates available Friday evening
Do you require on-campus parking Friday evening?

- **By Cheque** – send with name/contact/parking? details to
AAGP, PO Box 1748, Crows Nest, NSW 1585
OR
- **By E-Transfer** to AAGP, BSB 063-165, Ac 01013 6603
Use Code: "(Surname) LG2016" and confirm to angle46@bigpond.com

ENQUIRIES: Antony Gleeson angle46@bigpond.com