

IGA/GAN/University of Manchester

Friday Seminar Student Information 2023-24

Background

Group Analysis North (GAN) is a Registered Charity which works in partnership with the Institute of Group Analysis (IGA) to administer and deliver group analytic training at foundation, diploma and qualifying levels. It has been running training, workshops and events since the early 1980s and has run a Qualifying Course for over 30 years. More information about GAN can be found on its website www.groupanalysisnorth.com

Introduction

The Friday Seminar Programme is jointly hosted by Group Analysis North and the University of Manchester and is formally part of the IGA Diploma and Qualifying Courses' Curriculum for students on the Manchester training weekends and 3rd year doctorate students in Counselling Psychology at the university. Members of GAN and those on any IGA foundation and diploma courses may also attend the seminars, for which there is a modest fee.

Where and when

The Friday Seminars take place online between 1.30 and 4.30 p.m. on five Fridays across the academic year.

Learning aims

The Friday Seminar programme is part of a curriculum module titled **Applications of Group Analysis**. The programme introduces students to the different ways in which group analytic theory is applied and to the diverse contexts (and different client groups) with which group analysts work. The seminars aim to stimulate students' thinking about the use of theory and its application to group analytic practice as well as to explore issues relating to the stance and technique of the group conductor. As such the seminars aim to be both theoretically rigorous as well as essentially practical – helping students grapple with the integration of theory and practice as they develop their own understandings and style of conducting groups.

The joining of university students with group analytic students for learning gives us an ideal opportunity to practise and model group analysis by promoting dialogue between two different cultures which share a common purpose of training professionals in the task of relieving mental distress. This joint learning provides an opportunity for students to learn through dialogue to establish a firmer sense of their own identities by discovering similarities and respecting the differences between themselves.

Each half-day seminar is led by an external speaker who is usually an experienced group analyst with particular expertise in working with a particular client group or work context. The Friday Seminar programme operates on a four-year cycle with different areas of work being covered in each year. Topics typically include: working with addictions, working with families and children, working with trauma, eating disorders, staff groups, working with organisations, forensic settings, therapeutic communities, time-limited groups, Balint Groups, women's groups, the Large Group, aspects of research etc.

Method of teaching

A variety of teaching methods will be used on the Friday Seminars – these are likely to include formal presentations or lectures, interactive teaching, experiential activities, role play, and large group discussions. Typically, the first session will focus on the theory relating to the client group or context. This may include particular theoretical models that are used in working with the client group (e.g. addictions, adolescents, trauma survivors) as well as

thinking about the role of the group conductor, transference and counter-transference issues, issues of assessment and selection, the management of boundaries, therapeutic aims and the understanding of what leads to therapeutic change. Examples from the presenter's practice will be used to illustrate these concepts. In addition presenters may include reflective thinking or research they have undertaken in their area of expertise. Following on from the presentation, there will be an opportunity to actively engage with the ideas raised and material presented as a workshop. Next, participants will move into small experiential groups, led by group analysts which will encourage reflection and exploration of the role of the conductor and how this role is taken up in different ways.

Friday Seminar 2023-24 topics and presenters:

- Friday 27th October 2023 – Research: The 'othering survey' by a group from IGA's National working group for Power, Privilege and Position (PPP)
- Friday 1st December 2023 – Groups in Higher Education – presenter: Claire Barnes
- Friday 2nd February 2024 – Intersectionality – presenter: Surya Nayak
- Friday 1st March 2024 – Reflective Practice - presenter: Jo Joyce
- Friday 26th April 2024 - Groups with Cancer Patients – presenter: Dan Anderson

Seminar timetable:

1.30 - 2.15	Introductions and presentation
2.15 – 2.30	Break
2.30 – 3.00	workshop session led by presenter
3.00 – 3.15	Break
3.15 – 4.00	Small groups
4.00 – 4.30	Plenary

Dynamic administration

The Convenor for the day, Erica Burman, will allocate attendees to the small groups and will lead the plenary and will introduce the speaker.

The GAN Training Administration Manager, Bethan Marreiros, will produce the individual seminar programmes to be distributed to the participants one month before the seminars take place. She will also setup the zoom links and arrange the breakout rooms for the small groups. In addition, she will ensure that the required reading is made available.

Friday seminar core staff team

Convenor – Erica Burman – erica.burman@manchester.ac.uk

GAN Training Administration Manager – Bethan Marreiros – bethan@groupanalysisnorth.com

07792 775301

Small Group Conductors – Erica Burman, Gary Robinson, Billy Smallwood

IGA Courses Director (Manchester) Chris MacGregor

Guidance for participants

The programme for each individual seminar will be provided in advance and it will include required reading. It is expected that all students will have read the reading before the seminar.

The zoom link will be the same one for the whole academic year. There will be a waiting room in operation.

Students should aim to join the zoom link on time, to avoid disrupting the presentation once it's started.

The GAN Training Administration Manager will manage the zoom waiting room for the first 5 minutes of the session and then will leave. She will also allocate participants to the breakout rooms during the break.

During the break students are asked to turn microphones and cameras off but stay connected so that the breakout rooms can be set up.

Students should attend the whole of the Friday seminar session, including the small groups and plenary.

Usual zoom etiquette should be adhered to during the Friday Seminars:

- Microphones on mute during the presentation.
- Video cameras on when in session.
- If students are in shared spaces, they should have their own laptop and headphones.

Apologies for absence and lateness should be directed to the Convenor or the GAN Training Administration Manager (contact details above).