



# LOCATING OURSELVES IN A DISRUPTIVE WORLD

INTERNATIONAL GROUP RELATIONS CONFERENCE

11 TO 15 JANUARY 2017

EMMAUS CONFERENCE CENTRE, CO. DUBLIN

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## INVITATION FROM CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to have been invited by IGRO to be the Director of the Irish Group Relations Conference taking place in Dublin on 11–15th of January 2017. We will draw on the traditions of Group Relations emanating from the Tavistock Institute, and will also engage in applying new thinking, with a 'disruptive mindset' in order to see the networked dynamics that emerge in the conference in new ways.

Today's network society is a disruptive society, undoing so much of what we thought we knew and was stable. We experience real challenges unfolding in our workplaces and politically across the globe.

We will be looking through the filters of Networks, Influence, Power and Identity. The aim is to facilitate conference members to better locate themselves in our disruptive world, in order to influence positive change in their fast changing workplaces.

I am excited about Directing this event and offer you a warm invitation to join us.

For information and brochure:

<http://www.igro.ie/downloads/IGROConference2017Brochure.pdf>

I would now like to introduce the conference staff, who bring a mixture of deep experience in group relations work, and innovative thinking to maximise the learning possibilities for all.



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## DIRECTORATE

### **Director:** [Simon Western](#)

Simon brings an unusual skill set to group relations work. This draws on his psychotherapy background, his academic research and teaching experience working in executive education internationally. His current work focuses on strategic consultancy and coaching to CEOs and senior leaders in global companies and the public and voluntary sectors. Simon is Adjunct Professor at University College Dublin, President-Elect at the International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organisations, and CEO of Analytic-Network Coaching Ltd. Simon publishes on leadership in the network society: key texts are *Leadership a critical text 2nd Ed* (Sage 2013) and *Coaching and Mentoring a critical text* (Sage 2012), *Global Leadership Perspectives, Analysis and Insights* (Sage 2017 forthcoming)

### **Associate Director:** [Bernie McDonnell](#)

Bernie has been involved in Group Relations Conferences for many years both as a member and as a staff member. Her early training as a Therapist activated her interest in Group Relations and over time in organisational consultancy. Bernie is interested in expanding the boundaries of traditional Conferences to reflect contemporary organisational experiences, while retaining fidelity to core tenets and concepts. She works as an Organisational Consultant, Executive Coach, Group Consultant and Lecturer. Bernie holds positions on a number of Boards, is the Chair of IGRO and is a member of the Organisation for the Promotion of Understanding in Society (OPUS).

### **Conference Administrator:** [Gordon Clark](#)

IGRO Board member/Treasurer; experience of several Group Relations Conferences either as member or Conference Administrator; Chartered Accountant; career in education and training policy as EU manager responsible for European cooperation and currently Chair of Board of State Agency in the field of education.



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## CONSULTANT STAFF

### **Marie Carroll:**

Marie currently works as an Organisational Development Consultant, Group Consultant and Leadership Coach in public, voluntary and community sectors and in third level education. She is a Board member of a number of State and NGO organisations and a member of IGRO. Her previous career as a social worker and community development worker led to a deep interest in social justice. As former CEO of a large partnership NGO, Marie gained extensive organisational experience and knowledge of working with systems psychodynamics, complexity and the challenges involved in developing integration with multiple stakeholders.

### **Gerry French:**

Social Systems Consultant. Founder of IGRO. Member of IGRO. Member of Organisation for the Promotion of Understanding in Society (OPUS).

### **Jack Marmorstein:**

Jack Marmorstein is Vice President of the A. K. Rice Institute. He has graduate degrees in literature and psychology, and nearly two decades experience working in r & d, sales, and strategy for an educational software company. In group relations, Jack finds a space where the rich intellectual tradition of psychoanalytic and systems thought meets the dynamism and challenges of today's organizational world. To him, conferences are unique for the way they can realize the truly transformative potential of experiential learning, for individuals and systems alike.

### **Camillus Metcalfe:**

Camillus works as an Organisational Consultant, Analytic-Network Coach, University Lecturer and Creative Arts Psychotherapist. She has experience of Group Relations Conferences as a staff member and also as a participant. She lectured on Psychodynamic Theory in NUI, Maynooth for ten years, and is author of the book, *For God's Sake: The Hidden Life of Irish Nuns*. Currently she works in private practice in the West of Ireland. She is on the Board of IGRO and a member of OPUS.

### **Rebekah O'Rourke:**

Rebekah is CEO, of The Global Leadership Practice. She develops and directs systemic programs of work, stimulating collaboration and exploring what is called forth from leaders and organisations in a shifting global economy and market. Rebekah is also the Academic Lead of the Masters of Philosophy of Social Innovation in Organisational Analysis and Leadership with the Grubb School of Organisational Analysis.