Let’s talk about work!
Work Discussion in practice and research

First International Conference on Work Discussion
Vienna from June 10–12th 2016

Preliminary Invitation and Call for Papers

Work Discussion is a method of learning, teaching and research which was developed at the Tavistock Clinic in London, from 1967 onwards. It was initially an application of psychoanalytic infant observation and now has a significant presence in many locations for analytically-based learning. The Universities of Vienna and Klagenfurt in Austria have become strong centres for research in this field in recent years.

Work Discussion is a practice which invites reflection on the meaning of interactions in a variety of work settings. These include teaching and education, early years’ provision, nursing, mental health care, youth and community work, social work and the creative therapies.

Work Discussion is a significant element in the curriculum of some professional trainings and in the continuing development of experienced staff members, leaders and managers. It is also very significant in the training of psychotherapists and psychoanalytic organisational consultants. In fact there are no obvious limits to the organisational settings for which the exploration of unconscious personal and social dynamics are not relevant.

A recent volume, *Work Discussion* (2008), edited by Margaret Rustin and Jonathan Bradley (Karnac 2009), was the first book on the subject; a subsequent book, *Social Defences against Anxiety: Explorations in a Paradigm*, edited by David Armstrong and Michael Rustin, (Karnac 2014) gives several examples of the method as a means of reflecting on and understanding anxieties in different organisational contexts. Papers have also been published regularly in several professional journals including *Infant Observation* (see for example, Diem-Wille, G. in volume 18.2 published in August 2015).

Submissions of Proposals for presentations at this Conference are invited. They may be about Work Discussion as a method of education and training, as a form of research, as Work an organisational intervention, or on its history or its intellectual foundations. A further publication may arise from the proceedings of the Conference.

Proposals (no more than 250-500 words) should be submitted to the Conference Organising Committee by 30th of November 2015 and preliminary decisions will be made within three months of the closing date. It would also be helpful to know of your interest in attending the Conference (stefanie.hesse@aau.at).

Wilfried Datler, Gertraud Diem-Wille, Trudy Klauber, Margaret Rustin, Michael Rustin, Agnes Turner
(International Conference Planning Committee)
Registration

Conference Fee

Standard Fee

- Conference attendance 3 days 180 euro (Early Bird Rate before 15th March 2016 150 euro)
- Daily rate – 70 Euro

Student Fee

- Conference attendance 3 days 80 euro (Early Bird Rate before 15th March 2016 65 euro)
- Daily rate – 35 Euro

The conference fee includes the Reception Buffet on Friday and the Conference Dinner on Saturday night. We also provide lunch on Saturday and before departure on Sunday. Refreshments are available during breaks throughout the conference.

Accommodation

Please find a link of Hotels close to the University of Vienna


Contact

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